

VILLAGE OF UPLANDS PARK

6390 Natural Bridge Road
Phone No. 314-383-1856

Uplands Park, MO 63121
Fax No. 314-389-3142

Regular Board Meeting
September 14, 2009
6:00 p.m.
Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. ACKNOWLEDGE OF VISITORS/REPRESENTATIVES
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. August 18, 2009 Regular Board Meeting
 2. August 18, 2009 Closed Personnel Meeting
 3. August 20, 2009 Public Hearing
 4. August 26, 2009 Special Board Meeting
5. TREASURER'S REPORT
October 2008, November 2008, December 2008, January 2009, February 2009
March 2009, April 2009, May 2009, June 2009, July 2009, and August 2009
6. CITIZEN'S COMPLAINTS/PETITION
7. CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT
8. VILLAGE ATTORNEY'S REPORT
9. VILLAGE OFFICIAL'S REPORT
10. POLICE REPORT
July 2009
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. AS COURTESY TO THE CITIZEN'S COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FOR
THE BETTERMENT OF THE VILLAGE (OPEN TO THE FLOOR)
14. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING CALLED BY CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN SECT. 610.021

Good Neighbors Build Good Neighborhoods

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Regular Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Martin called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Trustees Gamble, Iwenofu, McClendon, and Carter. Also present is the Village Attorney Doug Rudman, Village Clerk Charlotte Graham, and Village Accountant Celeste Metcalf.

ACKNOWLEDGE OF VISITORS/REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. Roberts-resident Ms. Luster-resident Ms. Dyson-resident Ms. Ringo-resident
Ms. Johnson-resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Chairwoman Martin entertained a motion to accept the minutes for August 18, 2009 regular board meeting. Trustee Iwenofu motioned for the minutes to be accepted with the necessary corrections. Seconded by Trustee Carter. Roll Call; Trustees Iwenofu-yes, Gamble-yes, Carter-yes, and McClendon-yes. Motion Carried.
2. Chairwoman Martin entertained a motion to accept the minutes for August 18, 2009 closed personnel meeting. Trustee Iwenofu motioned to accept the minutes with the necessary corrections. Seconded by Trustee Carter. Roll Call: Trustees Gamble-yes, McClendon-yes, Carter-yes, and Iwenofu-yes. Motion Carried.
3. The chairwoman entertained a motion to accept the minutes for the Public Hearing for the tax rate of 2010. Trustee McClendon motioned for the minutes to be accepted. Seconded by Trustee Gamble. Discussion. Trustee Iwenofu said he wasn't at the meeting to object the increase. Chairwoman Martin told him it's the same tax rate as last year, and they went by what the tax collector said. Which is .311? Trustee McClendon said the state auditor pushed it back. Trustee Iwenofu said it appears as an increase, and he is not supporting the increase. Trustee Gamble said it was recommended by St. Louis County. More discussion. Roll Call; Trustees McClendon-yes, Carter-yes, Gamble-yes, and Iwenofu-no. Motion Carried.

4. Chairwoman Martin entertained a motion to accept the minutes for the special board meeting held on August 26, 2009. Trustee Iwenofu motioned for the minutes be accepted with the necessary corrections. Seconded by Trustee Carter. Roll Call; Trustees Gamble-yes, Iwenofu-yes, Carter-yes, and McClendon-yes. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Trustee Iwenofu said he will have the accountant give a brief summary.

Celeste Metcalf told the board she has reconcile everything up to January 2009. Ms. Metcalf said she has matched the revenue and the sources. She has a little bit more work that needs to be done. Ms. Metcalf stated she were able to document income and deposits. Ms. Metcalf said she will soon have a much better report. She asked the board who will be inputting the checks in the computer, because the village will no longer be doing manual checks. That way you will have proper internal control. It will be different from recording checks. She told the board that she will get caught up on her job, but she implements internal control, and have something in place. The clerk may get sick, and you will need someone else. Ms. Metcalf said you need someone to put the checks in the computer, along with the bills. At this time she is not able to generate a report.

Trustee Gamble asked will it kick out a balance and gave an example. Ms. Metcalf told him yes, and you will be able to see the checks and the reconciliation. She also stated no one knows what is going on.

Trustee Iwenofu said he has spent a great deal of time on a Monday. He realized there was a lack of organization. Ameren is tagging \$600.00 on our account which makes the bill higher. He had Ms. Miller to get the bills together, and created folders for paid and outstanding bills. He found out we have accounts that we shouldn't have. Two copier contracts, which is too much. The lack of payments incurred late charges, and he has called some bill collectors. Arrangements were made and the chairwoman wrote the checks. Trustee Iwenofu said as treasurer he will input the checks in the computer, but he doesn't have to sign the checks. Only the ones on the accounts. Trustee Iwenofu said the revenue is coming from the police department. But some are working and some are not. There are several things we need to do.

1. Organized our records.
2. Keep people who want to work.

Everyone can have access to the bills. The judge and Mr. Ward needs to get a check. Chairwoman Martin stated the reason the judge and Mr. Ward did not get a check; she want to make sure there is enough money in the account, and the checks will not bounce. We have transferred money from court. She is not going to write a check if we don't have the money. The chairwoman said she left \$5,000.00 to make sure payroll was met, and we made payroll. The police department is bringing money in to make payroll and to pay bills. She then gave the board break down of money coming in.

Trustee Iwenofu said MEM is over \$1,000.00.

The chairwoman said the actual bill is \$6,000.00. Payment for one thousand and some cents will be paid for the next five months. She also stated work was done on the computer in the back office. There are computers that still need to be clean out.

Trustee Iwenofu said there were a lot of applications on the computer. Someone was downloading music and pictures. Someone was using the computer. No need to pay a fee to disable them. We need to secure the system, and lock the door. We don't need to spend money, just disable it, and wipe it out.

Ms. Metcalf said you need to consider who will be using the computer. Each individual should have their own password. The computer is running very slow. Attorney Rudman said he would like to put more two cents in, He think it's very important to recognize the position. The tipping point is getting to the point it's too much. He recommends seeking a treasurer outside the board members and creating a committee. With various board members it creates problems. There are two steps.

1. Public Funds

2. The board members or treasurer writes the checks.

It's a sufficient problem and it should not be repeated. You need to work for a budget, and get to a point of clarity. Without it the village is sailing blindly. What he fear the great of the course is making payroll, and problems like the snow removing. Without getting in politics it is important to recognize the resident of the village. Get appropriate people to assist, not just board members. The clerk needs assistant to operate within the means. The vendors will get to a point it can be too much. Come back and appoint someone to work with the accountant. The village needs a treasurer, but not a board member as the treasurer. If a trustee is going to be the treasurer, you need to be supported with clarity. Without a budget you can't continue, and it's far and between. Secure funds needs to be paid back. As far as the treasurer report the computer will administrate the accounts. The big picture it needs to be done. Have a point person for the village to be neutral to report the fiscal reality where the village is. He told the board members to ask yourself, has it worked. Attorney Rudman said he is not stepping on toes. His concerns September through February is reconcile, He's looking where we are, and are we going to make a budget.

Trustee Iwenofu said it's the will of the board. The point he is making, someone other than a board member be treasurer. We have five board members who run the village. We have a parliament; the chair, and the members of the board. The attorney stated it's important to get a treasurer. Discussion entertained. Trustee Iwenofu said we are not running out of money to run the village. What we have can run the village. The issue is we need to work as a board, and examine all the stuff.

Trustee Gamble said he has work on this for ten years, and it's about time. You can't correct this tonight. The problem was identified by the attorney and accountant. Which had a lot of good recommendations? Managing money is not easy. Be rational and lay things aside, and take advice from the professionals. Who are trying to give professional advice? We have wasted money for the last ten years. Whatever happened in the past we can't change? We need to look at the future. More discussion entertained.

Trustee Iwenofu said we can run the village until we no longer have money. The problem we are not working together.

Chairwoman Martin said we know what we need to do. We need to decide what we are going to do and move on.

Trustee Iwenofu said the board need to have a working day, and we need a treasurer. We needed to do this yesterday.

Ms. Metcalf said we need to move in a positive direction, once you get a treasurer. The back and fourth is not going to help, or crawl before you walk. You will get there shortly.

CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT/PETITION:

NONE

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:

1. The chairwoman said she and Trustee Iwenofu have been working together. Chairwoman Martin told the board they need a treasurer, and need someone that can come to city hall and work. She stated she is doing everything. And by doing that she can not do what she needs to do. She asked the citizens if they knew anyone come forward. People in the community can do the job. She stated she needs help, and it can't be carried all by one person. Trustee Iwenofu said he was available, and it doesn't require a lot of work. He stated \$11,000.00 was in the general fund account, and we should have money to pay bills. The chairwoman said bills are being paid as the money comes in. On August 21st \$8,145.55 was in general funds, and we are paying the bills. As of this morning general fund has \$8,061.28, payroll from last week was \$4,000.00 and some dollars. We need someone to come in and do the work. Trustee Iwenofu asked about capitol improvement. Chairwoman Martin said she will write a check. Trustee McClendon said Maria Miller said she will volunteer.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Rudman said there is no close session tonight. Mullen case is in limbo, and need to be reactivated. He asked the board do they either reactivate the case or dismiss without prejudice, the board can do that. Trustee Iwenofu said for someone to steal city property, and we not to support it. It's not appropriate; the board should take action and not dismiss it.

Trustee Gamble asked the Attorney Rudman what was his recommendation.

Attorney Rudman said he can have the dismissal delayed for further discussion.

Trustee McClendon said in the report last month Chairwoman Martin proposed the village as a city. She also stated the information was given the information.

Chairwoman Martin said the county sent out an updated property maintenance code which will be added with the codes within the village. The updates will take care of the repairs in homes.

Trustee Gamble asked if the board can have a copy so they can peruse it. The chairwoman said it's the county rules.

Attorney Rudman said it has to do with the Boca codes, and it can be amended at the next meeting.

Trustee Iwenofu asked who enforce it. Attorney Rudman said the county.

VILLAGE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

1. Trustee Gamble said he will like to discuss his report under new business.
2. Trustee Carter: NONE

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3. Trustee McClendon said the cell phone tax will be on the ballot. Beverly Hills has 650 residents, the village 460 residents. The first settlement on the cell phones was \$20,000.00. It will be on the ballot in November.
4. Trustee McClendon said there will be a meeting at the Federal Reserve on September 21, 2009 from 8-10:30 a.m. The consumer protection will be looking at foreclosures, and will be giving reviews on foreclosure regulations. If interested RSVP the Federal Reserve, and there is no charge.
5. Trustee Iwenofu said he plan to have an event on Labor Day weekend, but was unable to do it. He also stated the Census was going to process the check for the event.
6. Trustee Iwenofu said he has dealt with Mr. Lee about his grass. American Water had to come in to replace his grass.
7. Trustee Iwenofu said he has spoken to Lt. Smith about attending the meeting. He felt that Lt. Smith has ample time to be excuse from his other job. Chairwoman Martin said a letter was written to Lt. Smith on the 9th of this month requesting him to attend the meeting. She suggests sitting down and talking with the police officers. Trustee Iwenofu said he sees some officers working and some not. One thought it was a joke, and sitting on down on the computer and getting paid. We need to have a conversation with the police department. Some use us to get a job and a check. We need to reconstruct business in the police department, or find officers that will work with us.

POLICE REPORT:

Reserve officer Harlan Smith read the report for the month of August 2009. After reading the report he asked if anyone has any questions.

Trustee Carter asked him if he was familiar with mileage and gas. Officer Smith told him we have officers on three shifts, and the tanks are filled once a day. Trustee Carter said the village is spending a lot on gas.

Trustee Iwenofu said the radius is a three mile radius. We can have officers run eight times around the village. The cost of gas is not going to be that much. He has seen officers not working, and only sees the code enforcer making rounds and working. He has seen an officer at Lucas Hunt and Highway 70. The numbers don't jive. Officer Smith said the officer might have been call to assist.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairwoman Martin said she is bringing Bill No. 393 for the tax rate. Attorney Rudman said it has to be a motion and a second. The ordinance will be read once and for title only. It's for the annual tax rate for 2010. She then entertained a motion. Trustee McClendon motioned for the Bill No. 393 be read once. Seconded by Trustee Gamble. Attorney Rudman read Bill No. 393 entirely. Trustee McClendon motioned for Bill No. 393 be read by title only. Seconded by Trustee Gamble. Attorney Rudman read Bill No. 393 by title only. Chairwoman Martin asked for discussion. Trustee McClendon motioned for Bill No. 393 be adopted as ordinance 393. Seconded by Trustee Carter. Roll Call; Trustees Gamble-yes, Iwenofu-no, Carter-yes, and McClendon-yes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Trustee Gamble said he gotten involve in a crazy situation. It was on Officer Minner discretion. He found out later Minner was out of order, and was told not to carry a gun. The situation got out of hand. His weapon was taken from him once, and certain officers are not allowed to carry guns. Reserve Officer Smith said as long as they are Class A officers they can carry a gun. Attorney Rudman said Officer Minner do not Class A certified, and is not permitted to carry a gun. He is not permitted. The board needs to contact Lt. Smith. It's very clear the board voted no officer that is not Class A certified can not carry a weapon. Trustee Gamble asked when an officer can carry a gun. Attorney Rudman said not unless it is reasonable. Reserve Officer Smith said he is allowed to go on the properties, and as a code enforcer he can go on the properties. Discussion was entertained on the situation. Chairwoman Martin said she is aware of the situation. Officer Minner came to her after the incident happen. We are having problems with people putting their cars on relative's properties. We also are having problems with people who won't clean their easements. Officer Minner tries to elevate the problems. Attorney Rudman said Officer Minner is the code enforcer, and he can do his job as the code enforcer. If he gets in an inappropriate situation he needs to call a Class A officer.
2. Chairwoman Martin said the first of the year Lt. Smith participated in applying for a grant. He was turn down, because we do not have a police chief. In order to build out police department up, we need a police chief. Trustee Gamble asked if the village can afford \$24,000.00 a year for a chief. The chairwoman said we can try to get someone who is not asking for a lot. Right now we are having money problems, and she is putting it before the board. We need a chief. Reserve Officer Harlan Smith gave copies to the board his experience he has as a police officer.

AS COURTESY TO THE CITIZEN'S COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE VILLAGE (OPEN TO THE FLOOR):

1. Ms. Johnson asked about the pipes that were put in throughout the village. She asked if the pipes were going to be done on everyone property, and how do they choose. Trustee Iwenofu said the pipe were over 80 years old. Ms. Johnson asked why certain people got the work done, and not everyone. Trustee McClendon said it was between the water and sewer. A lot were collapsing and backing up. You can call and notify them if your basement flooded, or you are having problem with sewer backup. Some residents had severe problems than others.
2. Ms. Johnson said it was mention about the codes, and keeping up your property. Is it being distributed to the village as a whole? Attorney Rudman said every year the code is amended, and it already is public record. The clerk can make copies. It's just a little tweet and adjustments. Ninety six municipalities adopted the Boca code, and are generally adopted in most areas. Trustee McClendon said it is primary to people selling or moving in.
3. Ms. Luster asked why Lt. Smith isn't at the meeting. She has been asking since June. Secondly she didn't know who Reserve officer Harlan Smith was, and he should have been introduced. She also asked what qualification do he has.

Trustee Iwenofu said Lt. Smith could not get the day off. The chairwoman gave him ample time to take off.

4. Ms. Ringo asked what will benefit the village as far as the grant, will it help. Chairwoman Martin said the money has to be applied to equipment, and yes it will help. All the money will be spent by the police department. It was a 100% grant. It would have increased the equipment on the cars and other equipment needed for the department.
5. Ms. Ringo asked as far as the advantage, may the village be in ruin condition, and can it be enhance. Also seeking a chief for the village is not a stand point, Look at the pros and cons by considering looking at others and doing thorough background check. The chairwoman said maybe in the near future. We will go through the same changes we went with Chief McKenna. Attorney Rudman said the village need a change of command and have regulations (example). Ultimately the board is looking into filling the village marshal or chief. He expressed the village do need a change of command to meet requirements. But we don't need to fill it at this time.
6. Ms. Ringo asked about the vacant properties, and do we have someone checking on these properties. The house next to her, people moved in four times she know of. Chairwoman Martin said the officer's checks on the vacant properties. Trustee McClendon also stated St. Louis County and the private inspector does interior and exterior. Laclede does their on inspection on problem furnaces.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee McClendon motioned for the regular board meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by Trustee Gamble. Roll Call; Trustees McClendon-yes, Gamble-yes, Iwenofu-yes, and Carter-yes. Motion Carried. The meeting is adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____ **BY:** _____
VILLAGE CLERK **CHAIRWOMAN**

Good Neighbors Build Good Neighborhoods