



Town of Cortland

Board of Trustees Town Board Meeting

Town Hall, 59 S. Somonauk Road Cortland, IL 60112

May 08, 2023, at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

Mayor Pietrowski called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Deputy Clerk Kaity Siewierski called roll showing as present; Mayor Mark Pietrowski, Trustees Charmaine Fioretto, Doug Corson, Mike Siewierski and Randi Olson. Shown as absent were Trustees Brad Stone and Jim Walker. Quorum was present. Also present were Public Works Director Joel Summerhill, Engineer and Zoning Administrator Brandy Williams, Police Chief Lin Dargis, Clerk Cheryl Aldis and Attorney Kevin Buick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Corson moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Trustee Siewierski. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

Bill Kirkham, who is a disabled veteran, spoke to the board about his tax bill. He is currently tax exempt but must pay into an SSA. He had asked a few questions to which Attorney Kevin Buick stated he would speak with him about after the meeting.

Rhonda Richards addressed her concerns to the board about the property at 86 South Somonauk Rd. She stated she is not in favor of the variance nor the idea of a restaurant/bar at that location. She believes it will decrease her property value and is unsafe as it is a concern to surrounding families with young children. She also addressed her concerns at the Public Hearing that was held on May 4, 2023.

Charlie Alsip voiced his concerns about the speed of traffic on Dogwood Street. He asked if a three-way stop sign could be placed on Dogwood Street and Ellen Ave to slow down drivers. He also asked if the speed on Somonauk Rd. can be reduced and if there are plans for speed signs to be placed on Somonauk Rd. He is worried about the kids going to the proposed splash pad that will be crossing Somonauk Rd. Mr. Alsip is also dissatisfied with the rate for the golf cart license.

Mark Nenia addressed the board about his concerns and opinions on 86 South Somonauk Rd. He attended the Public Hearing on May 4, 2023, and was very dissatisfied with the interactions between the attorney and applicant. He believes this is a nuisance and will be a safety issue for residents and children.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Audio Recordings of Closed Session Minutes of November 08, 2021. **Res. No 2023-07**

Trustee Corson moved to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Audio Recordings of Closed Session Minutes of November 08, 2021, seconded by Trustee Siewierski. Roll call vote carried the motion.

Voting Yea: Trustees Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, and Olson

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustees Stone and Walker

2. Expenditure Authorization for Donation to Cortland Lions Club for SummerFest, \$20,000

Trustee Siewierski moved to approve an Expenditure Authorization for Donation to Cortland Lions Club for SummerFest, \$20,000, seconded by Trustee Olson. Roll call vote carried the motion.

Voting Yea: Trustee Siewierski, Corson, Fioretto, and Olson

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustees Stone and Walker

3. Annual Police Report 2022

The Annual Police Report is in the packet. Chief Dargis discussed key points of the information provided. He also mentioned that they have hired two new part-time police officers. He stated that speed signs will be placed on Somonauk Rd. soon.

4. Discussion only – Town of Cortland Newsletter

Mayor Pietrowski asked Katie Finlon, a local government reporter, to create a newsletter for the Town of Cortland. The cost for each newsletter is \$400.00 or \$1600.00 a year. This would be a digital newsletter and will be available online. Trustee Corson asked how this would be available to residents who do not use or have digital access. Mayor Pietrowski said he would mail, or hand deliver newsletters to those who would prefer that option, and there will be copies available at Town Hall and the Library.

5. Discussion only – Backyard Chickens

Mayor Pietrowski mentioned to the Board that there has been some interest on Facebook about allowing backyard chickens within the town. In previous discussions, the Board has turned down the idea. He wanted to reassess the Board's thoughts on this topic. Brandy Williams, Zoning Administrator, displayed a map of the town showing areas where chickens could or would not be allowed. Homeowner's Association does not allow chickens. Areas which are not single family residential are not permitted. The only areas which may be allowed would be Woodland Acres, Natures Crossing and Heather field Subdivisions, if square footage is large enough and there are no easements. Trustees discussed and questioned their concerns. One question was, who enforces this type of use if/when put into place? Trustees discussed their desire for an overall town opinion regarding approval. Consensus of the Trustees was to consider a non-binding referendum at the next general election.

COMMENTS

Trustee Olson thanked those present for coming to the meeting and speaking.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Ms. Williams reported that the DeKalb County Community Foundation has approved funding of \$19,200 for the ADA play equipment in Mc Phillips Park.

Mr. Summerhill reported that if weather permits, they will be painting the pickleball courts. No other reports were made.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pietrowski reported there was public hearing held on May 4th, 2023, on the matter of proposed variances for 86 South Somonauk Rd. He stated there will be a finding of fact presented to the Board and this matter is based on the variances not the intended use.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Siewierski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Olson. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaity Siewierski
Deputy Clerk