

**CHANNAHON VILLAGE BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
July 6, 2015**

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

Also present were Village Administrator Thomas Durkin, Finance Director Heather Wagonblott, Director of Public Works Ed Dolezal, Police Chief Jeff Wold, Marketing and Data Coordinator Nicole Norris, Village Attorney Jim Murphy and Deputy Village Clerk Leti Anselme. Village Clerk Patricia Perinar and Director of Community Development and Information Systems Mike Petrick were absent.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Senator Pat McGuire Presentation

Senator McGuire presented a State of Illinois Recognition to former Mayor Joe Cook. Senator McGuire understands that there is a lot of pressure when being a Mayor with all the phone calls received throughout the day and in the middle of the night. He complimented the Mr. Cook with all the knowledge he knows of Will County government and State government. He stated that anytime the Mr. Cook would come down to Springfield, he made good use of his time and theirs.

He stated that Channahon residents work hard and have strong opinions about the government of their community. Mr. Cook convinced some skeptics to come to his side. It was a combination of a vision he had for Channahon, his thick skin, and his deep knowledge of all government levels that has made this town very vibrant and successful.

Senator McGuire asked former Mayor Cook to stand next to him. He then read the State of Illinois Senate Recognition, the Illinois Senate of the 99th General Assembly of Illinois acknowledging Joe Cook for 18 years of service to the Village of Channahon.

Former Mayor Cook thanked the Senator and has appreciated the time he had spent with the Channahon Board, as well as the time in Springfield, learning the ropes. He stated that until you spend the time in Springfield, you cannot appreciate the dynamics of it.

Senator McGuire asked to say a few words in regards to the absent State budget. He said it's a shame that a budget has not been enacted upon for the FY 2016, which started on July 1. It's a shame because of the stress and worry that it puts the providers and the recipients of the human services.

He stated that last Wednesday the senate by a vote of 37 yes to 0 no to 11 present to 11 not voting approved a one month budget for the month of July. The Senate pass that bill. The House voted on an identical bill that day, but it failed by four votes. The Speaker is confident that he will be able to get 71 votes this coming Thursday.

There have been talks of SB316, which enacts a property freeze. He encourages the Board and staff to reach out to the IML, Joe McCoy, for more information. The House is in session this week and the Senate is back in session next week, so they have 2 weeks to review SB316.

Trustee Scaggs would hope that they could work together in Springfield and move forward.

Trustee Greco wanted to know what this property freeze is going to do to the municipalities. Senator McGuire stated that our extension is frozen for two years. VP Moorman Schumacher then thanked Senator McGuire for attending our Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Grundy County Economic Development Presentation

Administrator Durkin stated that Nancy Ammer from the Grundy Economic Development Council would present their annual report. The GEDC has worked with the Village in promoting economic development for Channahon. They are again requesting financial support for their efforts.

Ammer thanked the Board for the support over the past years. She has enjoyed working with Village staff and feels things are going well. Despite the sadness at the State government level, she is here to inform the Board that things are going pretty well.

She stated that the unemployment rate in Grundy was 6.7% in May and last year it was 8.2%, so it continues to drop in the right direction. The industrial vacancy rate is zero, we are seeing that absorption in Will and Grundy County, with the low vacancy rate we hope to see some new development.

Something that she is pleased with is some of existing business are reinvesting in the community, which sends a good message. Aux Sable will be expanding which will be adding additional employees. Akzo Nobel is also looking to expand and renovate their facility.

We have made it through to Round 1 for the new Enterprise Zone application and now it goes to the five member panel. She hopes to find out in September. The interest in the area is there, a new tourism opportunity.

We had a broker breakfast in Oak Brook and had a good crowd attend. We were able to showcase industrial parks and what was happening in the area and do some good education. In the past the events were in Grundy, but they found it easier to go to them.

Last but not least, the summer internship program with high school juniors and seniors. There are 25 students in 10 companies in Grundy County. There are 25 paid internship programs and MCHS had the most positions at 8. It is an excellent program and helps the kids move forward. We like to encourage kids to come back after college, so that they realize the opportunities that this community has to offer.

Ammer wrapped up her presentation and asked if the Board had any questions. Trustee Militello wasn't sure if she had an answer, but questioned the unemployment rates, is the under employment ever taken into consideration, the people that have fallen off the radar. Ammer said that people that are participating in the labor force has increased. She thinks that people falling off the books is probably not much the case, it's the under employed she certainly agrees with. People lose their jobs and then take another which is about 30% less of what they were bringing

in. The interesting thing is the percentage of construction workers that live in Grundy. It's a seasonal position, which shows in their numbers for January unemployment.

VP Moorman Schumacher asked Ammer since the industrial vacancy is down, with Aux Sable and Akzo Nobel expanding did she have any idea as to how many jobs will be available. Ammer stated that IKEA in Minooka, is building in Joliet. Grainger has applied for an incentive, and they are looking at 100 to 150 positions. Aux Sable's expansion will only be about 20 positions. Akzo Nobel would only be a handful.

State Senator Sue Rezin

VP Moorman Schumacher introduced Senator Sue Rezin, she requested to come before the Board. Senator Rezin thanked the Board for letting her stop in. She wanted to update the Board with what is happening in Springfield.

She said that they are currently on uncharted territories working without a budget since July 1. Governor Rauner has said that he would like to see fundamental change structural reforms to government. He has put together several working groups to try to come to an agreement. They brought forth four bills.

- One that would reduce the cost of workman's compensation, which is something she hears of throughout the district from many employers. The Governor wants to make sure if you are truly hurt, you are protected and well cared for. This would help decrease the cost to employers while helping to insure the people who are hurt are fully compensated.
- Property Tax Freeze. It would be to slow the cost of property taxes. Yet give the local municipalities the ability to make decision locally and give relief on unfunded mandates. Also give school districts unfunded mandates.
- The Governor would also like to see two constitutional amendments on the ballot, one for term limits for officials and to address the redistricting every ten years.

Once those four bills are passed he will then look at the budget and talk about additional revenue. They want a year budget not this month to month, much like school district and taxing bodies have to present. We do not want to plan this monthly budget, because if there is no structural reform, at the end of the year, we are still spending \$4 billion dollars more than revenue we're taking in. It is an unbalanced budget and it is unconstitutional.

It is going to be a tough year and sometimes to change the direction of this state of where we are, we have to make some very difficult decisions. We also have the pension reform which just passed, it was ruled unconstitutional, so that is being looked at again. There is also the AFSCME contract that is being negotiated as well.

What is happening in Springfield is bad, but Chicago is far worse. Our pensions are 40% funded and their pensions are severely underfunded by only 29%. They are working with the teacher negotiations and they have asked for an extension to make their pension payments, that is not in the right direction. Many people in her district have asked to be separated from Chicago, but Chicago is a very large economy, which drives the state.

She also mentioned the internship through the GEDC, which is a program she is very proud of. These are 30 interns this year. They are our leaders in the community and she hopes to see them sitting here one day.

A curriculum has been set-up with Joliet Junior College. They worked with Exelon and the chemical corridor to start an operating engineer and operating technician courses. Students would go to out of state colleges and the industries from here would go there to recruit them. The first class will start this fall and it filled up in three weeks. Enrich Pipeline and Keystone Pipeline have both donated scholarships, for the program.

Lastly it's been over a year that the Flood Management Coalition was started due to the flood in 2013. They wanted to bring a regional plan into place to look at flood mitigation and apply for state and federal dollars so we could be proactive.

A Resolution changing the Starting Time of Regular Meetings of the President and Board of Trustees

Administrator Durkin presented a resolution that would change the Board meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. due to most Committee of the Whole meetings are much shorter. VP Moorman Schumacher stated that she agrees, since at times the Committee of the Whole meetings do tend to end quickly.

Administrator Durkin also mentioned that he received an email from Matt Fritz from Coal City. They are getting ready to set-up a new building department with all the reconstruction that will be occurring. There were 884 homes damaged and/or destroyed. They have approached the Village of Minooka and us for help with this situation.

Administrator Fritz has asked that we try to obtain any information of any Coal City residents that may be here in Channahon or any of the surrounding communities, so that they can reach out to them with any updates.

VP Moorman Schumacher also wanted to say how proud she is of the Village of Channahon with the response after the devastating tornado in Coal City. Our Chief Wold sent police officers to help out. Dolezal also sent out some public work staff to help with clean up. She has received good feedback from residents and elected officials and how thankful the Coal City's administration was. We will do what we can to help Coal City in their rebuild process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Presentation – Retail Strategies

Administrator Durkin introduced Chip Rodgers to present the data submitted to Retail Strategies.

Chip Rodgers stated that earlier this spring they were put on retainer to start working on retail recruit. In their work, research is a byproduct, it is what they need to do to get to the end game, which is recruit. He wanted to let the Board know where they are and what they are doing and where they are going from here.

The Tapestry Segmentation Analysis does the marketing, it finds out your information. This is who you are, this is how you are living your life, this is the type of store you are shopping at.

The Village would have access to the Basecamp which would provide all of this information. He then showed us a sample. The Market Analysis was shown with the Village of Channahon municipal building as the center point (geographic point), but that center point would change with who is being marketed.

The Demographic Highlights shows Up and Coming Families, where they live, their occupations, how they live their lives, how they spend their money, all key facts to what this community would want to market.

The Peer & Gap Analysis shows other markets that are similar by income and demographic. It looks at other communities in the region and across the country that are like people in this community. It allows us to see what type of retailers to focus on. Also to approach those developers and let them know that we have other opportunities.

The Gap Analysis measures actual consumer expenditures with the community. What is the demand versus the inventory of the retailers in the area.

The Site Selection Process shows that new construction in 2014 retailers opened 42,000 stores. Some of these are fitness, drug, thrift and grocery stores. VP Moorman Schumacher wanted to know if Mr. Rodgers had any stats on how many new businesses remain open after a year or five years. He responded that the national or regional retailer will do well. It is the smaller business the number ranges about 25% to 30%.

He then spoke of Boots On the Ground (BOG), which is information that his staff collected. They check on focus properties, current retail overview and development and redevelopment zones. He spoke of the recruitment process. They represent, overcome, connect, leverage, communicate and initiate. They have conference representation.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Director Heather Wagonblott had no formal items for discussion, but updated the Board on the finance intern. She stated that she is doing well and appreciated the opportunity for the additional help in the finance department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

No Formal Items for Discussion.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A Resolution to Enter into an Agreement with Channahon Township Road District for Maintenance of Village Roads

Director of Public Works Dolezal stated that this is just an amendment to an existing agreement. The Township handles routine maintenance on roads that under Village jurisdiction. The agreement would add Durkee Road and a portion of Will Road. The agreement doesn't change the cost, it just adds a couple more miles.

**Riverside Lot 13 (B&W Trucking) – Improvement Completion Guarantee
Reduction Request**

Dolezal stated that in accordance with subdivision and development regulations, the developer has requested a reduction to the improvement completion guarantee for improvements associated with Steps 1 (Underground), 2 (Basic Roadway) and 3 (Finished Roadway). The reduced amount would equal the maximum allowable reduction to 20% of original guarantee amounts for those steps. Staff has inspected improvements and confirms they are not less than 95% complete.

The Committee of the Whole was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**Submitted by
Leticia Anselme
Deputy Clerk**