

Village Board Report – November 2011

Welcome to the Village Board Report which is placed on our website monthly to keep you informed of actions taken by the Village Board on ordinances and other significant matters.

Heritage Commerce Center

At the November 29, 2011 meeting the Board verified that the maintenance related concerns in Heritage Commerce Center had been addressed and then authorized the release of the letters of credit contingent upon any outstanding development related invoices being paid and engineering checklist items being addressed.

Electric Aggregation

At the November 1, 2011 meeting, the Board heard a presentation regarding an opportunity for the Village to purchase electric supply for its residents at a reduced rate. If approved, residents could experience significant savings on the supply portion of their electric bill. The process requires a referendum which would ask the voters whether or not they wish to have the Village purchase electric supply on their behalf. Should the referendum pass, residents who do not wish to participate in the program could opt out and continue to receive their electric supply from whomever they wish. Residents who choose to go with the Village's program would still be invoiced and serviced through Com Ed, only the vendor who provides the supply would change. The Village Board further discussed the matter at the November 29, 2011 meeting and reviewed a draft ordinance which would authorize the question to be placed on the ballot in the spring. The Ordinance will be included on the December 6, 2011 meeting agenda for action.

Strategic Planning Reports

At the November 29, 2011 meeting, Trustees John Huemann and Rich Janusz reported on the progress being made by their committees (Economic Development and Development and Governmental Affairs) on developing action plans for goals and strategies identified at the January Strategic Planning session.

Resolutions

At the November 29, 2011 meeting the Village Board approved a Resolution recognizing December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Ordinances

Adult Entertainment – On November 1st the Village Board approved Ordinance 11-12-14 which amends the Village's Zoning Code regulating adult entertainment uses within the Village. The amendment further defines and restricts the uses to industrial zoning districts.

Sale of Property – On November 1st the Village Board approved Ordinance 11-12-15, authorizing the sale of two vehicles no longer being utilized.

Electric Aggregation – On November 29th the Village Board performed a first review of Ordinance 11-12-16 which would authorize the Village to include a question on the March ballot asking voters if they would like the Village to purchase electric supply on their behalf. The Ordinance will be included on the December 6, 2011 for action.

Amendments to Chapter 3 – On November 29th the Village Board performed a first review of Ordinance 11-12-17 amending Chapter 3 of the Johnsborg Municipal Code regarding job descriptions. The Ordinance will be included on the December 6, 2011 agenda for action.

Field Use

At the November 1st meeting a presentation was made regarding efforts by the Community Affairs Committee to establish a field inventory to include availability and current uses within the Village. Sports organizations participated in the process and provided information regarding their current and future needs. Meetings were held with the Township and the School District regarding the usage of their fields to obtain a complete inventory of fields available in the community. The committee evaluated short and long terms actions that could be pursued to accommodate the needs of the organizations. The committee also discussed the possibility of contracting for the care and maintenance of the fields in the future and establishing user fees. Upon completing their review the Community Affairs Committee made the following recommendation:

- Support berm relocation at the Mustang/Bronco Fields
- Support skimming of inside of the baseball fields at Hiller to make for multi age playing
- Support relocation of path for baseball fields at Hiller
- Support seeding of current Youth Football field – working with Dist. 12 and Football Org.
- Support field changes and drainage improvements on Jr. High Soccer and Baseball Fields
- Support a handicap path at Jr. High fields
- Support creating gravel parking lot behind transportation building near Hiller working with Dist. 12 and Sports Organizations
- Support creating an ordinance for field use fees or a maintenance agreement with Dist. 12, Sports Organizations and Village of Johnsburg
- Publish the use of the Concession Stand at Hiller Park
- Long term goal to support the 17 acres parcel to the east of Hiller Park which would support multiple football and soccer fields along with additional baseball fields. Research the possibility of a land swap with the 17 acres on Solon Road.

The Village Board concurred with the Community Affairs Committee's recommendation and directed to also look into the possibility of temporarily utilizing the soccer fields at Hiller Park for football so long as the soccer and lacrosse organizations are okay with the change; the School District permits the field changes and drainage improvements at the Jr. High fields; the IDNR permits the change at Hiller Park; and that no lighting, announcers booth/amplified noise or permanent structures are utilized.

Further discussion occurred at the November 29th meeting of the Village Board at which time a representative from the soccer league expressed concern over the use of the Hiller Park soccer fields for football purposes. He emphasized the commitment by the soccer league over the past many years through financial donations and volunteer efforts towards field improvements. Representatives of the sports organizations agreed to get together to further discuss options that would be acceptable to all parties. Village representation will be in attendance at those meetings.

For more information about this report and the above referenced matters, please contact Village Administrator, Claudett Peters, at 815-385-6023 or cpeters@johnsburg.org.