

**VILLAGE OF PAWNEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of February 15, 2021**

Call to Order:

- President Clarke called the meeting to order to 7:00pm.

Roll Call:

- Village Clerk, Devona Martin called roll
- Trustees in attendance: Todd Richeson, Jan Bowsher, Patrick Murphy, David Skinner, Troy Squires
- Trustees Absent: Phillip Thompson
- Also in attendance: Treasurer Kelly Thein, Candy Kramer with the Pawnee Post, Chief Barclay Harris, Scott Cameron and Josh Ward with the Pawnee Schools.

New Business:

- President Clarke discussed the natural gas situation. We are asking the general public to turn their thermostats below 70 degrees. We are trying to stay out of penalty. The State of Texas has declared a State of Emergency in all counties. They are having rolling blackout and well heads freezing. The shutdown of the keystone pipeline might play into it. Also possibly Wall Street investors buying low and holding on it. If we stay out of penalty phase, we should be ok. Lindsey Enlow thinks if we can get to Thursday or Friday we will be fine. Schools have been asked to close which is why we invited the school board here tonight. Scott Cameron, Superintendent of Pawnee Schools, advised they are closed the rest of the week and the students will be doing remote learning. They have all the classroom thermostats set to 60 degrees. They've turned down the water heaters and temperatures in the bus garage, as low as they can get them. They also walked the building today and are talking about shutting down the boilers during the day time and turn back on in the evenings to see what the savings would be. Unfortunately, they can't just turn the boilers down. They are either on or off. He advised they are trying to explore everything they can for unit savings for the rest of the week. President Clarke advised he is worried about the seniors and low income. One community spent \$64,000 extra in natural gas without talking to the residents. President Clarke has talked to Representative Mike Murphy. There is talk about a Declaration of Disaster for Central IL to get emergency funds. He did do a robocall for Pawnee and Divernon asking residents to turn thermostats down a few degrees. President Clarke advised he would like permission from the board in advance to pursue low or no interest loans through the treasurer's office to pay the gas bill in the event we have to purchase gas off the market. He would then recommend we spread the cost through the community over the course of several years. We won't know those numbers for another 2-3 weeks stated Trustee Squires. President Clarke advised he does not want to send out a huge bill to the residents. He would rather the bill be spread over several years. He further advised the village has not raised gas prices since 2011. Some of this is due to the disaster in Texas and some is in the transportation fees. President Clarke advised that Lindsey Enlow with UG buys our gas units every month. This is based on our usage last year. Currently, gas at \$225 for a dekatherm which is 10 therms. President Clarke advised his house is using 9 therms/day. The school uses 346 therms/day. He is asking permission from the board to pursue a low or no interest loan. The consensus was yes to allow him to pursue a low or no interest loan if we

exceed our purchased usage. Scott Cameron advised he also put it on the schools Facebook page asking people to turn down there thermostats. They find out every morning who has gone over and who hasn't. They will be proactive and let us know. Scott Cameron also thanked the village for helping with the snow plowing. Candy Kramer will put in the paper asking everyone to pull together and keep thermostats lower until Friday. President Clarke advised this affects 8 gas companies that are all filing lawsuits to the federal government.

Motion to Adjourn:

- **Motion** made by Trustee Squires
Second made b y TrusteeMuprhy
Roll Call Vote Taken: Richeson-yes, Bowsher-yes, Murphy-yes, Skinner-yes, Squires-yes
Motion Carried: (5-0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm on Monday, February 15, 2021. The next scheduled meeting of the Pawnee Village Board of Trustees is Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Village Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Devona L. Martin
Village Clerk