

**MINUTES - Executive Session**  
**January 22, 2013**  
**8:18 PM**

Members Present: E. Zabrocki, Village President  
P. Rea, Village Clerk  
D. Seaman, Village Trustee  
B. Maher, Village Trustee  
T. Staunton, Village Trustee  
P. Leoni, Village Trustee  
T. J. Grady, Village Trustee

Members Absent: G. Hannon, Village Trustee

Staff Present: S. Niehaus, Village Manager  
M. Mertens, Assistant Village Manager  
S. Tilton, Assistant Village Manager  
S. Neubauer, Police Chief  
G. Horan, Director of Human Resources  
D. Framke, Director of Marketing  
T, Melody, Village Attorney  
J. Freeman, Candidate for open Public Information Officer Position

**Item #1: Call Meeting to Order** - Motion was made by Trustee Staunton, seconded by Trustee Leoni, to call the January 22, 2013, Executive Session to order. Vote on roll call: Ayes: Zabrocki, Rea, Seaman, Maher, Staunton, Leoni, Grady. Nays: None. Absent: Hannon. Motion carried and this Executive Session was called to order at 8:18 p.m.

The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; and, litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administration tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

**Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismiss of specific employees of the public body** – Mayor Zabrocki discussed the vacant position of the Public Information Officer. He noted that 47 applications were received and reviewed, and candidates were interviewed by staff. Staff recommended Jason Freeman for the position. Jason was interviewed by Mayor Zabrocki. He currently works for the Southtown/Star newspaper entertainment section. The position would be a 30 hour per week position. The Committee discussed a training program and meetings with each of the elected officials. Upon discussion, the consensus of the Village Board was to recommend the appointment of Jason Freeman to the position of Public Information Officer. This appointment will be included on the February 6<sup>th</sup> Village Board agenda for formal approval pending successful background check.

**Litigation** – Village Manager Niehaus provided an overview of the Officer Diorio case. Attorneys Tom Melody and James Fessler of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins provided a summary of the legal issues and cost options for the Village Board. Upon discussion, the recommendation of the Village Board was to offer a settlement of \$40,000 plus the dog upon the acceptance by Officer Diorio. The offer will be provided to the Judge by 11:00 a.m. on January 23, 2013. Should this offer not be accepted, negotiations of a settlement or continuance of the court case will be considered.

Motion was made by Trustee Seaman, seconded by Trustee Grady to adjourn this Executive Session. Vote on roll call: Ayes: Zabrocki, Rea, Seaman, Maher, Staunton, Leoni, Grady. Nays: None. Absent: Hannon. Motion carried and this Executive was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

MSM:jc