

**CHANNAHON VILLAGE BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 7, 2014**

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

Also present were Village Administrator Joe Pena, Finance Director Robert Guess, Village Attorney Dave Silverman, Police Chief Jeff Wold, Director of Public Works Ed Dolezal, Director of Community Development Mike McMahan and Village Clerk Patricia Perinar.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

**Adopting a Special Ordinance Authorizing the Ceding of
Private Activity Bonding Authority – 1st Read**

Village Administrator Joe Pena stated that Will Kankakee Regional Development Authority contacted the Village with a request for us to allocate the unused funds to them. Pena recommended that the Board approve the reallocation of the funds.

Village Administrator Position

Because there is still work to complete on this, it was taken off the agenda for this meeting. Pena also stated that one other item will be removed from the Consent Agenda ó IMRF Early Retirement Incentive Resolution. As of this afternoon, a question was raised regarding an employee's eligibility that needs time for clarification. This item needs to be postponed until it is resolved.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Annual Tree Board Report presented by Fred Henize

Fred Henize presented his annual tree report to the Board along with a hand out. The Board has been busy this year with a number of things they have been working on:

- The Emerald Ash Borer Program
- The Tree Replacement Program

In 2011, the Illinois Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Channahon. This invasive beetle is native to Asia and was first discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The larvae of the EAB feed on the inner bark of Ash Trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. The EAB has killed hundreds of thousands of Ash Trees since its discovery and there are no means to eradicate the beetle.

In 2012, a Village wide tree survey was performed by Arbortek Services. The survey identified 7,709 public street trees in the Village of which 2,195 are Ash Trees. Ash Trees represent 28.5% of all Village trees; the largest group of one species. These dead or dying trees pose a public safety threat and are being removed.

Based on the need to remove all Ash Trees, as well as removing other dead or dying species of trees from the Village parkways, a Tree Replacement Program has been initiated by the Village Board of Trustees as follows:

1. Each spring, Public Works staff will first tag and then remove trees that are dead or deemed a public health threat. At that time, homeowners will be given information on how to have a new tree planted.
2. For those homeowners that wish to have a new tree planted in the parkway, they must agree to pay half the cost of the new tree and agree to care for the tree in the future. The Village will plant the new tree at no additional cost to the homeowner.
3. The Village will add those homeowners to a priority list after payment has been made for tree(s) that have been selected from the Village's approved list of parkway trees. The choice must also be approved by the Village in order to maintain diversity of tree species on a block.
4. Orders and payment for replacement trees will be accepted until matching funds from the Village budget in that year have been exhausted. A "waiting list" will then be maintained for the next year's removal and replacement program.
5. In the fall of that year, the Village will purchase the replacement trees from area nurseries and either Public Works will plant the tree(s) or the nursery will plant them depending on cost a work load of Public Works staff.
6. For homeowners that do not want to wait until additional matching funds become available or they have a healthy Ash Tree that they want replaced, they can purchase and replace the tree from the approved tree list at their own expense. If homeowners choose this option, they first get approval from the Village.
7. Tree care instructions will be given to each household that participated.
8. The Village will continue to remove trees that are deemed a public health risk no matter the time of year.

Arbor Day Proclamation ó In Illinois it is celebrated on the last Friday of April. We plan on planting on the tree walk or somewhere on the Village property. The planting will take place on Friday, April 25th around 10 a.m.

The Tree Walk ó the second phase of the walk way was put in and the request for trees is coming filling up real fast. It may be just a year and that will be planted out.

Tree Ordinance Update ó We are finalizing updating the ordinance which will be presented later. We have been removing trees from the list and now have begun to add more tree options to the list. VP Cook thanked the Tree Board for all their hard work and dedication.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 13-14 Budget (May 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014) – 1st Read

Director of Finance, Bob Guess, gave the Board a summary of some adjustments made in the major items on this fiscal year's budget amendment.

**An Ordinance Adopting the Village of Channahon Annual Budget for
Fiscal Year 2014-2015 (May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015) – 1st Read**

There have been no changes made to this budget since the workshop.

Guess stated that last week the GOFA notified him that the Village received the Certificate of Achievement for the Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 9th straight year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

No Formal Items for Discussion.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**An Ordinance Amending Title V, Chapter 51, “Sewers”, of the Village
of Channahon Code of Ordinances – 1st Read**

Dolezal stated that this ordinance will add the additional 5% on top of the 3% increase to the sewer rate and it sunsets it after three years of that.

Purchase a New Handheld Meter Reader

We have budgeted to replace one of the meters next fiscal year. The manufacturer is running an incentive program to get these swapped out by giving a trade-in value for the existing ones but it ends on April 30th. We are requesting to make this purchase before April 30th. It is accounted for in such a way that it will impact next year's budget as intended.

The Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

**Submitted by
Patricia Perinar
Village Clerk**