

VILLAGE OF BISMARCK
County of Vermilion, State of Illinois
Minutes of Special Board Meeting, October 14, 2020

1. At 6:30 p.m. in the Village office located at 106 E. Holloway, Bismarck, Illinois, President Brown opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll call was taken by the Clerk. Board members present were Trustees Jane Cress (virtual), Terry Light, Kris Kizer, Mary Potter, Karel Volpert, President Mike Brown, and Clerk Brandye Kizer. Trustee Sheila Switzer and Treasurer Adam Muehl were absent. A quorum was established.
3. Trustee Mary Potter stated that the agenda needed day of the week changed from Tuesday to Wednesday. Approval of agenda for Special Meeting for October 14, 2020 with changes was made on a motion by Kris Kizer, and seconded by Trustee Terry Light. The motion passed by acclamation.
4. Public Comments/Questions: None
5. President's Comments: President Brown welcomed everyone to the Village Meeting.
6. Reports of committees and assignments
 - a. Municipal Projects (Roads, Drainage, other improvements):
 - i. President Brown discussed that he ordered speed limit signs and they will be 23 mph. he had to purchase in boxes of ten. President Brown stated that Maintenance employee is talking to the county to see about poles.
 - ii. Storm Water Special Service Area Discussion - President Brown opened discussion on the Storm Water Special Service Area Ordinance. Board members reviewed current Ordinance and discussed changes they would like to have made in the Ordinance. When the Village had completed the village meeting on November 6th, 2019, the only option we had to gain revenue was to have a tax added to the property taxes. Since then the county is now allowing a Special Service Area Fee to be placed on the Property Tax bill, although it is not a tax on the property taxes. It is just placed on that bill for collection purposes. He stated that the Vermilion County Assessor office has agreed to collect the fee for the Village on the real estate tax bill but it is not a charge to the property taxes as recommended prior. The fee would be for the Special Service Area, and the money collected would only be allowed to be used for Storm Water issues and concerns. The Village Board would need to give the ERU's per property to the Vermilion County Assessor office.

President Brown stated that his main concern is getting something started to start generating revenue so the Village can continue the work it has started and continues to need. Trustee Terry Light stated that the Village has been able to do quite a bit of work in the Prairie area with the \$10,000 grant received. Trustee Terry Light commented that he feels that we can continue to do significant progress with money as it is coming in. President Brown agreed and stated that the Village Board would need to have another meeting for the Village residents to discuss the plan for the Special Service Area (SSA) and he would like to make sure all residents are well informed. President Brown stated it may be something the Village Board Members will need to go door to door to help explain and educate the residents on the situation, what the SSA is and how it will be used and the importance of the situation. He would like to have signs put up to announce the meeting, and/or maybe have a survey sent out to a sample group of residents to gather their opinion. Since there have been changes with the way that the fee can be collected, the Village Board is now tasked with what kind of fee the residents would have each month. Trustee Karel Volpert asked if this includes all taxing bodies and is it actually a tax based on what is written in the current ordinance. President Brown stated it is not a tax and not associated with property taxes. Trustee Terry Light stated that the terminology needed to be changed from the word tax to fee, as this is more representative of what the charge will be. President Brown stated that we can look into

changing the wording in the Ordinance. President Brown stated that he would like to get the Board Members input on changes needed and then he will sit down with the Village Clerk and rewrite it and send to the Board Members for review.

There was discussion how the charge will be computed. The charge is based on EAU's. All properties that receive a tax bill will receive a SSA fee. The Board would need to decide how much of a fee to charge each residential property that included a residence or an outbuilding, such as a garage, shed, pole barn or other outbuilding that has stormwater run-off. Each developed residential property would be charged (1) ERU. The Commercial properties, non-profit businesses, churches and schools SSA fee would be based on ERU's for each developed parcel that is based on impervious area. It is up to the Village Board to decide what this fee would be per ERU.

The Village Board's engineering firm stated that on the survey completed by the Village residents at the last Town Meeting on November 6th, 2019, it showed the majority would be open to paying around \$35 a month fee versus the significant increase of \$100 a month as initially recommended. The Village Board discussed the current situation of COVID-19 and the hardship on many families. The Village Board discussed a possible fee of \$15 a month instead of the \$35. The Board will continue to investigate and discuss the SSA Ordinance. President Brown and Clerk Brandye Kizer will get together before next Board meeting and update the Ordinance for review by the Board Members. The Village Board will schedule several more Special Board Meetings to discuss this SSA Ordinance and action plan.

7. **Date and Time of Next Meeting** – The next regular meeting of the Bismarck Village Board will be held at the Village Office in Bismarck, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on October 20, 2020. Bills to be considered for payment and items for the agenda are to be submitted by October 13, 2020 to Village Clerk and Village Treasurer.
8. **Adjournment** – With no further business to come before the Board at this time, upon motion by Trustee Karel Volpert, with a second by Trustee Mary Potter , the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandye Kizer, Clerk

APPROVED 11/17/2020