

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE, HELD IN THE SAUK VILLAGE MUNICIPAL CENTER ON **SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1a. Mayor Towers called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
- 1b. Mayor Towers led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1c. On roll call by Village Clerk Williams, the following were
  - Present: Trustees Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams
  - Absent: None
  - A quorum was present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**2a. September 8, 2009- Regular Board Meeting**

**2b. September 15, 2009- Committee Meeting**

Mayor Towers asked for a motion to approve the minutes stated above.

Trustee Benson noted a correction to the minutes of September 8, 2009 Section 8a. Trustee Benson was mentioned in error in the first sentence and he would not approve these minutes. Trustee Benson also questioned why DRAFT minutes would be approved. Village Clerk Williams stated that she would address the error with Trustee Benson after the meeting and make the necessary correction. VC Williams also stated that DRAFT minutes are placed in the packets for the Trustees to review and bring any corrections to the Clerk's attention. Those corrections that were brought to the attention of the Clerk have been made and given to the Board. Once the minutes are approved they will be in FINAL form.

Trustee Hanks made a motion to table the minutes from September 8, 2009. Trustee Anderson seconded the motion to table.

Mayor Towers asked for the roll to be called.

Ayes: Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

Trustee Hanks made a motion to accept the minutes of September 15, 2009. Trustee Burgess seconded the motion.

Mayor Towers asked for the roll to be called.

Ayes: Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

**3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**3a. Chief of Staff –Mrs. Corley**

COS Corley stated that the Municipal Building warranty expires September 24, 2009. The architects have been working on the punch list for the past two weeks; the punch list will be finalized in the next 48 hours.

Efforts to help the financial situation of the Village are continuing. Bi-weekly financial updates were requested by the trustees and the first update is included in the Board packet. COS Corley and the Board will be attending the Illinois Municipal League conference this week starting Thursday. COS Corley stated that two of the POET workers were found to be falsifying her signature on time documents and altering dates and times; those documents are currently being audited by POET of Cook County and charges could be filed against the individuals.

**3b. Village Clerk: Mrs. Williams**

VC Williams stated that copies of the minutes stated above were circulated tonight. The Village has been flooded with FOIA requests. The requests are being answered as promptly as possible. VC Williams stated that she was not totally aware of the financial situation of Sauk Village until last week. VC Williams has been attending meetings for 5 years and last week was told that there is no money in the bank to cover checks with her signature. VC Williams was aware that Accounts Payable checks were being held but was not aware of the depth of the situation. VC Williams stated that before signing any more Payroll or General Fund checks in the future she would need a letter from the Chief of Staff, Mayor or the Financial Director verifying that funds are available to cover those checks.

**3c. Village Treasurer Mr. Griegel – No report**

**3d. Village Attorney-Mr. Vasselli – No report**

**3e. Village Engineer: Mr. Czarnik**

VE Czarnik stated that there will be a bid opening tonight for the resurfacing work. Due to the time restraints to begin this project, VE Czarnik will make a recommendation to award this project tonight after reviewing the bids.

**3f. Mayor's Report: Mayor Towers**

Mayor Towers recognized State Representative Anthony De Luca. State Representative De Luca formally introduced himself to Mayor Towers, the Board of Trustees stating that he was most recently the Mayor of Chicago Heights for 6 years until March of 2009 when he was appointed State Representative for the 80<sup>th</sup> District. Representative De Luca stated that there are 19 municipalities and townships in the 80<sup>th</sup> district and he represents all of Sauk Village. Representative De Luca stated that he is excited to be working with Sauk Village has met several residents as he walks around the Village. He has been learning a lot about what is going on locally and wants to know what issues are most important to the residents; he represents Sauk Village residents in Springfield. Representative De Luca stated that he has a district office located in Crete and residents can contact the full time legislative aide, Donna, Monday through Friday from 9 am – 5 pm.; contact information can be obtained online by accessing the Illinois House of Representatives and scroll down to his name. Representative De Luca has also set up an email blast that residents can be added to by accessing the web and signing up.

Mayor Towers stated that since Representative De Luca has been appointed as State Rep he has been very helpful with assisting the Mayor, Board and the Village. Mayor Towers stated that he is looking forward to a long lasting relationship with Representative De Luca.

Mayor Towers stated that many citizens have been misled with false information spread throughout the community. Mayor Towers does not want to pass blame or point fingers to any one person responsible for this confusion. As Mayor, setting the record straight, Mayor Towers stated that on May 12, 2009 he assured the citizens that the new administration under his leadership would operate with integrity and transparency and that he would be evaluating all department heads after 90 days. Mayor Towers stated that the 90 day mark was August 12, 2009 and during these tough economic times he is proud to say that he did not fire any department heads and a number of them are present tonight and still on payroll. Mayor Towers stated that are major changes being implemented to enhance the Village and how we operate. We thanked Fire Chief Chris Sewell for his many years of service and wished him and his family the very best in their future endeavors when he resigned September 15, 2009. Mayor Towers stated that we are reviewing other department heads and engaging in serious conversations regarding this matter. The Village is facing many serious problems; most of them financial. We are working diligently to rebuild our great Village and during this process there will be some tough decisions being made. As Mayor, Mayor Towers encourages everyone to bring their concerns to him in his office; there is an open door policy. Mayor Towers stated that is the only way the Village can move forward and thanked everyone for their patience during these troubling times.

Mayor Towers added that the youth group is up and running and meeting every Monday- Thursday from 3 pm – 6 pm at the Ed Paesel Center; Catholic Charities will be providing lunch during those days. Mayor Towers stated that he attended the youth skating program last Wednesday in Lynwood and everyone had a great time; please support the youth group and whatever cause they are doing. Mayor Towers stated that the VISTA program is close to being in operation; the management and other staff stopped by the center earlier today for a final inspection of the site; everyone will be updated when the program is started.

## **4. REPORTS OF TRUSTEES AND BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **4a. Senior Citizens Committee: Trustee Anderson**

Trustee Anderson stated that the seniors will hold their quarterly event on Saturday, October 17, 2009. This event is the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner. The dinner donation is \$5.00 which includes spaghetti, salad, desert and drink, entertainment by the Morgan Family, 50/50 raffle and free line dancing lessons provided by Flora Haynes; see Rose Langston, Larry Stewart , Trustee Anderson or the Village Hall office for tickets.

Trustee Anderson also stated that senior movie day at the Library is always the second Monday of the month at 1 pm. Monday, October 5, 2009 the Library will be sponsoring a workshop for seniors on senior safety and a luncheon at 11 am prior to the movie starting at 1 pm. The Police Department will be on hand for the workshop. Seniors must call the Library for reservations for the luncheon. Trustee Anderson also to Save The Date for Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 10 am – 1 pm for a senior workshop regarding home health care. Professionals will be on hand to take the mystery out of what is available in the home health care industry; who pays the bill- Medicare or Medicaid , what is nursing care compared to assisted living, etc...

### **4b. Parks, Recreations & Youth Services: Trustee Benson**

Trustee Benson announced that the Parks & Recreation Committee will be closing the play lot on Carol Avenue due to safety reasons and severely damaged equipment. Trustee Benson stated that the Parks & Rec Committee along with the Mayor and Chief of Staff will notify Public Works with closing instructions. This play lot will be closed until all repairs are completed or the equipment is replaced and approved by the Parks & Rec Committee. Trustee Benson stated that all play lots will be inspected by the middle of October. Trustee Benson that Miss Sauk Village, Mr. & Miss Sauk Village, Jr. and Miss Liberty will be interviewed live on radio station WYCA 102.3 – Hammond , Indiana between 8 pm and 9 pm tonight. Trustee Benson stated that due to revenue restraints and a lack of funding the Parks and Recreation Committee will not be hosting any Halloween activities this year.

### **4c. Housing Authority Commission: Trustee Hanks**

Trustee Hanks stated that the Housing Authority Commission held their second meeting last Thursday. Two sub-committees have been formed. The first sub-committee is looking at the housing situation in Sauk Village; homeowner occupied vs. rental properties. The second sub-committee will start working with Community Development to look at the top 5 issues where violations occur; where are we having problems in Sauk Village. That sub-committee will also start working with local contractors and churches and other faith based organizations to help the Sauk Village residents. Trustee Hanks stated that three organizations have been contacted to see if they can come and give presentations for residents of Sauk Village and surrounding communities to help deal with things like foreclosure, proper loan advice and potential sources of available funds to help those having a hard time. Trustee Hanks stated a new potential Commissioner attended the last meeting and will be brought on to the board pending Board approval. Trustee Hanks stated that there still is one opening; interested people can apply by submitting a letter to the front desk or emailing Trustee Hanks at dhanks@saukvilleage.org.

### **4d. Ordinance Review Committee: Trustee Myers**

Trustee Myers stated that the Ordinance Review Committee met last Wednesday and reviewed several ordinances. Trustee Myers submitted two ordinances to the Board tonight for approval. The first ordinance is for Fair Housing in the Village of Sauk Village. This ordinance is to insure that individuals are not discriminated against when trying to rent a house in Sauk Village. The second ordinance is granting special use approval for a wireless communication tower, facility and antenna for T-Mobile to be located at 2700 Kalvelage Drive.

### **4e. Economic Development Committee: Trustee Burgess**

Trustee Burgess stated that the Economic Development Committee met September 9, 2009 and discussed trying to get Sauk Village and the Sauk Village businesses on the LOIS map and website; this would allow potential businesses looking for a site to check and see if Sauk Village meets their criteria. Trustee Burgess stated that letters have been sent to existing businesses asking them to beautify their landscaping. Trustee

Burgess asked if there is a new business, a massage parlor, opening by the Dental Clinic. DH Jasinski stated that the owners of the massage therapy business have been in to get their license. Trustee Burgess also stated that Behr Paint, which is located on Torrence, just north of the Village Hall, is considering opening an outlet store to sell overstock paint. Mayor Towers asked for clarification on what type of store Behr Paint would be opening and if it would be within their existing site. Trustee Burgess stated that Behr Paint now deals with Home Depot and any overstock or discontinued paint would be sold at this outlet store at their existing site until the need to branch out.

#### **4f. Public Relations/Web Site Committee: Trustee Williams**

Trustee Williams stated that the next Public Relations Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month; the next meeting is October 6, 2009 at 7 pm in the Village Hall. Trustee Williams stated that the Sauk Talk was prepared on time and printed but was not delivered to the homes due to budgetary restraints. The Sauk Talk is available at the Library and the Village Hall.

#### **4g. 2010 Census Update: Chief of Staff Corley**

COS Corley stated that the first meeting of the Census Committee will be October 2, 2009 at 7 pm in Conference Room B in the Village Hall. COS Corley stated that several items have come in for the committee and they excited about getting started. People have already signed up for the committee and anyone else interested in joining the committee should call her or stop by the Village Hall on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mayor Towers stated that it is very important that everyone in Sauk Village is counted; this determines the Federal money that will come into the Village. Mayor Towers stated that residents will be receiving information in the mail regarding the Census and that help is needed on this committee, please sign up at the Village Hall if you are interested in joining the committee.

## **5. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS**

#### **5a. Police Department: Chief Lacheta**

Police Chief Lacheta stated that a burglary suspect was in custody earlier today after officers responded to a 911 call regarding a possible burglary in process on the 2100 block of Jeffery Avenue. The suspect was found to have multiple felonies and forensic evidence left at the scene may be used to link the suspect lead to other recent crimes. Chief Lacheta stated this is part of the continued effort of the Police Officers and Detectives to protect the citizens of Sauk Village; 29 burglaries have been solved already this year.

#### **5b. Fire Department: Deputy Chief Stoffregen**

Deputy Chief Stoffregen stated that Fire Prevention Week is October 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department will be in the schools during that week with literature for the children. On Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 11 am – 3 pm the Fire Department will be hosting a Show & Tell at the Sauk Village McDonald's. Kids are invited to atop by and check out the equipment and pick up McDonald's coupons.

#### **5c. Public Works Department: Mr. Weller**

DH Weller reported that Public Works has been receiving calls from residents saying their water had been shut off overnight. This was due to a water main break on the Crossroads Apartments property which is a private entity. The new owners of the Crossroads Apartments were unsure what to do and Public Works assisted them in locating valves. Com Ed was also called out to handle a related problem. As of 2:30 pm the water had been turned back on. All of the sewer systems need to be repaired and cleaned once a year according to NWRD – Water Reclamation District. This project will start next week on the north side around 217<sup>th</sup> & Jeffery Avenue, Carol Avenue, 215<sup>th</sup> around to Orion Avenue and up to Torrence Avenue. DH Weller stated that the salt trucks are being prepared for the season. The Village has allocated 700 tons of salt at a price of \$74.24 compared to \$107.25 last year. Pothole repair is also ongoing. DH Weller stated that the chipping program will end the week after October 13<sup>th</sup>; all branches must to out by the 13<sup>th</sup> and will be picked up on garbage day. Public Works is starting the tree trimming program along Jeffery Avenue and all of Peterson Avenue. DH Weller gave honor and recognition to long time resident and 35 year employee Jeremy Underwood on his retirement. DH Weller stated that Jeremy has worked up through the ranks in Sauk Village and at one time took him under his wings and trained him as well.

**5d. Community Development Department: Ms. Jasinski**

DH Jasinski stated that the Zoning Board met September 14, 2009 regarding the driveway variance for Mr. & Mrs. Persons and is making a recommendation for approval; this item will be placed on the October 13, 2009 agenda for Board consideration.

**5e. Finance & Administration Department: Mrs. Sterrett**

DH Sterrett stated that the first bi-weekly financial status report was placed in the Board packets. DH Sterrett stated that she will be giving weekly financial status reports which will include a detail of checks that are being held as well. DH Sterrett will also prepare a cash forecast and compare that cash forecast to an actual general ledger and the budget so everyone can be informed weekly. DH Sterrett also stated that included in the Board packets is a list of Accounts Payable which shows the checks that are being held which was requested by the Board. DH Sterrett stated that after she deposits \$29,000.00 tomorrow there will be a shortfall of approximately \$113,000.00 for payroll. The shortfall started last year and now we are waiting for money from the State of Illinois. Property taxes were supposed to start coming in around October but it looks more like November. We have not received any money from the State allotments for the past two months; we are waiting for approximately \$200,000.00 from the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois has 4 billion dollars in unpaid 2009 bills. DH Sterrett will continue to keep the Board informed but the first priority is to catch up on the reconciliations in order to give the Board accurate information. The Village is working with Park National Bank and Kane McKenna as well as looking at a working cash bond. DH Sterrett stated she will call the State of Illinois to see if and when the allotment may possibly be received and said if anyone has any questions or suggestions she is always available. Trustee Burgess asked for clarification of the report. DH Sterrett stated that on 6/9, 6/23, 7/14 and 7/28 the "X" means "hold" but on 8/25 there were so many being held that "X" means paid.

**5f. Emergency Services & Disaster Agency: Mr. Darnall –No report**

**5g. 9-1-1 Board: Deputy Chief Stoffregen – No report**

**5h. Human Relations Commission: Mrs. Sterrett- No report**

**5i. Police Alliance Committee: Trustee Anderson –**

Trustee Anderson along with the Police Department and the Police Alliance Committee is presenting the Citizen's Police Academy. Residents have questions on what the Police Officers do and what happens within the Police Department. The Police Department has put together a curriculum detailing a better understanding of what the Police Department does. There are applications available and background checks will be required. The program starts Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 6 pm at the Police Department. Meetings will be held on Sundays from 6 pm – 9 pm and Wednesdays from 7 pm – 9 pm.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA- None**

**7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & COMMUNICATIONS**

**7a. An Ordinance for Fair Housing for the Village of Sauk Village**

Mayor Towers asked for a motion to approve.

A motion to approve was made by Trustee Myers and seconded by Trustee Hanks

Mayor Towers asked Village Clerk Williams to call the roll.

Ayes: Trustees Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried.

**7b. An Ordinance For T-Mobile Site Lease- Option**

Mayor Towers asked for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Trustee Myers to approve and seconded by Trustee Benson

Mayor Towers asked Village Clerk Williams to call the roll.

Ayes: Trustees Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Towers began with item 8c.

**8c. Bid Opening (Infrastructure Project)**

Village Clerk Williams stated that there were two bids received and opened the first bid- Gallagher Asphalt.

Mayor Towers reviewed the bid from Gallagher Asphalt in the amount of \$94,692.10.

Village Clerk Williams opened the second bid- Alpha Construction Company.

Mayor Towers reviewed the bid from Alpha Construction Company in the amount of \$132,963.00.

Both bid packets were turned over to VE Czarnik for review and recommendation.

**8a. Accounts Payable & Disbursements**

**September 9, 2009 – September 22, 2009**

Trustee Myers asked if there was money available to pay for the items in Accounts Payable or a portion of it. DH Sterrett stated we will meet payroll by the skin of our teeth; we are barely getting by and it is important to get property taxes and additional funding.

Trustee Hanks made a motion that due to the fact that there are three months of Accounts Payables sitting in the drawer that only the following three items be paid at this time- Payroll, Insurance and Bonds in that order. Everything else should be placed on hold and not voted on tonight. The motion was seconded by Trustee Burgess. Mayor Towers asked for questions and comments from the Board. Trustee Anderson thanked Trustee Hanks for taking the lead on that motion.

Mayor Towers asked VC Williams to call the roll.

Ayes: Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

Motion carried.

**8b. Acknowledgement of Retired Employee**

Trustee Williams stated that it is customary for the Public Relations Committee on behalf of the Village to host an Annual Volunteer/ Employee Appreciation Dinner, Unfortunately, this year due to budget restraints the dinner was cancelled, however, the Village would like to recognize Jeremy Underwood for his 35 years of service to Sauk Village. Jeremy started on September 4<sup>th</sup> 35 years ago and retired on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Jeremy has worked every department in Public Works from cutting grass to the water department and was instrumental to help the way the Village runs now with regards to the Water Department. Trustee Williams stated on behalf of the Village of Sauk Village and the Public Relations Committee, Thank you, Jeremy, for 35 years of service. (Jeremy was awarded a clock in recognition of his service to Sauk Village.)

Jeremy stated that it has been a pleasure working for the Village. Mayor Towers thanked Jeremy for all of his hard work and service that he has provided Sauk Village and stated that he will be missed. Mayor Towers wished Jeremy and his family the best and stated that there are not many places now where people can do 35 years and the Village really appreciates him.

**8d. Award of Bid Contract**

VE Czarnik stated that after reviewing both bids he found both bids to be in order. VE Czarnik made the recommendation to make a conditional award to Gallagher Asphalt who is the low bidder for the project in the amount of \$94,692.10. VE Czarnik reminded the Board that IDOT requires an 8 day waiting period in

case anyone wants to protest the bid for any reason. Trustee Anderson motioned to accept the recommendation of VE Czarnik to accept the conditional contract for Gallagher Asphalt for the Village resurfacing. Trustee Benson seconded the motion.

Trustee Hanks asked how much of the \$94,692.10 was available for this bid. VE Czarnik stated that this project will be funded through MFT and CDBG funds; nothing coming directly from the Village.

Mayor Towers asked Village Clerk Williams to call the roll.

Ayes: Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **9a. Questions and comments from the Board of Trustees**

Trustee Burgess stated that the IML Conference this weekend is very important and vital to the elected officials to get a chance to attend workshops, network and find out what is available throughout the State to help Sauk Village and bring this information back to the Board. Officials from all of the municipalities as well as other governmental officials attend this conference. Trustee Burgess stated that he is aware of the fact that the Village has prepaid for the conference and one night stay downtown but is unable to pay for the remaining two nights; he will pay for the remaining nights himself in order to get the benefit of the conference. Trustee Anderson stated that at the last meeting everyone agreed not to accept the \$100.00 per diem that the Board is entitled to by ordinance as a way to help work with the budgetary problems the Village is facing as well as to pay for our own lodging and expenses other than the one night the Village was already charged for. We are all working to help balance the budget and be as thrifty as possible. Trustee Anderson thanked all of the trustees for reaching back and giving back and not taking these payments. Trustee Hanks stated that he also will be paying for his lodging, and wanted to state that the trustees will not be accepting expense checks but rather paying for their own expenses which include transportation, parking and food. Trustee Hanks stated that it is commendable that the trustees will reach into their pockets knowing the Village is in the shape that it is so that we can all take advantage of the training that is necessary to serve the residents better.

Trustee Burgess personally acknowledged Jeremy Underwood. Jeremy was his neighbor for 16 years and he considers him to be a great asset to the Village. Trustee Burgess stated that he will be sorely missed and that he does know everything about the infrastructure of Sauk Village which he has passed on to Kevin Weller. Thank you, Jeremy! Trustee Hanks also wished Jeremy the best in his future endeavors and thanked him for all he has done for the Village. Trustee Hanks stated that the Village is losing experience that can probably never be replaced; knowing every inch of the town and how the sewers were set up. Wish you the best!

Trustee Williams stated that again Thank you, Jeremy for everything that you have done!

Trustee Williams asked if research was done regarding the \$12.00 car wash expense in the Accounts Payable listed under Elected Officials a couple of weeks ago. Mayor Towers stated that he washed his car twice. Trustee Williams stated that another Trustee requested that information at the previous meeting and asked that the information be given to the Board. Trustee Williams also stated that at the last executive session meeting when Mayor Towers informed the Board of the current situation with the department heads after his 90 day evaluation Mayor Towers stated that Trustee Williams would receive a letter the next day; instead she received a letter stating that it would be in her Board packet on Friday. In her Friday Board packet she received another letter stating that she would not receive it. Trustee Williams asked when she will be receiving that information. Mayor Towers stated that the information will be given to Trustee Williams in due time. Trustee Williams asked if she could be provided with a date when she could expect that information. Mayor Towers stated that the information is private and personal with regards to the evaluations of the department heads. Trustee Williams stated that she understood that but given the fact that it was broadcast on the news that the Village is letting department heads go due to financial reasons and that problems came out in the evaluations that it is imperative as a trustee that she receive this information. Trustee Williams stated that Mayor Towers did say he would share the information the next day. Mayor Towers stated that he said a few minutes ago that no department heads have been let go and asked Trustee Williams why she continues to discuss this. Mayor Towers addressed everyone saying that all of the department heads are still on payroll. Trustee Williams stated that during the executive session the exact words department heads/ fired were never brought up the Board was told that their contracts were not going

to be renewed and that they were going to be asked to step down or leave; they were not given a pink slip but a choice to step down or leave. Trustee Williams stated that to her that means that they will not have their current job position; they have it today but will not have it soon. Trustee Williams stated that the information presented to the Board that night, without prior knowledge or discussion and solely due to evaluations done by the Mayor, was that four department heads would be let go due to the evaluations. Trustee Williams stated that she felt that information was extremely important considering that the Mayor stated that Friday of last week would be their last day. Trustee Williams stated that clearly did not happen and she does know why because once again the Board is left out of the loop. Trustee Williams stated that as a Board they have a responsibility to know why they are being let go and a responsibility and right to know what the Mayor based his decision on. Mayor Towers restated that at this time nobody has been fired; they are still on payroll.

Trustee Williams asked Mayor Towers if he did state at that meeting that they will either have resign or they step down. Mayor Towers stated that he would give everybody an option in due time. Mayor Towers stated that they are still in the process of meeting with the department heads. The only department head who has resigned is Fire Chief Sewell. Other negotiations are ongoing.

Trustee Williams asked if part of the negotiation process is the opportunity for the department heads to remain at their current position. Mayor Towers stated that they do not know that yet; they are still gathering and talking to them. No decisions have been made. Trustee Williams asked if the opportunity to remain the Treasurer, Police Chief and the Public Works Superintendent is still on the table. Mayor Towers stated that they are still talking to those department heads. Mayor Towers stated that when any decisions are being made the citizens of Sauk Village will be the first to be notified. Mayor Towers stated that he did not understand; anytime there is a Board meeting in closed session regarding personnel it is supposed to remain in closed session. Trustee Williams stated that it was her understanding that information from executive session could be brought out into the public as long as no names were used. Trustee Williams mentioned no names. Trustee Williams asked VA Vasselli to help to make the Mayor and the audience aware of the proper procedure of an executive session. VA Vasselli stated that he would brief the issue and have an answer in a week.

(Mayor Towers returned to the bid process and recognized VE Czarnik)

Returning to Miscellaneous, Trustee Anderson thanked everyone for coming out; it was nice to see a room full of active citizens. Trustee Anderson invited the audience to come back next week and every 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

VC Williams stated that she is also attending the IML Conference at her own expense; it is very important that the Board attend this conference

### **9b. Questions from the Audience**

Mayor Towers asked the audience to please limit their time to two minutes and respect everyone else's time.

Rose Langston stated that there have been many rumors circulating and that she was very concerned that the Police Chief and Public Works director are the employees that are being considered to be let go; they might be here today but that does not mean that they might not be here tomorrow or by the end of the week. Rose stated that she has never worked with anyone as nice as him; he goes out on his own time and Rose sees him around the Village all of the time attending events. Rose also stated that Kevin Weller has devoted a lot of years for the Village. They both have been excellent employees. Rose stated that she has known Jeremy for many years, enjoyed his work and wished him good luck on his retirement.

Ernest Walker, Peterson Avenue resident, asked when we would get good water; the water is not worth paying for. Mr. Walker also stated that having the street sweeper come before the garbage pick up is wrong.

DH Weller stated that the sweeper goes out once a month; the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month on garbage day when the streets are clear but not necessarily behind the garbage truck. DH Weller stated that there was a recent incident on Carol Avenue that was addressed when residents called.

Debbie Carl stated that she could not hear Trustee Benson when he gave his report and asked him to repeat it. Trustee Benson stated that they will be closing down the play lot on Carol Avenue due to damaged equipment and unsafe environment in that area. The play lot will be reopened once the equipment had been replaced or repaired. The Parks & Rec committee along with Public Works, the Mayor and the Chief of Staff will work to reopen that park. The retention pond next to that park also needs to be addressed. Debbie asked if there has been any word about the grant repaying Parks & Rec for funds used for the, if the grant was earmarked for that event and can it be used for that event. Trustee Benson stated that the grant has been issued to the Village and now the grant funding will have to come from Finance Director Sterrett; the grant was earmarked for

Parks & Rec and youth services; the festival was a Parks & Rec youth festival and the grant could absolutely be used for the festival.

Village Clerk Williams asked anyone with questions to speak up and give their name and asked the audience to hold their conversations.

Darrick Thompson, 217<sup>th</sup> resident, stated that the Board was chosen by the people, for the people to be the leaders to represent the community; when the Board does not walk in unity with the Mayor it hurts the residents. The Board also needs to do their job and work to make the right decisions and work with the Mayor or there are others who would love to work with the Mayor. Mr. Thompson also stated that the Police Department is writing tickets because we are hurting for money.

Alma Walton, Lincoln Meadows resident, stated that she knows the Board is there for the people. Mrs. Walton is concerned about a pothole that has been there for almost 2 years and asked Public Works to address that issue. Mrs. Walton stated that earlier she asked the Chief of Staff if we could hook up the water from Ford Heights since they have Chicago Water; she stated that she would have to see how beneficial it would be with the cost of putting new pipes in, etc... Mrs. Walton suggested that the Village should hire an independent auditor to look into the Village finances to make sure that there is accountability in the financial department; that there is no underhanded activity and that no one left with any money like what happened in the school district. Mrs. Walton brought in a sample of the water and asked if any Board members would drink it. Mrs. Walton stated that she pays too much on her water to have to bring water in from the outside; she is looking forward to the new administration moving forward and solving the water issue.

DH Sterrett stated that the Village is audited every year by one of the top 10 national firms, McGladrey & Pullen, and they would report if there was anything wrong going on. DH Sterrett stated that the auditors have never disagreed with management on anything of a material nature. Mrs. Walton asked if the last audit was before the financial crisis or after. DH Sterrett stated that there is an audit going on now.

Miss Johnson, 14 year resident, has been disabled with pancreatic cancer by drinking the water; her doctor told her to leave the area and she left for 3 years and her pancreas got better. Miss Johnson stated that the people have been very disrespectful and disconnected her water over a \$7.49 bill. They cut her water off every other month. Mayor Towers asked Miss Johnson to meet with the Chief of Staff to address her water being disconnected and that he would address the water issue with the group at the end.

Larry Stewart stated that the minutes of the last meeting stated that we were broke but it does not address how we got there; this did not just happen –it has been an ongoing problem. Larry recalled the 1.5 million dollars in impact fees that were never received. Larry also recalled from the minutes that Trustee Williams stated that somebody should be able to explain what happened and that speaking with the past Mayor and Village Manager might be a good idea. Larry further stated that Chief Sewell did make it clear that the grant money was used for the fire truck and bond issues are used to get caught up but there was not enough to continue to operate. Larry stated people in the previous administration were entrusted to keep track of the budget did not do this and it needs to be investigated.

Cathy Springs, fairly new Charlotte Court resident, thanked the Police for getting rid of two problems on her block. Ms. Springs stated that there should be lights in the area where the young resident was killed last year; this should be lit in her honor. There is a lot of traffic there at night.

Ernestine Blackmon stated that she feels that the financial problems of the Village are affecting the children of this school district. Ms. Blackmon stated that she received information about the No Child Left Behind Act but would like more information. This would be beneficial to many children but the school could not give her the information. Trustee Burgess suggested that she attend the School District meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7 pm at the Administration building.

Captain Richard Atwood, 14 year veteran of the Sauk Village Fire Department, stated that the Sauk Village Fire Department also wishes Chief Sewell the best as he starts a new chapter with the Flossmoor Fire Department. Captain Atwood stated that as the Board plans to ask Deputy Chief Stoffregen to step up as Fire Chief the department supports Deputy Chief Stoffregen wholeheartedly and is confident that he will take the department into the new chapter of their lives.

Sid Harris, resident of Carol Avenue, stated that there needs to be a 3 way stop sign at the school bus stop. The children have to run away from speeding cars.

Mayor Towers stated that he knows that petitions have been signed and asked who he gave them to.

Village Clerk Williams stated that the petitions were immediately given to the Chief of Police and the Chief of Police addressed the petitions at the last Board meeting.

Levi Futrell, Carol Avenue, stated problems with the way the grass is cut and that there are only two swings in the park and a basketball court is needed for the children.

Carlton Chilton, Carol Avenue resident, stated that until the stop sign is placed more police appearance is needed. Police say they cannot do anything about the residents speeding because they do not see it. There is also a problem with crowd control after school; kids are fighting. Mr. Chilton stated that last week 15 kids tried to jump on his son and police showed up while he was breaking it up. Mr. Chilton told the police he wanted something done about it but they said they could not do anything without giving his son a ticket. Mr. Chilton wants the police to do the job so the town won't have to take it into their own hands.

Marie Pielli, 46 year resident, stated that she still drinks the water. Ms. Pielli asked if the Village was in danger of losing 9-1-1 call center due to the financial setback. Mayor Towers responded "No". Ms. Pielli stated that she backs the Chief of Police 100%. Ms. Pielli stated that her brother trained him as a cadet. Ms. Pielli stated that she felt it was ludicrous what is going on in the Village; if anyone's jobs should be safe it should be the department heads jobs. Ms. Pielli stated that Chief Lacheta has worked his way up through the ranks and knows the Village back and forth. These people know the Village and they should stay.

Philip Bazile stated that an incident report was filed on him when he inquired about whether the grant was specifically earmarked for student activities and programs; the incident report was meant as intimidation. Mr. Bazile was just looking for checks and balances; if the grant money could not be used for the festival then how would the festival be paid for. Mr. Bazile stated that the residents elected the Board and the residents are the Boss; he was not undermining anyone but just wanted to make sure that the Village was not in trouble for using those funds. It has been stated that we cannot use the grant money for the festival; then Trustee Benson stated that the funds could be used for the festival. Mr. Bazile asked how the \$10,000.00 in bills from the festival would be paid. Trustee Benson responded stating that Mr. Bazile took it upon himself to call Jesse Jackson, Jr.'s office to inquire about the grant stating that Trustee Benson and Chief of Staff Corley gave him permission. Mr. Bazile lied and charges were filed against him. Trustee Benson stated that he will not answer Mr. Bazile with regards to the intimidation because he is not aware of his intentions; his intentions were false earlier and are probably false now. Mr. Bazile stated that he asked Trustee Benson for the grant information was told he could not have it; as part of public information we should have access to that grant. Mr. Bazile stated that he did call Mr. Jackson's office stating that he was working with Mrs. Corley to see whether or not the grant was earmarked for festival activity; he later apologized to Mrs. Corley for lying. The representative who Trustee Benson stated was in charge of the grant was actually not a part of the grant for 2 ½ years. Mr. Bazile stated that the grant was in fact earmarked for the Police and Fire Cadet programs and summer program for the kids after school got out; criteria had to be met and festivals do not meet that criteria. Mr. Bazile stated that Trustee Benson also lied when he stated that it was a kid's festival; it was not a kid's festival- there was alcohol served during the festival which the grant cannot be used for that. Mr. Bazile did not want to expand any further at this time other than to ask if the Mayor and others are stating that we are broke – how will we be paying for the festival. Mr. Bazile stated that we may have been able to keep someone employed.

Henry Lott, 47 year resident, stills drinks the water. Mr. Lott stated that the water is hard, Public Works does a great job, but we cannot afford Lake Michigan water.

Lawrence Brady, 38 year resident, stated that everyone was aware that the water has been always been an issue and stated that the Mayor was a fool to try to change department heads.

(Order was reinstated after Mr. Brady was removed)

Barbara Fosle, 20 year plus resident, asked if the Board has considered cutting their own salaries before cutting positions and jeopardizing the citizens. Mayor Towers stated that he has not looked into cutting everyone's salaries. Ms. Fosle asked who the man sitting on the Mayor's left was and what the cost to the Village is to have him there. Mayor Towers stated that he is the Village Attorney and that he is paid no where near what the Village Attorney was paid by the previous administration.

Ms. Fosle asked if there was a cost to the Village for the Citizens Police Academy. Trustee Anderson stated that there is no cost because Chief Lacheta and the police department have used the skills and knowledge of the officers to develop a curriculum themselves. Trustee Anderson also stated that anyone interested in signing up should visit the police department and complete the application; there is only 10 people signed up and they would like 40 participants. Ms. Fosle stated that she participated in the program 20 years ago and it is a great program but again asked if the taxpayers will pay for the program. Trustee Anderson restated that it will not cost the taxpayers money.

Ed Monroe, Cornell Avenue resident, stated that all of the departments are doing a great job and he wished that a solution could be found to avoid people losing their jobs. Mr. Monroe stated that he remembers a picture of the party that was elected and after being to two meetings he does see that picture anymore. Mr.

Monroe suggested that he sees a lack of respect and that the Board should work together to address the issue of communication.

Tom Ribicki, 34 year resident, stated that Chief Lacheta is one of the greatest police officers that have ever patrolled the town; it would be a total injustice if he were asked to leave. Mr. Ribicki asked Mayor Towers how long he lived in Sauk Village. Mayor Towers responded 12 years. Mr. Ribicki stated that residents that have lived here for many years know that Chief Lacheta has done more for this community than anyone else here; he has saved babies, saved boys- this is the wrong position to cut. Mr. Ribicki stated that there is crime everywhere but that Chief Lacheta and his officers have worked hard to keep the streets as safe as they are.

Javette Jones stated that she feels that anything that is included in someone's personnel file should not be discussed in public. Mrs. Jones stated that both men do a fine job and that Chief Lacheta has always worked out her problems. Mrs. Jones stated that whatever brought all of these people to the meeting today she wished that they would also go to the School Board meeting because there is a serious problem over there. Mrs. Jones stated that the youth group is meeting after school from 3pm – 6 pm; 3-4 pm is homework hour and 4-6pm is structured activities. Mrs. Jones stated that the program is free to help get kids off of the street; she volunteers by herself and she is looking for more volunteers. The program runs Monday through Thursday from 3 pm- 6pm. Tell the kids where to go.

John Reyes stated Sunday he met with the people who walked in the neighborhood. Mr. Reyes stated that the residents are not here to gripe but to show concern for their property, taxes, children and the progress the Village makes in these hard economic time; it takes a Village to raise a Village. Mr. Reyes stated that there is a new era with new elected officials that need to work with the residents. Data is heard across America and now we need answers. Mr. Reyes stated that there are many abandoned homes in the community and there should be an ordinance stating no trespassing on private property. Mr. Reyes addressed the Board stating that they are the leaders of the community and that they must reach out to the good people of the community. Mr. Reyes stated that he does not come here often; you don't want to see him; he sent the Mayor of Calumet City to jail. Mr. Reyes asked that the Board work with the people or the people will work against them.

Pat Holland, 30 year plus resident, stated that the minutes of September 15, 2009 says that we have been robbing Peter to pay Paul and asked if the rumor that a publicist was hired at a cost of \$30,000.00 is true. Mayor stated that was false. Mrs. Holland also stated that the minutes reflect that a speech writer was hired but that at least \$1,500.00 has been reimbursed. The Mayor stated that is correct. Mrs. Holland stated that she has not heard what plans there are to fix the financial situation and asked if the resident's safety is in jeopardy. Mrs. Holland also questioned if the fuel is being paid for, are chemicals to treat the water being purchased, our garbage bill hasn't been paid- what happens now? Mrs. Holland stated that it was clearly stated tonight that the Police Chief and Fire Chief have full support of their departments and most of the people and we hear you might be fired/ you might not be fired; they know they have our full support. Mrs. Holland stated that the budget is in bigger trouble than worrying about department heads getting fired.

Trustee Williams addressed that Mrs. Holland brought up the question if a publicist was hired and Mayor Towers answered that a publicist has not been hired. Trustee Williams stated that an invoice was presented to the Board from First Trace Publications which was used as the public relations firm prior to being sworn in on May 12<sup>th</sup> and after, including \$75.00 per hour for sitting in at a Board meeting for 4 hours. Trustee Williams stated that the invoice in the amount of the \$1,500.00 for that public relations company was paid and that it was her understanding that they have refunded \$800.00. Trustee Williams was not present at the meeting where the discussion took place but she was informed that the Board agreed that this company can be used at the Mayor's discretion for any type of public relations. Mayor Towers stated that he did say that there are times that issues need to be addressed in the paper and someone needs to be hired to see that done. There was a firm hired about the issue about the water and to help the Mayor write his Sauk Talk article. No one has been paid since that time and the company did refund some of the money. Mrs. Holland stated that Trustee Hanks stated that only payroll, insurance and bonds will be paid, no other bills can be paid, but people are paid to write articles. Mayor Towers stated that was back in May when he was sworn in. Mrs. Holland stated that according to what has been said we were broke in May. Mayor Towers stated at that time he did not know we were broke; he inherited this when he came – he did not know Sauk Village had a 1.5 million dollar deficit. Mayor Towers stated that no one has been hired since then to write speeches and that should be the end of that. Trustee Williams clarified that it was a partial refund; there were items that were written before the Mayor was sworn in. Mayor Towers stated that an article was released to inform the public that the water was contaminated. Trustee Williams stated that she has no problem with public information; she chairs the Public Relations committee that puts the Sauk Talk together; which is sitting in the hallway- source of information that is not able to be sent out because there is no money to send it out. Trustee Williams stated

that the problem is when a public relations firm is hired to write an article for the Sauk Talk. Articles are written by the Trustees and department heads or their designees but no one is paid \$75.00 per hour to write their articles. Trustee Williams stated that IEPA issues do have to be written and submitted to the public and a regularly syndicated paper but in the past that was written by Village employees; there are people with multiple degrees on staff that should be able to write those articles.

Lawrence Blackful stated that this is the first Board meeting that he has attended and he will be attending more. Mr. Blackful stated that he is disheartened to see people who were unified during the election process so ununified now. He is not seeing change based upon the campaign promise. Mr. Blackful states that he hears a lot of hostility directed towards the Mayor and commends his character on how he is handling it. Mr. Blackful stated that these problems that did not begin when the Mayor was elected and there are present Board members that were on the Board then that are aware of things that have been happening over the years. There is a problem with the water and Mr. Blackful stated that the residents should do something about it, approach legislatures, network with Ford Heights to see how they got Lake Michigan water. Mr. Blackful stated that we should be put our petty differences aside and the disagreements that are being displayed publicly should be dealt with in private and look professional.

Bryan White, Jeffery resident, thanked the Mayor for inviting him and his wife to their first ever Board meeting. Mr. White stated that now that he is here he is witnessing things that he sees children do. He is witnessing the problems we have as brothers and sisters. Mr. White stated several references between family members and the lack thereof. Mr. White stated that the concerns for the potholes, drinking water and all of the other nitpicking, worthless issues he has heard has turned this into a three ring circus; if you support any organization this would be the quarterback (pointing to Mayor Towers). Mr. White addressed Trustee Williams and asked how many pages the Sauk Talk is and agreed that no one should have to write someone else's article. Trustee Williams stated that the Sauk Talk is 12 pages. Mr. White stated that everyone has a complaint but no one has come forward with a solution. Mayor Towers stated that he has an open door policy. Mr. White stated that he was offering a proposal and solution to Mayor Towers and the Board. Mr. White stated that he represents the parents who he has met and as someone who has signed contracts for kids in the area to be their mentor for the next 12 months to keep them safe from other corrupt individuals. He thanked the Mayor for inviting him. Trustee Williams stated that she would like to address Mr. White's comments because they seemed to be directed toward her. He agreed. Trustee Williams stated that she is 27 years old and has lived in the Village for almost 23 years. Speaking about parents, Trustee Williams stated that her father is in the audience and her mother is the Village Clerk. Trustee Williams stated that her parents have stood next to her for her entire life and understands what he is saying about having that support system in place; not only from parents but from other people as well. Trustee Williams stated that there are people in the audience that have supported her. Trustee Williams stated that what her parents, extended family and her education have taught her is what is right and what is wrong, and to fight for what she believes is right or wrong. Trustee Williams stated that was glad that this is Mr. White's first Board meeting and that she would love to see this room filled every Tuesday. Trustee Williams stated that part of the disconnect is that the residents are not here every Tuesday to hear not only herself, but other Board members as well, requesting information, asking questions and being told you cannot have that; or being told that it will come in a memo that never comes. Trustee Williams stated in reference to the picture Mr. Monroe spoke of, she sees people pointing her out, she stated that she did run with a certain number of people- Citizens For Progress. The Mayor stated that when he got in he would do a 90 day evaluation of the department heads and the department heads would have to be accountable. During the campaign, the Mayor stated in public that a trustee would be appointed to every department head. This has not happened. There have been many things that he stated that have not happened. Trustee Williams stated that it was her experience with the prior Board that when she asked for information she got it; she is finding out now that when she was given the information it was not always the correct answer. Trustee Williams stated that at a previous meeting she showed past minutes where she asked about the budget and was told everything was okay- we were at where we supposed to be. Trustee Williams stated that last week she made the statement if she and other Board members were being told by the Finance Director, and the past Mayor and Village Manager that everything is okay then why all of a sudden is there no money. Last week Trustee Williams suggested bringing in the old administration to ask them questions to see what happened and explain the situation. Trustee Williams stated that at no time will she blindly follow anybody. Mayor Towers stated that she had made her point and it was time to move on.

Pam Stewart stated that Chief Lacheta was the first police officer that she met in Sauk Village and she has never had a problem with him; she agreed that the water is hard.

Fran Hamilton stated that we need to keep the department heads. People say they have not done anything but they have done a lot here. There have been a lot of changes. People are always getting tickets about their property, what about the apartment building that burnt down two years ago. It is an eyesore. DH Jasinski stated that she understands Mrs. Hamilton's frustration and stated that permits have been pulled to demo the building.

Will Smith, 25 year resident, did not want to see the Mayor disrespected; it never happened before. Mr. Smith stated that the Mayor has done a great job. Mr. Smith asked where everyone was when there was a presentation stating that the Village was on target. What happened? Mr. Smith stated that we need to get the past Mayor and get the money. This Mayor just got in - how do we make up a 1.5 million dollar shortfall.

Trustee Hanks asked to clarify information regarding the previous administration and the shortfall of 1.5 million dollars. The 1.5 million dollars was anticipated funds to be received from impact fees. These impact fees were not received. Trustee Hanks also stated that the anticipated new construction fees and permits were not received. The anticipated development growth in TIF 4 was also not received. Trustee Hanks stated that when you develop a budget you anticipate what you will make in the following year- the financial director told us that we have \$200,000.00 that the Village has not received to make payroll and run the Village. Trustee Hanks stated that no one on this Board or the previous Board took any money- the budget is based on anticipated funds. Every community, state and county is hurting. California is giving IOU's because they have no money. Trustee Hanks stated that everyone on the Board knows that they are a servant of the people and the people are the ones who put us in that place and that you are the Boss. Trustee Hanks stated that his ears are open and that he has always stated that he is a servant of the people and truly believes that and he will continue to be a servant of the people.

Vance Persons, Chappel resident, stated his concerns about only three things being paid; payroll, insurance and bond payments are important but will the lights be going out in Village Hall.

Mary Ellen Ewing stated that in the Sauk Talk, that most people will not see, Chief Lacheta wrote an article about a grant the Village received in the amount of \$238,000.00 for a new police officer but we have to keep him on for one year after the grant runs out in 2013. Ms. Ewing asked if we will lose that grant. COS Corley stated that she received a phone call today; the grant was approved; the grant will provide the payroll for that one officer for a period of three years. The only obligation to the Village is to keep the officer for one year after that. Ms. Ewing asked if Chief Lacheta was responsible for getting that grant. Chief Lacheta stated that he was one of the people responsible for obtaining the grant. Ms. Ewing stated that we should try to keep people who get grants for the Village. Ms. Ewing asked if the water report is placed in the Sauk Talk every year. DH Weller stated that the water quality report is in the Sauk Talk every year.

Mike Bartnicki stated that microphones are needed; the residents are not able to hear anything. Mr. Bartnicki stated that he is currently still unemployed and there is a lot of information out there about Village layoffs but nothing is clearly stating that he was not terminated for cause or terminated due to a 90 day review. Mr. Bartnicki is again requesting that the Board write a letter including the word "layoff" which is a legal term. Mr. Bartnicki stated that as a 64 year old going out on interviews he needs a letter that does not suggest he was terminated for cause. Mr. Bartnicki stated that he hopes Chief Lacheta keeps his job because he has always been excellent to him; he thanked Sherry; it was wonderful working for her. Mr. Bartnicki stills lives in the Village and despite how things ended, apologies have been made and he wishes everyone well.

Nate Griffin, 29 year resident, stated that he has seen the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Sauk Village. Mr. Griffin stated that the Board members should stay encouraged and that arguing with each other will not get the job done; you need to work together. Mr. Griffin stated that no Board can do in 4 months what no Board has done in 52 years; do your job and do it right, don't step out for nobody, nothing gets done in turmoil; follow the leader.

Tom Nugent, 35 year resident, stated that a referendum was presented to the Board years ago and the residents voted to keep the water they have. Mr. Nugent suggested another referendum and the residents need to be prepared to pay for the water.

Dennis Wolski stated that the apartment building on Jeffery should be torn down because it is an eyesore and asked who is responsible for the rental homes in Sauk Village. Mr. Wolski stated that there are problems with tall grass and cluttered gutters at abandoned homes. He asked what can be done. DH Jasinski stated that the houses could be vacant because they are in foreclosure and homeowners are losing their homes. DH Jasinski stated that tickets are being written but it is not always clear who owns the home or what bank is in charge; it also costs money to place a lien on the property. DH Jasinski stated that if he wanted to report a particular property to her she would investigate it. Mr. Wolski stated that Code Enforcement always does their job and some people complain only because they are tough; he is okay with that.

Rose Langston stated that she has been a resident for over 49 years and she drinks the water. Mrs. Langston stated that she realizes that the hourly rate for the attorney is less than the last attorney but overall he is here all of the time- doesn't that add up. Mrs. Langston also stated that she does not see charges for the attorney on the Accounts Payable. With regards to the referendum and water, Mrs. Langston stated that it would cost more to shut down the wells and get everything piped in which could cost millions of dollars. Mrs. Langston stated that because we are at the end of the line that Lake Michigan water may not even be available to us; the well water has never been rationed but if any line in between would get shut down we would not have water that we need; being at the end of the line may also mean we may not have the water we need to water our lawns, wash our cars, etc...

Resident asked if at future meetings people could only speak once. Trustee Williams stated that was what open Board meetings are for- open comments.

Village Clerk Williams was not recognized to speak and asked to be recognized. VC Williams stated that she has been instructed previously that she has to reserve her comments until after the Board and the members of the audience are allowed to speak. Village Clerk Williams stated that it needs to be clarified if she is a member of the audience or a member of the Board. Village Williams stated that if that is not the case then she would like it in writing that she is member of the Board and that she will be addressed when the Mayor asks for questions and comments from the Board of Trustees; she is the Village Clerk not a Trustee but she is on a fine line- she is a resident. Mayor Towers allowed VC Williams to speak. Trustee Anderson interrupted VC Williams asking for the Deputy Clerk to record the minutes while she would be speaking. VC Williams stated that she is recording the minutes on the tape and they will be transcribed in written form; this was never requested previously when the VC spoke. Mayor Towers stated that he agreed with Trustee Anderson and that it is the job of the Village Clerk to record the minutes. VC Williams asked for clarification on exactly what her roles and responsibilities at the desk should be; VC Williams stated that at the conference she will ask what the clerk can and cannot do; she is tired of being shut down. Mayor Towers told her she could speak. Debbie Williams, 22 year resident, is saddened to see so much experience walk out of town. As a resident, she has worked with so many of them for many years on so many different levels; and given the utmost respect in those circumstances. Mrs. Williams stated that she does not know what will happen, who's fired, who's terminated or who will be asked to leave; but to Jeremy – Great Job, Kevin Weller - Great Job and to Tom Lacheta she cannot even begin to tell him what he has done for her family and the children of Sauk Village.

Mrs. Williams asked Tom Lacheta for help with the youth group and he was always there. This youth group did not just get started. Mrs. Williams was actually a founding member working along with Mayor Towers to help form the Concerned Citizens youth group; Tom Lacheta was there tooth and nail even when it was not favorable to the old administration. The old administration frowned on what he did for the group but he did it because he respected Mayor Towers, herself and the children and families of Sauk Village. Mrs. Williams thanked Chief Lacheta and stated that without him those kids would not have had the pizzas, the pop, his guidance and lectures and when they needed help they knew to go get his help and the help of Officer Morris and officer Becky and all of the other officers; he is the back bone of our community. Mrs. Williams also stated that she is sorry to see the experience go and knows that all good things come from change. Speaking as a clerk, having run with the Citizens for Progress party, she was told that each trustee would be appointed a department head and that we would strengthen what we already had- the strength within our community- the wealth of knowledge in all of you; how do let all of this experience and knowledge go at one time.

As a clerk and check signature, who took office on May 12<sup>th</sup> and was not on the past Board but attended the board meetings regularly for 5 years, she remembered minutes from the Board meeting of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 where it was stated by Village Manager Dieterich that most of the Village's debt was TIF related. At that time the situation was not grave- how did it get grave so quick. Speaking as a Village Clerk, VC Williams stated she is glad to hear from the Finance Director that there will now be financial reports at every Board meeting; we should have been getting financial reports since February and as a check signer VC Williams stated that she does not feel comfortable signing checks. Mayor Towers stated that her 3 minutes were up.

Trustee Anderson stated that most of the audience was there because of the concerns the media raised over Chief Lacheta and suggested that he may want to speak. Chief Lacheta stated that he does not know where they are going with this; if he will be Chief for a month or until whenever. Chief Lacheta stated that as a 17 year old Marion Catholic graduate he changed from his cap and gown into his cadet uniform in the car and started his career with pride, integrity, professionalism and honesty and has done so for 28 years. Chief Lacheta thanked everyone for their kind words stating that he would like to share what will be happening but he does not know. Chief Lacheta stated that regardless of whether or not he is there to remember that the officers here are an awesome group to work with; some of the finest, well trained, dedicated professionals you

ever met. Chief Lacheta told a story where a baby died and no one claimed the baby; the Police Department claimed the baby. They paid for the burial and funeral as a family. Those policemen will continue to risk their lives. Chief Lacheta does not know his future but did acknowledge his family and the fact that he may be unemployed for the first time since he was 15 years old; being in limbo is terrifying. Chief Lacheta stated that he spent lots of Saturdays and Sundays here. Chief Lacheta stated that he respected the positions of the Mayor and the Chief of Staff; he will talk with them and make a very difficult decision. Chief Lacheta thanked everyone for the heartfelt words.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Towers asked for a motion to adjourn.

Trustee Benson made a motion to adjourn and Trustee Hanks seconded the motion to adjourn.

All in favor.

Ayes: Trustees Anderson, Benson, Burgess, Hanks, Myers and Williams

Nays: None

Absent: None

The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

---

Mayor

---

Village Clerk