



**MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2023
28 S DRAKE AVE
CLAYCOMO, MISSOURI 64119**

Those in attendance: Chairman Terry Bradich, Trustee Mark Benton, Trustee Larry Barrera, Trustee Renee Hoppe, Trustee David Jett, Village Clerk Melody Wymore, Police Chief Matt Coonce, fire Chief Steve Shaumeyer

Chairman Bradich called to recess the Regular Meeting of July 24, 2023, at 7:00 PM. Trustee Barrera motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Benton. Roll call, All yeas. Motion carried.

Chairman Bradich called the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2023, to order at 7:00 PM.

Police Chief Coonce led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to honor Fairway, MO Officer Jonah Oswald, who died in the line of duty.

Trustee Benton motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2023, seconded by Trustee Hoppe. Roll call, All yeas. Motion carried.

Trustee Jett motioned to approve the Payment of Bills for July 7, 2023-July 20, 2023, seconded by Trustee Barrera. Motioned carried.

Chairman Bradich informed of the possible sale of Claycomo Plaza to a local developer out of Liberty, MO. The sale is under contract with Tim Harris. He would like to put \$3,000,000.00 into modernizing the Plaza and repair the buildings to make them rentable. He has spoken with local grocery store chains that are willing to move into Claycomo Plaza. He would also like to include a sit-down restaurant & bar. He would like some tax incentives from the Village. Claycomo's attorneys and Mr. Harris' attorneys will be in negotiations on that point. This will not cost the Village anything. A resident suggested offering that tax incentive, would be a very good idea, if that's what it takes to get this deal to go through. Chairman Bradich stated that the developer would also like to clear the overgrown space on the other side of Randolph. His goal is for people to only see Claycomo Plaza when they come from under the bridge.

Fire Chief Shaumeyer addressed the plumbing situation at the Fire Station. There is water backing up on the shower side and the front bathroom. One quote was \$54,000. That company

said that they pipes had “dissolved’ from underneath. These are cast iron pipes. Another quote was \$21,206, timeline possibly 1 week, could be more if they have to cut concrete. Trying to get a third quote but no other companies have responded. From those 2 quotes, he would like permission to hire Rod-O-Matic Plumbing with the quote of \$21,206. Chief Shaumeyer also asked for an additional “cushion” in case they do have to cut through the concrete. The total ask is for \$30,000. There was further discussion about the mechanics of the repair. Chairman Bradich asked how long this would affect the run-ability of the station. Chief Shaumeyer replied that it should just be a couple hours at a time when they are doing the work. The longest duration could be 1 day. Trustee Benton motioned to approve a budget not to exceed \$31,000 for Fire Station plumbing repairs. Trustee Barrera seconded. Roll call, All yeas. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Chief Coonce shared that we received the check from the selling of the Chevy Tahoe (the old K-9 car. It was \$17,500. He wanted to thank everyone who participated and the citizens that came out the Night Out Against Crime, last Thursday. He thought it was the best one we’ve had yet. Chairman Bradich added his thanks to Claycomo Fire Department for their part. The children really enjoyed the water. Chief Coonce mentioned Lee’s Summit Bomb Squad demonstrating by blowing up a watermelon. He shared that Police Deputy Chief has resigned. He was asked to clarify his statement from last meeting about only having 1 officer on the day shift. We do only have one patrol officer on day shift. However, there is often at least one officer at the station that can back him up. Chief Coonce stated that we are having difficulties getting more officers hired. Other agencies are experiencing the same issue. Pleasant Valley has had to cut back to having no officers on for night shift. Clay County has been covering their road calls at night and only emergency calls. He shared that Motor Officer Sartin was a part of escorting the fallen Officer’s (J. Oswald) body from the hospital. He also took part in the parade for him. He shared with the audience that our Motor Officer owns his own bike. He uses it when he is on duty. There is an agreement with the department that they pay for half of the maintenance expenses for the motorcycle. It’s a good deal for the Village.

Fire Chief Shaumeyer shared that a paramedic resigned a couple of months ago. We have hired a paramedic, this week. Then lost a Fire Fighter/EMT. They have replacements in mind and should be back up to full staff soon. He also shared that he has been awarded a designation from the Center of Public Safety Excellence. It is an accredited designation that only 140 Fire Chiefs in Missouri have. He started a discussion about future repairs needed on the back-up pumper. A brand-new pumper could cost anywhere from \$600,000-\$1.2M. A resident asked if there is an option of a possibly used pumper. Chief Shaumeyer responded that there are used options and that would definitely be part of the discussion.

Village Clerk Wymore shared that she has spoken with the MO Attorney General’s Office and will be scheduling training for Sunshine Law in September. We are working on the newsletter.

Public Works had no old business.

EDC had no old business.

Dale, of the Zoning Board no old business.

Trustee Barrera spoke on Night Out Against Crime. He thought it went extremely well. He was happy to see all the Village employees there and the Fire Department as well as the Police Department. He shared that the entire board was wearing shirts in support of the police department to honor of the fallen officer in Fairview. Over the weekend there were heavy rains. There was a meeting at the church (135 S Poe). They were parking on both sides of the street. The parking lot in the back was packed. The creeks were overflowing. He shared concern for the area. He returned after the rains and saw many ruts in the yard. He estimates there were between 60-100 people in that house. He was concerned about the safety of all those people inside that home. Chairman Bradich asked Chief Shaumeyer if he had done a fire inspection on the home. He stated that he had not been able to schedule with the occupants. The maximum capacity needs to be established as soon as possible.

Trustee Jett also expressed his appreciation for the businesses, residents, the Police and Fire Departments, and the Board for the success of Night Out Against Crime. Everyone had a great time!

Trustee Benton also enjoyed Night Out Against Crime. He added that he really enjoyed watching the kids play in the water.

Trustee Hoppe had no old business.

Chairman Bradich informed of being contacted by MODOT about the removal of the walkover bridge and the build of the crosswalk. It has been moved back to Dec. 4.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Coonce shared that they are in the process of filling the open position left by the recent resignation. There are flyers out and several posts. He also mentioned the Monthly Crime Stats. Sheet in the meeting packets.

Fire Chief Shaumeyer had no new business.

Village Clerk Wymore had no new business.

Public Works had no new business.

Jason, from EDC shared that he met with David Slater again. He also attended the Northland Chamber of Commerce meeting. September 28th will be a Claycomo Business Appreciation gathering at Claycomo Community Building. All are welcome to attend.

Zoning Board will meet Monday, September 21 at 7:00pm at Claycomo Community Building. Among topics for discussion will be a possible meeting time change.

Trustees Barrera shared that Clay County Commissioners reached out to him and suggested that our EDC representative attend MARC meetings (Mid-America Regional Council Meetings), we may learn of new resources available to us as well as possible funds available. He also suggested that there be an option for a tax increase for the next vote to help finance the replacement of the fire pumper. He would like to encourage residents to be involved and see how and where the Village money is being spent. He would like the board to look into the opportunity of increasing the tax levy. It was further discussed on whether we are already at our max. He brought up a situation that occurred recently when Road District was spraying for weeds and a resident expressed that he did not wish to have his yard sprayed. He preferred to take care of the weeds in his yard, himself. He also didn't want chemicals sprayed on his yard, because he has a dog that he doesn't want exposed to harmful chemicals. The gentleman that was spraying continued to spray stating that "It was his job". The resident continued to remove weeds from his yard and the man sprayed chemicals very close to his head/face. Chief Coonce said that he had spoken to the prosecutor and shared the video of the incident, and the prosecutor would not be pressing charges. Trustee Barrera said that he was just hoping for a little more kindness and respect the resident's wishes. If you do not wish to have your yard sprayed, Contact Claycomo Road District and make sure they have your address.

Trustee Jett had no new business.

Trustee Benton thanked Kim Holmes for her idea and help in constructing the food pantry outside City Hall. He shared information on the upcoming Car Show on Saturday, September 30 from 1:00-7:00pm. There will be crafts and food vendors. The event will be held at the Community Building. There will be prizes and trophies for participants.

Trustee Hoppe also wanted to thank Kim for her input with the pantry. She announced a food drive on Saturday, August 19 from 1-2pm. There is a possibility of adding another pantry for hygiene products and a community garden next spring.

Trustee Benton opened discussion on a possible dispensary in Claycomo. There is much more research to do.

Chairman Bradich brought up all the rain we had over the weekend and the effects it has had on our local creeks. He contacted MODOT and they couldn't spare anybody out to help. The DNR could not help either. They will next reach out to the Core of Engineers. He informed of upcoming changes with Evergy. There will be information sent out to all residents that needs to be read. There are 4 plans available. If you don't choose one, they will choose one for you by Oct 1. He spoke about the high thefts in Kia & Hyundai vehicles. He asked Chief Coonce if we could look into giving out the steering wheel locks to these car owners. Clay County is giving them out already. Monday-Friday, 9-3, they are available at 27 S Main Street in Liberty. Chairman Bradich informed of Ford's Open House coming up on Sept 27. They are expecting 20,000 guests. There is also the strong possibility of a strike coming up. It may be long-going. Mid-Continent Public Library had Storytime in the Park at Mildred Keeney Park today and they had a good turnout. They hope to continue to do this event and they were thankful to the Village for their support.

Chairman Bradich opened the floor to the audience. A gentleman approached the microphone saying that he had been around the village collecting signature for his petition. He collected 243 signatures against selling Claycomo City Park. He reminded the board that they were all voted onto the board because people trusted them. He asked Fire Chief Shaumeyer if he could find a cheaper way to purchase a new Pumper or fix the old one to save the village money. He stated that he was at Ma & Pa's last week and saw 4 officers there eating dinner. He wanted to know if they were getting overtime. Chief Coonce replied that those were reserve officers. They were on brake, and they were making \$15.80 an hour. The resident brought up that the department heads need to look harder for ways to save us money. He said that all the residents there, were there because he asked them to be.

Chairman Bradich opened the floor to any other business with the board. There would be nothing further about the park. He reminded that the minutes were all available online.

A resident expressed his concerns with communication and had suggestions on how to improve that. He brought up issues with his neighbor parking in their grass. Chief Coonce told him that there are no ordinances against residents parking in their own grass.

Nobody was present from Cozy Apps, LLC. It was tabled until the next meeting.

There is no reason to go into an executive meeting.

Trustee Jett motioned to recess the regular meeting of July 24, 2023, at 7:32pm. Seconded by Trustee Barrera. All yeas. Motion carried.

Village Clerk Melody Wymore

Chairman of the Board Terry Bradich