

Village of Catlin
County of Vermilion, State of Illinois
August 4, 2015

The Council of the Village of Catlin met in the Village Boardroom in regular session at 7:00 PM with Mayor Butch Schmink presiding. Mayor Schmink called the meeting to order and instructed the Village Clerk to call the roll.

Mayor: Butch Schmink

Commissioners: Fred, Reddy, Kevin Kirk, Jim Miller, Aaron Richardson

Also present: Carl Barnes, Matt Johnson, Larry Young, Doug Toole, Michelle Hansbraugh, Rachel Meadows, Nancy Allison, Ardith Flight, Hugh Sands, Brad Falconiol, Dave Dutton, Phyllis Clem, Tom Lomax, Cash Cook, Stephanie Georges-Eytcheson, Lori Weese, Amanda Meadows, Tad Beddow, Sue McFarland, Scott Church, Dave Biggerstaff, Gail Biggerstaff, Barb Biggerstaff, Sharon Brady

A motion was made by Jim, seconded by Kevin to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2015 board meeting.

Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink

Nay none

General Fund bills to be presented:

18186	Payroll Clearing	\$5,048.85
18187	Payroll Clearing	\$1,256.90
18188	Joyce Hussar	\$200.00
18189	Sharon Keller	\$200.00
18190	Payroll Clearing	\$5,019.81
18191	AT&T	\$339.33
18192	AT&T	\$75.00
18193	Ameren	\$187.27
18194	Central Mgmt. Services	\$2,955.00
18195	Paul Storke	\$100.00
18196	Direct Energy	\$1,630.53
18197	Green Tech	\$35.00
18198	Faulstich Printing	\$69.00
18199	DTI Office Solutions	\$42.57
18200	ILEAS	\$60.00
18201	Old National Insurance	\$246.96
18202	Rahn Equipment Co.	\$112.00
18203	Progressive Chemical & Lighting	\$109.67
18204	Danville Paper Supply	\$75.00

Water Fund bills to be presented:

11649	Catlin W&S	\$46.40
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11650	Sara Lindsay	\$53.60
11651	Payroll Clearing	\$974.63
11652	Payroll Clearing	\$1,038.19
11653	Old National Insurance	\$141.12
11654	Direct Energy	\$167.12
11655	Central Mgmt. Services	\$1,059.00
11656	Ameren	\$107.12
11657	Aqua Illinois	\$14,679.68
11658	IMCO Utility Supply	\$337.00

Wastewater Fund bills to be presented:

5120	Payroll Clearing	\$1,303.77
5121	W&S Bond & Interest	\$2,500.00
5122	Payroll Clearing	\$1,495.86
5123	Central Mgmt. Services	\$1,059.00
5124	Direct Energy	\$2,373.59
5125	Old National Insurance	\$787.92
5126	AT&T	\$130.04
5127	IL EPA	\$13,467.25

Payroll Clearing Fund bills to be presented:

6428	Colton Baird	\$232.74
6429	Carl Barnes	\$749.69
6430	Ed Bean	\$568.64
6431	Tad Beddow	\$88.45
6432	David Booe	\$113.55
6433	Cash C. Cook	\$110.05
6434	Jerry Cummings	\$293.66
6435	Shelley Darnell	\$545.08
6436	Dwayne High	\$298.64
6437	Charles Johnson	\$190.26
6438	Tim McFadden	\$655.72
6439	Brent Moody	\$250.87
6440	Nicoe Richardson	\$159.81
6441	Dalton Sacre	\$245.14
6442	David Trimmell	\$194.10
6443	Robert Wahlfeldt	\$44.78
6444	Nationwide Retirement Solutions	\$30.15
6445	Karen Cooley	\$60.03
6446	Kevin Kirk	\$177.20
6447	Jim L. Miller	\$84.70

6448	Fred Reddy	\$183.92
6449	Aaron P. Richardson	\$177.20
6450	Richard Schmink	\$221.52
6451	Colton Baird	\$211.83
6452	Carl Barnes	\$725.05
6453	Ed Bean	\$603.92
6454	David Booe	\$208.46
6455	Vince Chambliss	\$108.83
6456	Cash C. Cook	\$95.61
6457	Jerry Cummings	\$293.64
6458	Shelley Darnell	\$565.02
6459	Dwayne High	\$393.21
6460	Charles Johnson	\$190.25
6461	Emilie McFadden	\$82.71
6462	Tim McFadden	\$640.34
6463	Brent Moody	\$105.55
6464	Richard Oakley	\$134.85
6465	Nicoe Richardson	\$338.42
6466	Dalton Sacre	\$238.17

IL Funds Sewer Project Loan Payment Account:

534	IL EPA	\$1,397.01
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Splash Park Fund bills to be presented:

CC	Central Pool Supply Inc.	\$992.20
CC	IMCO	\$2,348.74
CC	Midwest Meter Inc.	\$610.00

CDAP Grant bills to be presented:

546	Fehr-Graham	\$13,258.60
547	Catlin Wastewater	\$356.28

Kevin asked for clarification on check #18195. Shelley stated that this was for the electrical repair done in the Police Station. Upon reading of said bills, a motion was made by Kevin, seconded by Jim that the Treasurer pay said bills as presented.

Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink

Nay none

Stephanie Georges-Eytcheson addressed the board. She read the following statement:

“Mayor and Members of the Board of the Village of Catlin and fellow citizens and friends, my name is Stephanie Georges-Eytcheson. My family lives at 412 N Sandusky. I am certain that you are very familiar with the issues that my family has had surrounding our three dogs, David Biggerstaff, Cash Cook and the Village of Catlin.

I am a registered nurse and have been for seventeen years. I am licensed in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. My husband has been at his current job for six years, working twelve hour nights. My three sons and I moved here approximately ten years ago because I loved the sleepy-town feel. I loved that Catlin had a close-knit community, a small school system where my boys would be safe and a lesser chance of choosing drugs and crime and a grocery store. I am a big city girl, having been born and raised in St. Louis, but I didn't realize that living in a community such as this that there are back-stabbing, cliquy, biased and hateful people that all stick together, protect one another and no one will come forward to speak up because of fear of retaliation and being shunned for expressing the wrong doings of others.

There have been violation notices that have been hand delivered to my home, that after evaluating the ordinance online, we were not even in violation of. There has been a comment during the same timeframe that was made to me by Chief Cook that he wouldn't issue my husband or me a traffic violation if he caught us not wearing our seatbelt due to the fact that he made a mistake by telling us that we need village tags, and we didn't need them. How appropriate is that? I have been presented with a letter on my door step by Chief Cook at 9:00 AM on a Sunday morning to have my dogs evaluated within five days and the date on the letter was two day prior. There are a lot of he said/she said stores, but I have witnesses that have debunked the stories of what David Biggerstaff has claimed to have occurred. I have a report from Vermilion County Shelter Officer VanCamp that has stated that our dog, Gus, would not be vicious or dangerous unless provoked, therefore, Mr. Biggerstaff was provoking our dog if he states or feels that Gus was being “dangerous or vicious” and “fending for his life” while jabbing a rake or broom handle in Gus' direction from across the street in his mother's yard. I have neighbors behind me, attempting to bait my dogs with a puppy and video recording it after she filed a complaint with Cash Cook that our Siberian husky ran through her yard. My dogs have been photographed without my permission or knowledge by Mr. Biggerstaff. I have letters from attorneys and been notified that our city assessor has proposed an attempt to change ordinances that would make it even easier to deem animals dangerous and vicious, however that would be out of line with the rules and regulations of the Humane Society and other local laws. I have learned that there was an attempt to have us evicted from our home, but we have purchased our home, and do not rent, therefore that plan was foiled. I have a friend that was collecting her dog a block away from my home and the Catlin police officer on duty stopped to ask her if that was her dog or if it was one of “Stephanie Georges' dogs” because “we have had issues with her dogs.” I also have a dear friend that may possibly lose his best friend and German Shepard because his dog broke off the lead and defended a woman from her own dog that he felt that was attacking her by jumping on her and barking, but because the ordinance says that the action cannot occur on any property but his own, he may lose his beloved companion. This situation was handled by two willing and able adults, but Mr. Cook found it necessary to take matters into his own hands and not to follow policy by taking that dog in custody when he was not supposed to and was told by VCAS staff that it was against protocol. I suppose that Cash feels that he is

above the protocols and policies of these things. This friend has a fatal disease process that is exacerbated by the stress of this ongoing fight and threat of losing his family's dog. I have also heard first hand of intimidation by Chief Cook by a citizen of this town to not apply for a temporary order of protection against Mr. Biggerstaff due to very similar circumstances surrounding her barking dog because "it would cost money to do so", but in fact it does not. I have also heard from other victims about Mr. Biggerstaff's deceit, mistreatment and mistruths that are not even related to pet ownership in this town. My list could go on and on.

My dogs are not vicious or dangerous. They have never bitten or attacked a person or another animal. I would never harbor a dangerous animal, regardless of how much I love and am attached to them. I understand that not all residents of Catlin are not "dog people," but we are. We have adopted three wonderful and loving dogs from Vermilion County Animal Shelter. We have dogs from a place where they have been taken to where their previous owners did not want, could not keep, could not handle them or did not love them. We love our dogs. They are our family. They are our other children. They sleep in our beds and on our couches. We have young men and women, our adult friends and family coming and going in our home at all hours of the day and night, our dogs bark to alert us, but never have caused an issue to any visitor. Mr. Biggerstaff's own nephew has the key code to our door lock and comes and goes as if he is our own family without incident. His sister-in-law and brother-in-law have both been welcomed in my home without my dogs posing a threat to either one of them.

I have friends that have looked into moving to the Catlin area that have changed their minds due to the behavior of these two individuals. I have friends and their family that have moved out of Catlin due to the actions of these specific people and others that will follow suit very soon. I find it hard to believe that everyone else that these two encounter is wrong and yet they are always right.

I have incurred attorney fees, fines plus court costs for pleading guilty to something that was a lie, loss of work time and have had sleepless nights. We are nervous, anxious and watching our own and our pets' every move in and out of our home. We are prisoners in our residence and neighborhood.

We are a few weeks from being licensed foster parents through the Illinois Division of Family Services. The DCFS case worker has been in our home on two occasions without incident. We have passed background checks, fingerprinting and had our final home inspection by our licensing worker a week and a half ago. We are not criminals, but why are we being treated as such? Doesn't the Catlin Police Department and David Biggerstaff have anything better to do with their time, our tax dollars and resources than chase citizens running and screaming from this town? All I want is their behavior to stop and stop now. I have no idea what their motivation is at this point. To take away our family pets? Why?

I may not be a psychiatrist, but I have many psychology courses along my nursing career and I feel that Dave Biggerstaff and Cash Cook both display classic narcissistic behavior.

According to the definition of Narcissistic Personality Disorder, many parts of this description fits Mr. Biggerstaff and Mr. Cook perfectly: Has a grandiose sense of self-importance; Is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love; Believes that he or she is special and unique; Requires excessive admiration; Has a very strong sense of entitlement; Is exploitative of others; Lacks empathy or is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others; Is often envious of others or believes that others are envious of him or her; Regularly shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes.

I may regret approaching you Mr. Mayor and Board members, but I have been raised to stand strong, stand up for what is right, don't back down and speak my mind. I am not a vigilante or a rogue community member, but I am not going to take this treatment lying down. We are exhausted by the harassment and threats of the loss of our dogs and more violations to come, as Chief Cook and Mr. Biggerstaff were overheard saying that they will "keep on trying" at my dismissal hearing on July 23rd. David Biggerstaff and Cash Cook have displayed some serious arrogant behaviors and if the actions of these individuals do not stop, there could be legal consequences against the parties involved and the town that they represent, as I am sure that you are all aware that bullying, intimidation and harassment are illegal regardless of who you are and where you come from.

I wish to thank all of those that have encouraged me and my family during the past few months and have come here to show their support tonight. I would also like to thank you, Mayor, and Village members for your time and attention to this serious matter as my family would love to resume our peaceful lives and not bring anymore unwanted attention to our animals and ourselves.

David Biggerstaff requested that the dismissal of the ordinance violation against Stephanie Georges-Eytcheson be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The board agreed that it would be added. David Biggerstaff thanked the board.

Larry Young asked if the property at 103 Wabash could be cleaned up. Mayor Schmink stated that they would look into it this week.

David Dutton and Scott Church addressed the board regarding the Lion's Club Fish Fry. Mayor Schmink stated that the Lion's Club would not be able to add a permanent electrical station on the grassy part of the yard by the Village Hall. Scott stated that Kevin Mitchell will be doing the electrical for the Fish Fry and the electrical station was not needed at the Village Hall for this year. Scott requested Mayor Schmink to volunteer for the dunk tank for the Fish Fry. Mayor Schmink agreed.

Matt Johnson stated that he had received three sealed bids and a few from drilling sub-contractors for the water main project. Matt believes that construction should begin three to four weeks after the bid opening that is scheduled to take place on August 13th. Project is scheduled to be completed around the end of November.

Ardith Flight asked if the easement request wording had been corrected. Mayor Schmink informed Ms. Flight that the Village would no longer need an easement on her property. Matt stated that the current alignment doesn't require an easement from 601 S. Paris.

Aaron stated that Ordinance 92.01, regarding chickens within Village limits needs to be addressed. A resident within the Village limits currently has chickens. Aaron stated that many towns surrounding Catlin have adopted Ordinances that allow for a certain amount of chickens with other restrictions. Kevin stated that since Catlin is a rural community, he would not be opposed to having Commissioner Richardson look into having our ordinance change. Jim stated that the current chicken owner needs to be given a fourteen day notice to have chickens removed.

If Ordinance 92.01 is changed, then at that time, their chickens could be brought back into the Village limits. Jim stated that the Village must follow the current Ordinances.

Commissioner Miller:

- No report

Commissioner Richardson:

- A motion was made by Aaron, seconded by Jim to issue a building permit to Phyllis Nightlinger, 104 Webster, replace roof and siding, \$5,000.00, family.
Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink
Nay none
- A motion was made by Aaron, seconded by Kevin to issue a building permit to Robert Bolton, 502 Allison, re-roof of detached garage, \$2,500.00, Self.
Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink
Nay none
- A motion was made by Aaron, seconded by Fred to issue a building permit to Susie Rush, 602 S. Sandusky, yard barn, \$2,815.00, Self.
Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink
Nay none
- A motion was made by Aaron, seconded by Jim to issue a building permit to Pat Cardwell, 607 Westwood, tear off and replace shingles, \$6,700.00, B&B Construction, 104.016851.
Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink
Nay none
- Aaron informed the board that the piers and backfill has been done on the Splash Park. Tomorrow the plumber would be running the water lines and continue to backfill. The goal is to have the Splash Park open by Labor Day weekend.

Commissioner Kirk:

- Kevin has requested a bid on the work that needs to be done on the storm drainage on Buckingham
- Street Cleaning has continued and should be done by the end of the week
- Street painting will begin in the next two weeks
- Street department is still waiting on bids for sealing the parking lot at the Village Hall.
- Sidewalk and alley by the photographer and funeral home will be done in mid-August by Midwest Asphalt.
- The Street department will be losing their two part-time workers in a few weeks.
- Sidewalk repair is still being looked into.
- Carl stated that Casey's wants to extend a driveway on the West side of Short St. Kevin stated he would go to Casey's with Carl tomorrow morning to inspect the site.

Scott Church asked if the area behind the new Casey's was going to be all grass. Kevin stated that it was and when Casey's bought the property, the Village changed their ordinance per the

request of Casey's to create this section of the Village into a business subdivision. This will allow Casey's to sell this area to another business or build additional businesses on that land.

Commissioner Reddy:

- No Report

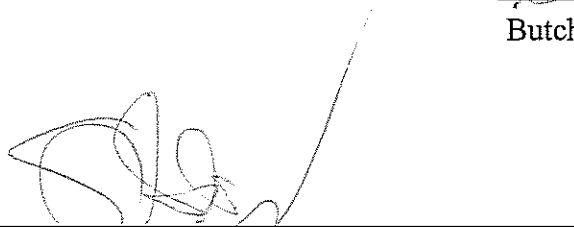
A motion was made by Kevin, seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting by vote.

Aye Fred, Kevin, Jim, Aaron, Mayor Schmink

Nay none



Butch Schmink, Mayor



Shelley Darnell, Village Clerk