

**VILLAGE OF CHEBANSE
SPECIAL MEETING, 7 PM
275 S. OAK ST.
FEBRUARY 12, 2014**

In the absence of President Dubuque, Trustee Jason Mathy called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and announced the Village would be taping.

Roll Call: **Present:** Trustees Beherns, Kuntz, LaReau, Mathy, Perzee, Snyder and Clerk Imhauser
 Others: James Smith and Don Brave/Maintenance, Resident Jackie Clark and Paul Cooper and visitor Adam Jensen

1) Discuss Water Line Freezing Issues:

Trustee Mathy opened the meeting in regards to four water lines to homes that are frozen and asked for clarification of the problem.

James Smith/Maintenance explained the first instance of a line freezing on Second South Street for which they attempted to thaw the area and dig down. Prior to this, an attempt was made from the house going out to that the line to no avail. The second instance is Adam Jensen's rental home on E. Second South Street. There are two more cases for Butch Meents on S. Locust St and Dick Kroll on Orchard Street.

Board members discussed what can be done, if anything.

Trustee Beherns stated that his intention for the board meeting was to make sure that the board understands what is happening. Beherns indicated that when there is trench backfill in some of these areas (where sewer lines were installed) the frost will go deeper and in some cases they have seen 48 to 60 inches in depth. With that, Beherns indicated we will see things that we have not seen before with underground lines. Also Beherns wants to let residents know what the problem is and to make them aware. Beherns looked into the cost to excavate into 4-5 foot of frost. The cost received today was \$250.00/hour with a minimum of eight hours just to get down to the problem. Beherns estimated it would cost over \$10,000.00 to get the four homes fixed.

Beherns indicated the only solution is to have everyone run their water. There is also a concern that the drain lines may freeze up. Question on whether the thawing next week would help. Beherns stated it would take more than one week of 40 degrees to help with the thawing. Beherns wants the board members to be aware of what is going on and ask if they want to move ahead with getting them fixed.

Discussion on getting the word out to all residents. Suggestion to put an announcement on the radio stations, calling the schools, putting flyers all around the Village, going door to door, phone calls to residents. Clerk Imhauser will start phone calls, putting flyers up, using Facebook and sending emails out to get the word out. Trustee Mathy asked everyone to make an effort to get the word out.

Question if this would be a problem after tomorrow. Answer yes, even with warming temperatures the frost will continue to move down.

Discussion on the water bills to residents. Suggestion to wait and see what happens with the amount of water that is actually used.

Clerk Imhauser reported that Dick Kroll advised that when he flushed his toilet the night before, the water was brown. This could be an indication of a break.

Trustee Beherns advised that three of the four that have frozen up have not froze from the house to the buffalo box, it's been in the roadways where there is a lot of snow or there's a lot of trench backfill around the lines.

Discussion on using a welder to thaw the lines. Beherns explained what happens to do that kind of work and indicated we don't have the manpower or capability of doing that.

For the homes that are frozen up, water coolers and bottles of water are being supplied to them by Clifton Chemical for two of the four so far and the bill will be sent to the Village identifying what everyone is getting. The other two will also receive water and coolers. James Smith indicated that he has stayed in contact with Wendy Houston and she is doing okay.

Question about the decision for using trench backfill. It was explained that anything that is dug like that has to have trench backfill to go back in and not sand, or dirt.

Beherns expressed concern over having to tell four homes they have to wait, but he's not sure what else can be done.

Question about using a garden hose from a neighbors house. Discussion and concerns expressed with doing that and how to keep the hose from freezing.

Discussion on the bills for the residents without water.

A motion by Trustee Perzee, second by Trustee Beherns to not charge any home that is froze up in the Village and eliminate their bill for the month including water sewer, garbage and tile. Vote: 6 yes

A motion by Trustee Perzee, second by Trustee Snyder to pay any water bills received from Clifton Chemical during the freeze up situation for the four homes. Vote: 5 yes, 1 Present (Kuntz)

The schools will be notified.

Board members expressed their sympathies to Jackie Clark for the problems.

Paul Cooper indicated he took the temperature of his water out of the faucet and it was 40 degrees.

Discussion about clearing storm drains for the thaw that is coming and being prepared for repairs that will be needed.

Public Comment: None

A motion by Trustee Beherns second by Trustee Kuntz to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Chebanse at 7:49 p.m.

Minutes of the February 12, 2014 Special meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Chebanse respectfully submitted by Clerk Trudie Imhauser.

_____ Signed

_____ Date