

**VILLAGE of SOMONAUK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm**

Village President Grandgeorge called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attending: Trustees: Conley, Eade, McMillen and Whiteaker.

Minutes:

**MOTION:**

Trustee Eade moved to approve the minutes for the May 09, 2019. McMillen seconded the motion and the following voted: Whiteaker-yes, Eade-yes, Conley-yes, McMillen –yes.

*Motion Passed*

**BILLS:**

Bills were presented in the amount of \$117,294.90. Morphey stated extra bills: Osland final payment \$7500.00, and \$74,850.00 Monroe Trucking Equipment for the new Dump truck and \$700.00 to D& DSW, D&D Sweeping for the sweeping of the streets for Memorial Day. Freiders is no longer doing it.

**Motion:**

Trustee Conley moved to approve the bills to June 12, 2019 in the amount of \$117,294.00. Trustee Whiteaker seconded the motion and the following voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

*Motion Passed*

**Communications:**

**Back yard Chickens:**

Mick Pfortmiller, 410 E. DeKalb St. address the board introducing himself. He has lived here for 13 years, his wife is a teacher at Somonauk School, who has taught for 28 years. Jen Ostrom 225 E. LaSalle St. had attended the April meeting asking the board to consider allowing chickens in the village.

The two proceeded to show an informational presentation on the benefits of allowing Chickens to be raised privately in the Village. (attached)

It was stated that Sandwich has 10 permits taken out but do not know how many have turned them in.

After the presentation it was open to the audience for questions.

Conley presented an article about the increase of salmonella in backyard chicken eggs.

Joe Peterson, rural LaSalle County was in favor of having chickens.

Craig Staples 380 North St. was not in favor of backyard chickens and was concerned with chickens getting loose.

Steven Dunn 210 S. Gage St felt that if there are only 10 in Sandwich then there would probably be half as many in Somonauk. He is in favor of the chickens.

A question from the board was the thought of how harmful eggs were for a person's health.

Pfortmiller explained he has lost worry about close to 50 lbs and eating almost 2 dozen eggs a week.

Ostrom presented proposed suggestions for an ordinance.  
Grandgeorge asked if the board had any other questions?

McMillen stated he was ready for a vote. Conley stated he would like to take the month to talk to his neighbors and people around town.

Grandgeorge thanked Ostrom and Pfortmiller for the presentation.

***Report of Officers:***

***Police:***

Chief King presented his report for review. King reported he had completed his EOP Emergency Operating Plan, which was one of requirements of excepting the position. He was working on getting dollar General mowed. He had issued them 3 citations. He had received the grant money from DCCF for the MDT.

He would also like to look at amending the ordinance for long grass. At this point you can have grass up to 8 inches and it gives them 2 weeks to get the lawn mowed. He feels this is to long of time. Ideally he would like to have less time to mow and less inches, maybe 6in.

He would also like to look at the vehicle sticker ordinance. He would like to see the fine large enough to cover the ticket and the cost of the stickers. At this point when they issue a compliance ticket it is \$75.00 and then moves to \$125.00 if not paid in time. Then the person must go to the village and purchase the late stickers at that time for \$45.00 Quite often they will pay the compliance fine but not go get their stickers. King feels it might be easier to have it included in one. We will look at this for next year.

He would also like to increase the cost of an Administrative tow. At this point it is \$300.00 most of the area police departments pay \$500.00. He would like to see it changed to that.

***Water & Sewer***

Eiper reported he had spent most of the time pumping Sycamore lift station and Illowa pond. With the excess rain there had been multiple areas of flooding. Grandgeorge asked Eipers if he and Wasson could look into alternative options for the drainage at Illowa. He also reported he and the office had gotten the CCR report requirements completed. The had put it on Facebook as well as the web site and mailed all resident a post card listing the link to the report.

***Streets & Alleys:***

Wasson was absent. Eipers presented his reported with the rain he had been checking and cleaning storm drains grates and worked with Ben pumping at both Illowa and Sycamore lift stations. He assisted getting ready for Memorial day and Junk in the trunk. He also removed graffiti off the restroom walls.

***Committee Reports:***

**Water & Sewer:** Eade presented a request from Public Works to contract with HR Green to prepare a water system model for approximately \$24,000.00. A Water Atlas Update for approximately \$5000.00, and a Sanitary Sewer Atlas for approximately \$6,000.00. Eipers explained the need of updating these it had been several years.

***Motion:***

Trustee Eade moved to contract with HR Green to prepare a water system model for approximately \$24,000.00. A Water Atlas Update for approximately \$5000.00, and a Sanitary Sewer Atlas for approximately \$6,000.00. not to accede \$35,000.00. Trustee Conley seconded the motion and the following voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen-yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

Eade next presented a quote to have the water tower inspected and adjust the readings. It had been 10 years since the tower had been installed and it was now time for the inspection.

***Motion:***

Eade moved to except the quote from AEGION Corpro for \$700.00 to inspect the water tower and adjust the readings, Whiteaker seconded the motion and the following Trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

Eade presented a request for clarifier parts in the amount of \$1,256.00.

***Motion:***

Trustee Eade moved to purchase parts for the clarifier from EVOQUA in the amount of \$1,256.00. Trustee Conley seconded the motion and the following voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Finance:***

Morphey reported the yearly audit would be starting next week.

***Laws& Ordinance:***

Morphey presented an ordinance authorizing the sale of the Village property a 230 S. Cherry St. and the sale agreement giving the Village President and the Village Clerk to authority to sign appropriate documents to complete the sale of the property at 230 S. Cherry St.

***Motion:***

Whiteaker moved to adopt Ordinance 19-04 an ordinance Authorizing the sale of 230 S. Cherry St. and the sale agreement giving the Village President and the Village Clerk to sign the appropriate documents to sell the property at 230 S. Cherry St. DeKalb and LaSalle County. Conley seconded the motion and the following voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

Whiteaker next presented Ordinance 19-05 Prevailing Wage for 2019-2020. This is a standard ordinance, which is passed every year.

***Motion:***

Whiteaker moved to adopt ordinance 19-05 adopting prevailing wages for Public Works. Eade seconded the motion the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen-yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Employee Relations:***

Conley reported that the Union and the committee had gone to mediation and we thought we had come to an agreement. But they had come back with another. This will be discussed in executive session.

***Street & Alley's***

McMillen announced there would be a meeting on Monday, June 17 at 5:00 pm with the residents on Magnuson to discuss the flooding concerns.

***Building and Grounds:***

No report

***Other Business:***

Grandgeorge stated the board had requested information from DeKalb County Dispatch. He feels he has given the board all the information he has.

Grandgeorge stated he had asked to put this on the agenda. He had sent everything out to the board. There are 2 items that I would want the board to address

Conley: Stated that based on the information from the Attorney we are in a contract if we want to get out of it we have to give a 2-year notice.

Grandgeorge stated that was not all what the Village Attorney stated. He also had other opinions. Conley agreed, but is not convinced that DeKalb County Dispatch has been truthful with the Village as in the past. We are in a contract.

Grandgeorg feels he needs direction from the board to communicate with KenCom. The Contract is past the three-year point so we are in the two-year point. So we can give them notice. Grandgeorge stated that is why he wanted it on the agenda so it would not automatically renew. The testing they have done is successful

Whiteaker: DeKalb dispatch is moving forward. The money is not transferable. His opinion is to cancel this contract.

Morphey stated that when Rich Smith was here he worked with KenCom on a regular basis.

Grandgeorge stated he feels that the Sherriff Department had the same problems as we did with reception. We were pushing that at that time we had no idea what the cost would be. He also feels that at the time all the municipalities received the increase letters it was a way to get the Fire Departments to have to pay their share. The County had a mutiny and he does not feel that they would do that again. But after the upgrade is complete the same people would sit down and figure out the new costs. This gives me confidence that this will not happen again.

Grandgeorge respects Chief Kings opinion and he feels this is the best for the safety of his officers and communication with other departments.

Conley: Chief Smith also had that opinion. He was also concerned that DeKalb could not reach all areas of the school. And to my knowledge they still do not get good reception in the schools. He also feels we still have a 2-year contract.

McMillen: We are past the 3-year point and we are into the 2-year point. Grandgeorge

said yes they are past the three- year point. And I do not want to go past that and automatically renew.

Nelson: He just wanted to bring up that Somonauk came to them asking to service Somonauk. With a projected bill of \$100,000.00 bill. In good faith KenCom proceeded to move forward. We needed to contact the ICC. They ran into a lot of obstacle between two phone companies. Nelson stated that he and the mayor and the Village Administrator Met with DeKalb County 911 board and were quite disgusted with the DeKalb County 911 board and said let us get this done.

It took 2 1/2 years for ATT and Frontier get the lines to work. During that time, they had cad people mapping people checking to make sure everything was going to work. Chief Smith worked with them getting things set up. We had to contact Cindy at State of Ill. has replaced the ICC. Purchased modules, had mapping staff cad people lay out map go over aerials. Many hours working on this. We worked with Chief Smith and hadn't heard from Chief King.

Grandgeorge stated he had not heard anything from KenCom since that meeting and felt that things were dead and not going anywhere. He was surprised to hear from him. He stated that he had been the person pushing for the Village to go to KenCom at the time, because it was the best for the Village. Now he feels this is best for the Village. Grandgeorge asked if the KenCom would be acceptable to sitting down and talking about getting out of the contract.

The modular are used in Sandwich Fire also the line also is used in Sandwich Fire. The State of Illinois is paying for the line. Nelson it is similar to LaSalle county and Montgomery.

Grandgeorge: One of my biggest concerns: If Somonauk Fire has no intention on going to KenCom. Nelson stated he had not spoken to Somonauk Fire. They had planned to go to the Somonauk Fire for discussion.

Grandgeorge: If all the numbers go to Ken/Com and a fire call would need to be transferred to DeKalb County. That would mean there is a delay. This has been a big concern to me from my Fire side. Grandgeorge asked Nelson about the legality of calls originating in DeKalb Co. going directly to Ken/Com without approval of DeKalb 911. He stated that this is currently being done in other areas of the state and all that needs to be done is make the change with frontier.

Morphey: Asked one of the big concerns is the surcharge. Is that a concern for Ken Com? DeKalb County said they would not release the surcharges. Nelson replied that is no longer an issue. The state dispenses the surcharges.

Grandgeorg asked Nelson if this board votes to cancel the contract. Are you open for discussion to negotiations the Village getting out of the contract?

Jenn Ostrom asked if she could ask a question? She was very concerned about hearing the coverage does not cover the school. She works for Kendall County Sheriff Department and they never have trouble getting reception.

King addressed this: There are areas everywhere that they can't get reception. This is common.

The Jail and the Sherriff's department are on the new system and are not having any trouble.

Nelson again stated the Village came to KenCom asking for help. In good faith they have been working toward that.

McMillen asked Chief if it was important to have everyone on the same frequency. King said they are on DeKalb County frequency and when Sandwich closes they will be on the same frequency. It was stated Sandwich Fire was on KenCom. King stated that it is much easier for communication when everyone is on one the same. He has several part timers that work for sandwich and they are all on the same frequency.

Nelson had been told that the Village had a contract with DeKalb county. He had checked with DeKalb County and all there is a resolution with a pay scale that runs through next year.

Chief King added since he was being thrown under the bus he would respond. He was asked to see where the Village was with KenCom. He stated that he has worked with KenCom and was on the DeKalb County 911 board and he feels the service is very much the same. He looked at what was best for us. It was up to officer safety (the reception wasn't the greatest) and finance. The new system is supposed to be up and running in July. He cannot be sure what the new cost would be, I feel the cost of DeKalb Dispatch would be cheaper. I looked it at the dollars and cents and Officer safety. He stated that he sat through Union negotiations where Somonauk hesitated in giving a ½ % raise which is approximately 10 cents so he felt the cheaper would be ok. He is looking at what Somonauk can afford. It will cost an additional \$26,000.00. It is all about dollars and cents and we will all be on the same frequency. It makes a difference if all are on the same frequency. The new system could get up and it could all go down the tubes. He was just looking at the costs. To me it looked like we were ok staying with the DeKalb System. I have nothing wrong with KenCom.

Grandgeorge: Are there any motions needing to be done? Stay the course where we are at or what?

McMillen moved to give the Village President the authority enter into discussions to with KenCom to cancel the current contract for dispatch services. Whiteaker seconded the motion. Discussion:

Eade: Why not just discussions with KenCom? Other than that you are just giving them notification.

Do we need a motion to have discussions Village President with KenCom?  
Eade asked if he wanted negotiations or just to cancel.

Grandgeorge feels there should be a motion to cancel the contract. He would not want to have conversations with out a motion.

McMillen stated he had a second motion to send KenCom to for cancelation.

Grandgeorge stated he had put the items on the agenda.

1. What does the board want to proceed with the current contract.

2. The other item is addressing section 5: Either part may terminate this agreement with a 2 years written notice but must cancel with 2 years notice. Otherwise the contract renews after 5 years.

Conley: It reads you need a 24-month cancelation whenever you cancel.

Eade: We have a contract. I am not an Attorney. There are several components and Discrepancies how this unfolded. We need to open lines of communication with KenCom to end or cancel can we see if Village President or attorneys talk to them to see where we are at.

Motion on the table is there discussion. Conley asked if the authority to enter into discussion with KenCom or to cancel current contract.

Morphey wanted clarification.

McMillen stated his motion was to give Village Present the authority to enter into negotiations to discuss the cancelation the KenCom contract.

Mike Ostrom from the audience asked if the board knew what this would cost. If you vote to cancel they can come after you and you won't know how much it will cost.

McMillen: withdrew his motion and entered a new motion: authoring the Village president to enter into negotiation on the current KenCom contract.to find out what it takes.

***Motion:***

McMillian moved to give authority to the Village President to enter negotiations with Ken Com on the current contract. Whiteaker seconded the motion and the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

Grandgeorge asked McMillen if he wanted to hold off on the other motion. McMillen said yes, hold off on the second motion? McMillen stated yes, he would hold off.

Grandgeorge asked if there was any other business as the board needed to go into executive session.

Mr. Nelson stated that because they had contacted the Village in the first part of June they would be sending the Village a bill for dispatch. Whiteaker asked what was the amount. He was not sure if it was billed monthly or quarterly. It is approximately \$3180.13 a month.

King made the statement that the PD had no software, MDTs. Grandgeorge said so it is not physically possible for you to dispatch.

What is the process for setting up a meeting with you? He stated next Thursday at 9:00 with the Finance Committee he should ask to be put on the agenda.

Diane Bristol asked to address the board and stated that her property backs up to the park as does Carol Larson and in the last large rain her and Larson's property flooded. It has never done that in the past. She is wondering if it was because the village installed a continuation of the side walk and it tends to hold the water on their properties and

doesn't allow it to drain. Grandgeorge stated he would have public works look at the area.

***Motion:***

Conley moved to enter into executive session to address Employee Relations and Litigation with action possibility of action being taken at 8:18 pm. Whiteaker seconded the motion and the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Motion:***

Conley moved to come out of executive session at 8:49 pm. McMillen seconded the motion and the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Motion:***

McMillen moved to send KenCom notification to not renew the dispatch contract. Whiteaker seconded the motion and the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Motion:***

McMillen move to authorize the Village President and the Village Attorney to negotiate to end the current contract with KenCom with Village Board approval. Whiteaker seconded the motion and the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Motion:***

Conley moved to adjourn. Eade seconded the motion and the following trustees voted: Conley-yes, Eade-yes, McMillen- yes and Whiteaker- yes.

***Motion Passed***

***Adjournment***

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Sincerely,

Rebecca Morphey  
Village Clerk