*Village Meeting*

State of Illinois

County of Iroquois

Village of Loda Board

April 25, 2023

The Village of Loda Board of Trustees held a special meeting on April 25, 2023, at the Village of Loda town hall. Present were President Carol Arseneau, Trustees: Pat Allen, Teresa Reck, Dave Arseneau, Don Hutchinson, Cathy Tittle, Treasurer Myles Reck, Clerk Regina Ptacek.

Newspaper turned the Village into attorney General for improper executive meeting on 4/12/23.

Ordinarily we review every 6 months, so need permission to release executive minutes and recordings.

Dale explained we had closed meeting for the bids since with individuals, reputation, and performance. It fell under exemptions for open meeting act. After that Will called Dale objecting for meeting that it is for employees not independent contractors and turned us into AG. He is not an attorney and statue does state employee but the definition is that it can be an independent contractor. Illinois counties risk mgmt. trust did a reference guide to open meetings act, “appointment, compensation, of employees or independent contractors” lists more information and he read it to the trustees. Verified we have individuals that we pay as contractors, we did have executive meeting to keep people comfortable not to exclude anyone. There was a discussion of supervision and how a job is being done and these exceptions fit right in.

Now that it is done and would be reviewed in 6 months anyway, so believe there is no reason to not let them have the information now or you can request to wait till they are reviewed in 6 months. Dale verified that based on the mgmt. we can have the meeting for individual contractors. Cathy inquires why must release info. Dale verified we have no reason for secrecy. At that time of the meeting, we closed the meeting due to having concerns with discussion.

Discussion with trustees, we can either release now or in 6 months. Cathy verified that in the future we should not have closed meetings on lawn mowing bids or not. Carol said opinion we don’t have to do bids and we don’t have to take the lowest bid. We can decide who we want and offer a job. Cathy thought we had bids, Carol verified no one year we did with just Ron Dudley and Cathy objected and wanted bids, so we did the bids this year. Dale verified that if under $20,000 we don’t have to have bids. Hutch inquires if release info with no comment because there are couple things that were incorrect in article, like not giving to lowest bid and not true, also that not addressed with Covid meeting. Dale verified would be extent of audio recording and the minutes. Dale verified clerk does not have to do word for word, it is the important things down, discussion and any votes. Items of discussion do not have to be put in. Carol agreed.

Hutch motion to release executive min with recording from April meeting. Teresa second.

Roll call all ayes, motion carried.

Dave motion at 646 to leave emergency meeting, Teresa second, all ayes

Attest Regina Ptacek, clerk