

**Special Board Meeting
August 24, 2004**

Call to order at 9:15 AM

Roll Call:	Supervisor David Kaiser	Present
	Councilman Robert Gerlach	Absent
	Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.	Present
	Councilwoman Judy Galipeau	Present
	Councilman S. William Ritchie	Present

Others Present:	Terry Smith, Town Clerk	Present
	Jim Williamson, Hwy. Supt.	Present

Rescind Resolution #61-04 Cellular Phones Billing Capped

One issue that was brought up was whether it was legal to garish wages. The Town Attorney was contact. He said we could do it but, as he brought up, how do you know it isn't business that would bring the bill over \$50.00 which could complicate things. He said that if that particular phone was being used for any personal calls, the town could not pay for them. One recommendation that was made was to have they employee who is mandated to carry a phone get the phone in their own name and we would give them \$50.00 additional in their pay checks. The problem is, that we have a couple of employees in the water department that really need the phones and their credit is not acceptable. There are only a few people that are really going over the budget. We have talked to them several times and the issued has not been resolved. Supervisor Kaiser would like to work with the problem phone to bring the usage down and therefore rescinding the above resolution and leave the cell phone situation as is. If the abused phone doesn't come down, we can remove it. Supervisor Kaiser called for a new resolution and the number is #65-04 rescinding the old resolution #61-04.

Motioned: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Seconded: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau

Carried Unanimously

Second Issue Contract vs. Handbook

Our Contract is not a contract. It is legally called Handbook and it says Handbook on it. The only reason there was signature lines on that Handbook was to have employees sign that they looked at it, and read it. So to call it a contract is a misnomer. It is a Handbook. The resolution #50-04 Acceptance of the Employee Contract uses the word Contract and it is our attorneys recommendation that we rescind it and reword it. It is not a contract and was never intended to be a contract. We could amend that resolution and change the wording to Handbook by a resolution done today. The new resolution #66-04.

Motioned by: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Seconded by: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Carried unanimously.

We had a problem with people not paying their water and sewer bills and letting them go. The bill get so big and the public cannot pay it. Supervisor Kaiser would like to rearrange the billing so that if it is 30 days overdue or more, that they be given shut off notices. One notice to be sent and billing would reflect an automatic shut off if not paid within a certain number of days. It will be printed right on their bill. This will be put in our regular board meeting so the public will be made more aware of it.

Old Business

Nothing has been done concerning the problem with the underage parties in Romulus as of yet.

CDBG Grant – The town of Romulus was given a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$400,000.00 with the stipulation that we give Tags (The Advantage Group) first shot at it. So we did. They have about \$310,000.00 to go. Would the town of Romulus be in favor of a grant turning it over to them? Supervisor Kaiser gave a no answer. Mr. Palumbo of the Flaum Management is now taking over the development of the depot. Neil Sherman of the Advantage Group is under him. Supervisor Kaiser told him the board was not willing to do that. Supervisor Kaiser was told after the meeting by Mr. Bordeau, Deputy Director of Development and Planning, that he supports us because the county has about \$4-1/2 million dollars of CDBG grants out there in loans. What might relieve some of the pressure on us is the \$900,000.00 grant that the state gave the depot but was vetoed. \$100,000.00 was given to Neil Sherman. Mr. Bordeau said the it could not be given away until the auditing procedure was done and that could possible take another two years.

Sidewalks haven't moved anywhere. The speed zone sign hasn't been put back yet that was taken down by the county on East Lake Road.

Out Emergency Service Situation has been very lax. They haven't had a meeting on the night that they were suppose to. Have not heard anything else.

Fire contract meeting is on August 30, 2004 at 7PM. All board members will attend.

The standing question has been about how much has been put away toward the new fire house.

Highway Supt. Jim Williamson had some questions about the Handbook namely employee benefits. The coveralls were taken away. It was ascertained that all the other departments did not have coveralls and did not have the steel toed shoes. Now everybody has the shoes but that is a requirement. The coveralls were not a requirement. The attorney advised that should you change hydraulic fluids etc and should get some on your clothes that are not protected by coveralls, you may turn the expense into the board and get them replaced. That is the law. If they were provided for the employees they would not be able to come back and ask for them to be replaced. Will put in the September 2004 Board Meeting. The insurance is a tough issue. We have talked to our insurance agent and he said their will be a 20% increase this year. Coming down the road to pay for this county jail, the county manager has put together a financial plan , a 5 year plan and is going to entail county tax increases. At some point down the road, and if we can keep the town under control, we can help alleviate some of that pressure. We are looking at 20% insurance increases every year for the next 5 years. That is a lot of money. If we kept the 100% coverage by the town, the coverage would not be as good as the new one paying the 20%. Our insurance provider does allow us to pick our own insurance

policies. If the lower policy meets the employees needs, they could pay 20% of the lower policy. That would be less money for them to spend. The employee handbook that was last revised in 1996, stated that only new employees would be responsible for their insurance. It is illegal to provide insurance to elected officials.

Resolutions:

65-04 Rescind Resolution #61-04

Motion: Councilman S. William Ritchie
Second: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau
Carried Unanimously:

66-04 Amend Wording in Resolution #50-04

Motion: Councilman S. William Ritchie
Second: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously

Executive Session called at 10AM : Motion by Supervisor David Kaiser
Second by Councilman S. William Ritchie
Carried Unanimously:

Executive Session ended at 10:10 AM Motion by Councilman S. William Ritchie
Second by Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously:

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM
Motion: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Second: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau
Carried Unanimously