

The special meeting of the Village of Arcade (VOA) Board of Trustees, Wyoming County, New York was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2008 at 7:00am there were:

**PRESENT**

Mayor Rich Kosmerl, Deputy Mayor Hugh Ely, Trustee Jim McGarvey, Trustee Paul Burkett, Trustee Brian Burton, and Clerk/Treasurer Pam Beiersdorf

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Morgan, Joe Collins, Don Knight, BJ Moore, Al Meyers, Brian Lane, Steve Burkett, Dan Laird, Todd Wittmeyer, Andy Bartz, Mike McElheny, Jace Drennan, Jason Satchell, Adam Paquet, Dave Carr, Cheryl Parker, Don King, Mary Ann Hagner, Chris May, Al Noble, Steve Pinter, Luann Lancaster

**PLEDGE TO ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Kosmerl opened the meeting with the Pledge to Allegiance.

**EMPLOYEE MEETING**

Sometime ago, Brian Lane suggested to Mayor Kosmerl about having a meeting to get concerns on the table before actually sitting down at the negotiating table. Brian stressed to employees that negotiations were not allowed at this meeting rather it was for general concerns/comments. Brian thanked the Board for attending the meeting and for listening and communicating with employees. Following are the topics brought forth at this meeting:

Positive projects upcoming: Noble Windfarm Projects including the Allegany/Centerville project, Arcadia Heights Development, and Tri-County Business Park

Health insurance:

- will be a big issue
- work together to find solutions
- look outside the box in regards to insurance
- seek new products on the market
- seek optional ways to pay
- seek services of a broker to help determine best options for the VOA
- health insurance savings accounts
- build up excess funds
- insurance rates should level off in the coming years at approximately 15%
- Presidential elections may change health insurance world
- drug plans
- are employees aware of health insurance costs? The VOA pays nearly \$12,000 per year for family plans
- each employee may have a unique situation at home - be cognizant
- consider paying 100% of health insurance premiums for another contract term

Salary and benefits

- keep current with the cost of living
- employees have brought a lot of money to the VOA that otherwise wouldn't be here because of the Noble project- consider turning some of the benefit over to the employees
- money is being reimbursed to the VOA by Noble for labor

Housekeeping issues

Board members come and go, but employees are here for the duration and have chosen to make careers with the VOA.

Equipment being outdated isn't the fault of the employees rather economics and decisions made by prior Boards.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Route 39 mill and fill project - does the VOA have anything to say? No one thinks it is a good idea. The outcome of the project may detour people from coming to Arcade because they won't want to deal with traffic impacts. Will approaches be re-done? If so, VOA should consider replacing underground at the same time to avoid digging up approaches in the future.

A decorative cross walk by the A&A tracks has been approved by DOT.

Trustee Burkett complimented the electric department for all their hard work on the Noble project and acknowledged that there will be long hours put in in the coming days. Brian Lane thanked Trustee Burkett but commented that a lot of employees put in long hours and stated that the employees are gathered here today as a group not just as the electric department.

Mayor Kosmerl and Trustee Burkett will serve as negotiators. This new process will hopefully speed up the negotiating process since in past negotiations, the Superintendent of Public Works and Clerk/Treasurer were merely the go-between and didn't have the authority to make decisions.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting duly adjourned at 7:40am upon motion by Trustee Burkett and seconded by Mayor Kosmerl.

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Clerk/Treasurer