

**CHANNAHON VILLAGE BOARD
COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2007**

Village President Joe Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Trustees Davidson, Nash, McMillin, Slocum, Militello and Greco present.

Also present were Village Administrator Jamie Bowden, Village Attorney Dave Silverman, Finance Director Robert Guess, Police Chief William Doster, Director of Public Works Ed Dolezal, Director of Community Development Mike McMahan and Development and Acting Village Clerk Leti Anselme.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

No Formal Items for Discussion.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Renewal of PACE Paratransit Local Share Agreement

Finance Director Bob Guess stated that the Village has had a Dial-a-Ride service for many years, which a contract that is tied in with Manhattan and Wilmington. The proposed contract is effective January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Channahon's proposed share of the 2008 contract is \$1,982, which is split with the township, which then brings it to \$991.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

No Formal Items for Discussion.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Generator Inspection and Maintenance

Director of Public Works Ed Dolezal stated that this contract is with Illinois Power of Carol Stream. They perform preventative maintenance and emergency services to the Village's electrical generators. The Village has used their service in the past few years. The contract has exceeded the \$5,000 mark and policy explicit that the Board approve.

Soon the Ridge Road lift station will need to be added to the contract increasing it by about \$1,000 based on its similarity to existing generators in the contract.

North Hansel Estates – Improvement Completion Guarantee Reduction for Step 2

Dolezal stated that the developer has asked to reduce Step 2 at least 20%, which equals the maximum allowable reduction of the original guarantee. Staff has inspected improvements and confirms they are not less than 95% complete and have passed required testing.

ADMINISTRATION

**Request to Amend the Ordinance to Increase
the Number of Class "B" Liquor Licenses**

Village Administrator Jamie Bowden stated that President Cook and he have met with Encarnacion and Francisco Franco who would like to open up an authentic Mexican restaurant

by the name of Hacienda Don Villo. They would be utilizing the space in Mallard Pointe, which was formally known as Chanooka Florist.

They are requesting a Class “B” Liquor License. The license provides that 60% of sales must be attributed to sales other than alcohol. There will be approximately 13 tables and a small bar area. This license will only be issued upon approved application.

President Cook stated that he had met with them and informed them of responsibilities of being a liquor license holder. He is excited that another new business in town.

An Ordinance Authorizing an Employment Agreement for the Channahon Chief of Police

Bowden stated that some of the highlights with Ignacio “Joe” Pena contract are that his base salary be \$90,000 per year. The Village will also pay for conferences and seminars, with two of the conferences being out of state annually. Chief Pena has agreed to reside within Channahon within a year. He had some concern with the selling of his home and asked if that does cause a problem he would like an extension. A moving expense which would not exceed \$3,000 that would include moving him and his family. He agrees to pay it back if takes another position prior to the end of the contract, which is the term of the President. Chief Pena has requested some vacation upfront, which the Village has agreed to. The other issue is the severance pay.

FINANCE

2007 Proposed Tax Levy

President Cook suggested that Guess start the discussion on the 2007 Proposed Tax Levy, before going to the Public Hearing.

Guess stated that as reported at the November 19 Board Meeting the Village of Channahon is required to comply with the Public Act 89-102, known as the “Truth in Taxation Act” This Act places requirements on the Village in adoption of the 2007 property tax levy if the proposed 2007 gross property tax levy is 105% greater than the 2006 net property tax extension.

The Truth in Taxation disclosure increase does not correlate to a corresponding increase in individual property taxes.

Guess went into a discussion with the Village Board in regards to the Truth in Taxation Publication, which was published in the Morris Daily Herald on November 26, 2007.

Guess stated that the Village does not set the tax rate. The rate is a result of dollars available and the dollars levied. As is the case with all taxing bodies, the Village will know the exact rate for 2007 in March of 2008. However it should be noted in accordance with past Village Board policy direction, staff will cap the rate at \$.6000.

The tax levy process is an estimation based on assessed valuations, estimated new construction and annexations that have occurred during the year. By maximizing the Village’s levy capacity, the Village of Channahon is able to capture the maximum dollars allowed under the Village’s self imposed tax caps. By capturing all new growth in the Village, that tax burden will be

allocated to the larger base of taxpayers and wither maintaining or potentially reducing the rate, while collecting the maximum dollars available to fund Village services. For every \$1,000,000 change in EAV, there is a corresponding difference of \$.0017 in the rate.

Trustee Davidson stated that we do not set the tax rate, we set the levy, which then dictates the rate.

President Cook stated that there is an increasing pension obligation and that needs to be looked into for five to ten years down the road. There is also a situation with the building market because it is currently weak. He stated that this is not the time to raise taxes. If the homes are not selling, then the value of the homes will decrease.

Trustee Greco stated that the past Board members have done a good job at keeping the tax rate low. It is just unfortunate that we cannot find out the tax rate until March.

President Cook stated that the direction that the Village Board take is to keep the tax rate as close to the previous years as in the past without having a negative impact on the individual taxpayer. He suggested that the Board go to staff with any questions they may have in regards to the tax levy.

Trustee Nash asked for the numbers from the Special Census. Guess stated that the final number is 12,683. She also asked if the Village was receiving any information on foreclosures. President Cook stated that he viewed it last month and there was 12 foreclosures Village wide. Four were active and eight were inactive. Trustee Davidson stated that the number could represent one person that owns five lots, so it would need to be looked into.

Minutes Submitted by
Leticia Anselme
Acting Village Clerk