

President Ken Stenklyft called the regular meeting of the village board to order at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

Roll Call – all members reported present. Others present were Josh McDonald, Charlie Fochs, Pat Rigoni, Chet Johnston, Bill Koehler, Tom Roehrig, Mike Loose, Anita Loose, Dennis Hein, Todd Thiel, Jerin VanCuyk, Vicki Stenklyft, Travis Thompson, Mark Fochs, Troy Cummings, Karl Propson, Rick Thiel, Linda Thiel, Nathan Beyer, Dan Thiel, Paul Cummings, Randy Boesch, Ben Boesch and Ed Byrne.

Pledge of Allegiance – The pledge of allegiance was recited by everyone present.

Citizen Concerns & Questions to be acted upon at the next board meeting – none.

Announcements – none.

Minutes – Action – to approve the board meeting minutes as presented – motion: Koffarnus; second: Starfeld; carried. The fire department minutes were presented to the board. Action – to approve the fire department minutes as presented – motion: Breckheimer; second: Keuler; carried. There was no first responder minutes presented.

Treasurer's Report for the Village of Hilbert - balances – \$741,422.65 General fund; \$162,931.81 Sewer fund; \$56,150.81 Water fund; \$4.00 Clean Water fund; (\$72,231.54) TID #1 fund; \$500,795.65 T-Plus fund; \$8,806.65 First Responder fund; (\$470,517.55) TID #2, \$231.25 CDA; \$256,383.14 Capital Improvements Fund. Action – to approve the treasurer's report as presented – motion: Breckheimer; second: Keuler; carried. The fire department's treasurer's report was presented to the board. Action – to approve the treasurer's report from the fire department as presented – motion: Koffarnus; second: Starfeld; carried. There was no first responder's treasurer's report presented.

Claims - examined and discussed. There was a question about a payment to Don Schultz for tools. This was for tools purchased from him that comes out of the tool budget for 2014. Action – to pay all claims – motion: Koffarnus; second: Starfeld; carried.

Correspondence – The MEG newsletter was presented to the board. There were no Time Warner Cable letters received. The Focus newsletters were presented to the board for their information. There was correspondence regarding an upcoming training session regarding strengthening communities. DuPrey stated that he will try to attend. There was some interest from some of the other board members. They are to let DuPrey know because we have to register to attend. A letter of resignation from Trustee Rick Thiel was presented to the village board. It was effective as of 1/8/15. The board then discussed what to do with the unexpired term from Thiel. His spot is up for election in April of this year. Stenklyft stated that he contacted the league about this and they stated that it is up to the board but they recommend it so that there would not be any issues with tie votes. Stenklyft stated that he feels that one should be appointed and his recommendation was Tom Piepenburg. Piepenburg is currently a candidate for the upcoming election for village trustee. Stenklyft stated that he understands that if he does not win the election in April, he would only serve for these few months. Starfeld stated that he felt it was a good idea to appoint one. Breckheimer stated that he felt it would be good to have someone who is on the ballot. Action – to approve the appointment of Tom Piepenburg to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Rick Thiel – motion: Stenklyft; second: Starfeld; carried.

Reports - The report of labor hours was presented to the board for their information. The monthly report on building permits was presented to the board for their information. Notice of receipt of the quarterly street aid payment in the amount of \$14,126.47 was presented to the board for their information. The report of property taxes collected through December 31<sup>st</sup> was presented to the board. DuPrey stated that a total of \$560,575.25 or 37.85% was collected this December compared to \$523,312.70 or 33.04% last year. DuPrey also touched on a few open book changes that were never made at the county level this past year. Because of this, there are three properties that are due substantial refunds and we still have to settle for the full amounts. DuPrey stated that the assessor is taking responsibility for the mistake and will be reimbursing the village for their losses on it.

Unfinished Business:

2014 Projects – The request for final payment from MCC was presented to the board. Charlie stated that the issue with the patch will be addressed under the warranty provisions. Action – to approve the final payment for the 2013 paving projects to MCC in the amount of \$12,893.53 – motion: Koffarnus; second: Keuler; carried.

Recycling/Rubbish – The monthly report was presented to the board for their information.

Police Protection for the village – The monthly report was presented to the board for their information.

Fire Department – Chief Loose reported that there was one fire call this last month. He also informed the board that we don't have to pull the tank on Truck #32 but will see if it will be repaired here or there. The appointment of the fire chief was then discussed. There was an email in the packet and Stenklyft put two other ones on the table tonight that he received from Andy King the village attorney. He stated that the last one he received from him was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. Stenklyft then asked if there was anybody in the audience that wished to address the board at this time regarding the appointment of the fire chief. Dan Thiel first spoke. He stated that he had a number of people that were concerned as to why the board chose a fire chief who can't be at attendance at every fire or disaster where you had a fella that was picked by the fire department who would be available he would say 99% of the time and but at the same time he has no offense to Mike but he feels that a fire chief should be a person who is available whenever something happens in town. He stated that he is the one who leads the direction, who spells out what has to be done and he feels that the one that they had nominated, Rick would do an excellent

job. Chet Johnston then spoke. He stated that he had a question. He questioned what the village board's duty or job in picking a fire chief. He stated that from what he gets from it, the fire department recommends to the village board and then the village board votes but they usually vote the way that the fire department votes. He stated that this is his understanding. He questioned if that is what it is supposed to be or is there something different. He stated that he is sort of lost. He is lost on the idea that it is supposed to be a democracy just like you (the board) were elected and the one who gets the most votes should be the one to get elected. He stated that if it is something else that it should be then he would like an explanation on it if they could. Stenklyft stated that from one email that he received, it is kind of a fail safe way to do it. He stated that the fire department makes a recommendation to the village board and that the village board has the option to either approve or not approve that recommendation. He stated that the board cannot just appoint somebody else to be fire chief and the fire department can't just make somebody chief. He stated that they both have to be working together. Chet Johnston then questioned what does either the department or village board base their decision on. Stenklyft stated that the fire department is decided by a vote. Chet Johnston again questioned what it is based on. He stated that if he was running against Gary Boesch and they elect Gary Boesch, he would think that it would be based upon that he is better qualified than he is to be on the village board. He questioned if this is what it is based on or is it based on something other than that. Paul Cummings asked the board that they did not accept the recommendation from the fire department and asked what their reasoning was behind that. He asked why the board did not accept the fire department's recommendation. Starfeld commented that this was stated at our last board meeting with some of the things that they talked about. Things that happened with the picnic, things that happened on the board and that is why they rejected it. Vicki Stenklyft stated that what happened with the picnic has nothing to do with the fire fighting and should not be a basis for choosing someone to lead your fire department. She stated that the picnic is an extra thing. Chet Johnston stated that what happened on the board should certainly have anything to do with the fire department. He stated that it would like being fired for teaching because he is a poor coach. They are two different entities. He stated that if he is a poor coach, you get fired from coaching and not from teaching because he was a poor coach. He stated that it is the same as it is here. You don't approve someone because he did something bad here. He stated that he is lost and not getting an explanation. Breckheimer stated that his basis was like he mentioned last meeting, he is sure Rick is extremely well qualified and with talking with other firefighters as well as fighting fires on the fire department. He stated that his concern was the leadership end of it. He stated that he is judging that by talking with other people of the community and what happens here at these meetings the last two years. Chet Johnston questioned who the fire chief is supposed to lead? Chet Johnston answered the fire department. Breckheimer agreed. Chet Johnston questioned what the vote was. Breckheimer stated that it was 11 to 10. Chet Johnston questioned about a revote. Chet Johnston stated that even if that is a vote, it's like, it's like....Pat Rigoni then stated that she can't come in and say I don't want this governor because I didn't like him. It is not how it is done. Chet Johnston commented that she doesn't like him though. She stated that whether she voted for him or not doesn't really matter. Chet Johnston stated that he feels that a majority recommended him so they have confidence in leadership. It is nothing against anybody. He is talking about how government is run and how our country is supposed to be a democracy. Paul Cummings putting that aside, he as a taxpayer, how is his house protected best. He questioned who is in charge of the fire department that can get to his house the fastest and do the proper thing to save my house. Todd Thiel then stated that he would like to go back to Chet Johnston's original question and what do you base your approval on. Is it a personality contest, is it charisma, is it how many babies he kisses when he campaigns, is it because he didn't say hello to you on the street Mark? Breckheimer started to speak and then Todd stated, whoa, whoa, whoa. Todd Thiel stated tell me what you do, what is your process to approve the recommendation of the fire department. He stated that this is all he wants to know. Breckheimer stated that the process is that it comes as a recommendation. He stated that like he started before, he is different from the rest of the group in that he was never on the fire department. He stated that he is sure that he doesn't know Rick near as well as anyone else in this room but he has nothing against Rick personally. He stated that what he is basing it off of is the meetings that they have had the last two years. He stated that the chief is a leadership position. He stated that at these meetings, he has seen Rick lose his temper many times, yell at people at meetings, got in several yelling matches with village employees. He stated that as board members we are technically in charge of village employees just as the fire chief is in charge of fire department members. He stated that when he sees interactions like that going on and the issues that he mentioned here on the board, that does not represent a person that should be in a leadership position to him. He stated that this is what he is basing his vote off of. He also stated that he had numerous phone calls in the last month and a half and not a single one was in favor of Rick being fire chief. He stated that the only two items he received last month against his vote was the two letters that he is sure everyone else saw in the papers. Todd Thiel asked if that same process is equal throughout the whole board. Breckheimer stated that this is what he based his decision on. He stated is it a flawed system? Absolutely. Breckheimer stated that Keuler brought up last meeting on how things should get changed. He stated that he was at the last fire department meeting and they were talking about how things could be changed. He stated that he thinks that it is a great idea. He stated that he felt that it is flawed the way that it is done. He stated that to move forward and change things is definitely the right direction to go. Todd Thiel stated that great and everything but

you can't change things every time you don't like an outcome so he is back to the original question and what is the board's process for accepting the recommendation of the fire department. Todd Thiel stated that he thinks that he is hearing that there is none. Keuler stated that he is looking at it and he has seen what has gone on over there and I guess we have to make a right decision as to what we feel is the right one for everyone in the village, not what is right for the fire department, but what is right for everyone in the village. He stated that this is what he is basing his decision on. Todd Thiel stated that he would agree with that. He stated that if that is the basis of the board's approval or non approval, he would get that but he would like to hear a unanimous protocol to approve or not approve the fire department's recommendation. Linda Thiel stated that if there is a problem as to how he is communicating with the firemen and the department, I don't think that they would be bringing you an 18 to 5 recommendation if he is not able to communicate well with the other firemen. Linda Thiel stated that apparently he is communicating okay or you wouldn't be getting an 18 to 5 recommendation. Starfeld pointed out the letter received by the board and there are only 13 signatures on it. Stenklyft stated that they had a special meeting at their second meeting in December and that Jim VandenElzen asked that we have a special meeting and try to hash it out. Stenklyft stated that he thought it was a very productive meeting. He stated that this is where they came up with this recommendation that is has before you. He stated that it wasn't a vote to say who they should say should be chief. It was a vote to stay with the original recommendation as Rick as chief. He stated that it was on a ballot vote and it was 16 to 5 that we keep the same recommendation. Breckheimer questioned where the minutes are for that. He stated that they never heard anything like that. He stated that the minutes are in there but there is not one word about it. Koffarnus stated that there are 13 firemen that signed the current letter. Stenklyft asked Troy Cummings to go to the fire station and get them. Linda Thiel then asked the President permission to say a few more things. She stated that after she wrote the letter to the editor, she received a call from a board member stating that she should not have written that letter to the editor because he thought and she heard that there were a few firemen that thought the same thing that they thought that it was going to be settled at the next fire meeting. She stated that her answer to him was that she thought it was settled at the first fire meeting. She stated that unfortunately there is nothing further from the truth than that statement because it can never be settled at the fire department. She stated that it doesn't matter if they bring a 16 to 5 recommendation or a 21 to 0 recommendation, the final approval happens here. She stated that sorry, but nothing can be settled at the fire department level. Linda Thiel stated that it is her right as a US citizen and a taxpayer to write her elected officials, to write letters to the editor. She stated that this is her constitutional right and part of living in a democracy. She stated that Pat Rigoni hit on it a little earlier that she thought about a couple of days ago. This situation can be compared to our recent governor's race. It was a highly contested race. It ended in a very close vote. She stated that there are a lot of people that don't want Scott Walker as our governor but he is our governor because that was who the majority of people chose. The Supreme Court did not step in and rule over the majority vote because they thought that Mary Burke was the better candidate. She stated that he is our governor until our next election and she thinks that the firemen will feel the same way. They get to choose every year on the fire chief if they want to. They get to revote. She also stated that she wants the board to know that her letters were not written in haste. There was a lot of thought and a whole lot more prayer that went into it before she ever mailed those letters out. She stated that she spent a lot of time on those letters and it was real important to her that everything in those letters were the truth. She stated that she was not sending them out unless there was total truth in those letters and she stands behind what she wrote and if the board wants to prove her wrong, she thinks that at this time it up to them. She stated that she hopes at this time that they can put aside their personal issues and do what is democratically right. Pat Rigoni then commented that she has a couple of problems. She stated that what happened at a board meeting to her has nothing to do with how Rick will interact with the firemen. She stated that if they voted for him, they see him as their leader. She stated that she always thought that they vote, you get the vote from them and that is it. She stated that if the board or her had to discuss half of the things that they have to discuss at the meetings, she stated that she would probably get into an argument somebody and that she would probably scream. That is part of her nature. She stated that they are volunteers that give up their time, their effort, their training and the board is telling them that their vote doesn't count. She stated that this is wrong. Keuler stated to Linda Thiel that she makes the analogy of the governor's race and all of that. He questioned if she voted in the governor's race? She stated yes. Keuler then stated that there were firemen that have been on the fire department for a long time and they were told that they could not vote and that is where the system is flawed. He stated that the system needs to be corrected. Linda Thiel agreed and stated that next year after they fix it, then you do that. She stated that you don't do it now. It is not what your bylaws say. Keuler stated to her don't go there. The bylaws don't say anything about that. Linda Thiel then stated if it is not in there then this is the way it should be. Linda Thiel questioned why the change now. Keuler stated that just because it has been that way does not mean that we have to continue to go that way. Linda Thiel then questioned why it change this year out of all of the years. Keuler stated that it was brought to his attention because three people called him and complained about it and just like with anything else that he deals with on the board, if someone calls him and complains, he does something about it. Linda Thiel stated then going forward, you deal with it but not at this time. Keuler stated that this is what he is trying to do. Chet Johnston questioned why some of the firemen were not allowed to vote. Keuler stated because they had to work.

Chet Johnston questioned they couldn't have a write in vote? Keuler stated they could not. Chet Johnston questioned if they knew that the vote was taking place? Keuler stated no. Stenklyft stated that they did. Keuler stated but there is no system in place for them to vote. He stated that they were told that this is the way it had been done and this was the way it was going to be done again. Keuler stated that he had a gentleman on the phone that wanted to vote and he couldn't vote. He was in North Dakota. Todd Thiel stated that this is the protocol, they knew it in advance, they knew a year in advance. Could they have taken a day of a vacation to vote, yes they could have. Could they have called in sick, yes they could have. He asked is this an extreme measure or case, they could have done this and still voted. He stated could this process be made to run a little more fluid, yes it could but this was the process that was in place when this vote happened. He stated that you can't change it after the fact. He stated that going forward, yes they could. He stated that the board could have their own discussion on how to go through a sterile objective process to approve the recommendation of the fire department. He stated great, that is going forward. He stated that they can't do anything the fact that this is the way it was done. He stated that it is not that this just changed in the last year. It has been done this way the year before, the year before, the year before, the year before. He asked how many years that protocol has been on the fire department. Stenklyft stated that he has been on the department for 30 years and every year that he has been on, the first business meeting in December has always been the election. He stated that the majority of votes cast, that person was recommended to the village board and the board always went with the recommendation of the fire department. Todd Thiel then stated so there is a long standing tradition that this is the protocol. He stated that not that it can't be changed, but there is nothing in the different in the fire department for this election. He stated that it doesn't matter if he won by a ½ a vote if that is possible. He stated that whoever won was the person who was chief. Chet Johnston stated with democracy, if you don't vote because you are in the hospital or something, you can't write later and say, gee, the governor won by 10 votes, I want to vote now because I didn't get a chance to vote because I was in the hospital. He stated that this is the same thing. He stated that this is what the democratic process is built on. Breckheimer stated that he thinks Keuler is if there is absentee ballots so they can vote ahead of time. Todd Thiel stated, let's take this to an extreme, I am on my way to the polling place and get in a car accident.... Starfeld stated to Linda Thiel that she is glad she wrote the letters because it helped everyone else in the community to the board members. He stated that he is up to 10 to 12 people who called him and the point that was most interesting to him is that he is well respected by other county fire chiefs and firefighters. Starfeld stated that she would not believe the number of fire chiefs that called him and stated where she got that from, they have no idea. Starfeld stated that a lot of the firemen are coming up and stating to them that they are doing the right thing as a board. He stated that three of the chiefs called and said that they are no longer sending their firemen to any training that Rick is doing for their classes. Todd Thiel questioned if Starfeld could name names. Starfeld stated that he was not going to. Todd Thiel then stated of course not. He stated that you cannot put this big giant mushroom in the room and blow up the whole room and you don't have any specifics. Starfeld stated that this came from Calumet County fire chiefs. Todd Thiel stated that the taxpayers in this room want specifics. He stated that they want names. Todd Thiel stated that Starfeld just put a big bomb in the middle of the room. He stated that he wants names. They want names. Starfeld and Koffarnus both stated that they wished to remain anonymous. Todd Thiel questioned Koffarnus on how he would know what Starfeld received as calls. Koffarnus stated that he received five calls and two fire departments call him too. Todd Thiel stated so this is what is interesting. When you submit something in writing to the newspaper, they won't publish it unless you put your name to it. He stated but this board you can hide behind this nonsense so you can push your personal agendas and personally attack this person. He stated that it doesn't make any sense. He stated that the taxpayers in the room don't want it and the voters in this community don't want this. He stated that the village board is tearing this community apart. Koffarnus and Starfeld questioned why they did they receive calls then. Todd Thiel questioned what about the people here? Todd Thiel stated that the board is listening to all of the people outside of Hilbert. Koffarnus and Starfeld both stated that they received calls from residents. Chet Johnston questioned why do you think they do not accept anonymous letters for the newspapers? He stated that if you have something to say, you have to be willing to say it that you said it. Pat Rigoni stated that we teach our kids in school that the majority votes but that is not what is happening here and this is sad. Stenklyft asked if anybody else had anything to add. Randy Boesch then asked to speak. Randy Boesch stated that the fire department took a vote as a general idea of what they wanted to go on ahead with. He stated that just like him being on the plan commission. They take a vote on something. That vote is only a recommendation to the village board. He stated that the village board has the say on the end. He stated that the planning committee does not have a say on the end, the fire department doesn't have a say on the end, it is the village board that has the final say. Todd Thiel then interrupted and stated that like Stenklyft had stated earlier, it is not one over the other but both working together. Stenklyft asked Todd Thiel to let Randy Boesch finish. Randy Boesch stated that it is up to the village board to make the final decision on what's happening. He stated that what has been happening the last two year, the Village of Hilbert is the laughing stock of probably the whole state. He questioned why is this? Because this goes on and that went and this went and it gets bigger and bigger. He stated and now this is the end of the big snowball. Or is it going to get bigger, he doesn't know. He stated that he is willing to bet that it is going to get bigger yet. Randy Boesch stated that this is what some people are

striving for in this community. Koffarnus commented that people can't wait to get the Brillion News to see what's in Hilbert again. Randy Boesch agreed. Randy Boesch stated that this is a big joke. It is time to get back to reality and get back to business. He stated that what has been going on is unbelievable. He questioned why did this all get started like this. He stated it happened two years ago. Rick Thiel then asked to speak. He stated to Breckheimer that he had said that Rick Thiel had gotten rowdy at meetings. Rick Thiel stated that the person he was rowdy with was Dennis Hein who was at the meeting. He stated that they did have issues with the improvements and everything, but he asked if he still waves to him on the street? Does he still talk to him at football games? Are we humane about it? He stated to Dennis Hein that he was absolutely right idea when they did the improvements thing that he wants to have everybody treated fairly. He stated so we kept going and we got all the places hit. He stated to Dennis Hein that he was right on saying that and it worked out and it is done. He stated that this is what you do. He stated that as far as him and Charlie Fochs, we bucked heads for 20 years and it is probably buck heads for another 20 years because we just don't see eye to eye. He stated that it has been like that forever. He stated that these little cases like this don't mean that he argues with everybody. He stated that he don't argue with everybody. He stated that he is a good leader. Breckheimer then commented to clarify the first part of it. He stated that he has absolutely nothing personally against Rick Thiel. He stated that it has nothing to do with personally. He stated that it is based upon what he is observing at the meetings the last little while. He stated that he is getting the feeling that it is something personal about him, but he does not have anything personal against him. He stated that he is making his decision based upon what he has observed, by talking to other firemen that contacted him, citizens from the community that contacted him. He stated that this is what he is actually going off of. Rick Thiel stated that obviously there were more that wanted him that didn't. Rick Thiel stated that the majority usually rules. Breckheimer stated that this is what he is going off of and that he is just one vote. Chet Johnston stated that to him, it feels like more a personal thing. Breckheimer stated that this is why he is trying to clarify that it is not. He stated that he probably knows Rick Thiel the least out of everybody in this room. He stated that he is quite a bit younger than him and he wasn't on the fire department. Todd Thiel stated that he is hearing that he is accepting phone calls but asked how many phone calls Breckheimer has made to reach out to other citizens that you represent to get their input. Keuler stated that he talked to several people. Breckheimer stated that he did not personally call other people but he had a lot of call about 10 to 12 calls. He stated that he did not call people but people cornered him in the streets when they say him. Todd Thiel stated that it works both ways and he can coordinate a campaign that would inundate them with calls based on one agenda. He stated that it is up to them as representatives to make sure that what you are hearing is the honest truth. Keuler stated that he had been in contact with Rick and Linda Thiel. Keuler wanted to clarify that he did not tell her to not have wrote the letter, he stated that he would have had more respect for the letter had she been present at the meeting. He again stated that he never told her that she should not have written the letter. He had told her that he would have had more respect for the letter if she had taken the time to come to the meeting and get all the information and then write the letter. Keuler stated that he had talked to Rick Thiel and about having people call him and publish it. He stated that they were putting emails out and people were talking to him about the emails and he wasn't getting any of the emails. He stated that he didn't know what these people were talking about. He stated that he was not included on the emails. So he told Rick Thiel to put it out there that they call him and he wanted them to call him. He stated that people did call him and he talked to a lot of people. He stated that to be perfectly honest with him, Rick, I am sorry but it was not in favor of you. He stated that he is being honest. He stated that he has nothing against him. He stated that this was his experience. Todd Thiel stated that he is going to go back to Paul Cummings comment and were they basing it on personality or were they basing it on that this man was unqualified to lead the fire department in an emergency. Keuler stated that to be perfectly honest, he thinks it would be personality. Chet Johnston asked if they received these calls before or after those letters went out. He asked regarding the fire chiefs calling were they before the first vote or after the first vote. Several stated after. Chet Johnston then stated that their first vote was not based upon that. He stated that their first vote was based upon personality or something. Todd Thiel stated that the fire department took it upon themselves because there was not a vote on the recommendation, they took it upon themselves to go back their own community and say what do you think of this recommendation. He stated that the second time around, you have got people who didn't vote for Rick that said, listen, our process is good, our process is right and we still believe that this is the right recommendation for the department. He stated that more people thought that way that their process was good and provided the same recommendation again. Starfeld stated that there are 13 on that letter. Todd Thiel stated that it is more than 11. Rick Thiel stated that there were other people missing that night. Starfeld stated that they had a week to sign it. Stenklyft stated no. He stated that he was told to have it in by Friday. Stenklyft stated that he looks at it this way. The firemen that have to work with either Mike or Rick because they were the two that were on the ballot, the firemen voted that he is the one that they want to work with. He stated that it is nice that all of these other chiefs are calling in and saying that Rick is a terrible guy, he stated that he goes to a lot of picnics and a lot of fire department functions and the first thing he is asked is where is Rick. What's he up to. Stenklyft stated that you have to put all of the information that you are receiving, but the majority of that information should be on those 25 firemen that are over there. They are the ones who are going to have to work with that gentleman every day. They are the ones that are

putting their trust in him. Chet Johnston stated that he wants to make sure that this is a democracy. He stated that he will say that over and over again. The funny thing is that we are not following that here. Pat Rigoni stated that if the firemen pull up to the house of one of the complainers and does a good job, it might change their mind a little. She stated that she wants the firefighters to be content, happy with their leader because they are volunteers. It is not a job, they are volunteers. She stated that they are putting a lot of time into it. Starfeld stated that in the end it is like a job because they are getting paid for it. Pat Rigoni stated that they leave their regular jobs for it. Todd Thiel then commented that maybe they should just cover the houses of people that voted for him. Randy Boesch stated there you go. What an asinine comment to make. Todd Thiel stated to Randy Boesch that this is why he says that this is ridiculous and that is ridiculous. Gary Boesch stated that this is what makes our village look bad across the state. Koffarnus asked if this is the end of discussion. Stenklyft stated that he is going to let it go until everyone has stated what they want to state. Stenklyft asked if anyone wished to say anything else. Dan Thiel stated that he would like to reiterate what he stated earlier that the fire chief should be a person that is available whenever a disaster happens whatever it is. He stated to Gary Boesch that we have an individual that is retired and is available 99% of the time and that is what you have to have in a leader. He stated that when something happens you need a leader. He stated that you don't see a lot of people running out there crossing lanes that don't know what they are doing. You need someone out there to head up the show. He stated that this is his thinking. Rick Thiel stated that he cannot believe that his leadership skills are in question. He stated that he was a foreman at Michels and Superior Electric before that for 35 years. He stated that he had crews of guys up to 35 men at a time. He stated that he had to interact with every different trade that there was on job sites. He stated that this was constantly, day in and day out. He stated that he knows how to interact with people. He stated that this is why he was very successful for 35 years and got the bigger jobs to do because he could handle it. He stated with the fire department, running these guys and helping these guys go through training, organizing them is very easy compared to what he was doing at work. He stated that he has done this his whole life. He stated that this is nothing new like he is stepping off the apple cart and into something that he has never done. Stenklyft stated that he personally did not receive a single call since the last meeting. He stated nobody is saying for and nobody is saying against. He stated that he had some very interesting conversation with his fellow firemen and their concerns. He stated that it is going to be hard for some of them to not see and utilize Rick as the chief. He stated that he thinks that they will get through it but it will be hard at first if they do not go with their recommendation. He stated that it is a slap in the face to those guys. Stenklyft stated that he wants to apologize to those guys. It is a slap in the face to all firemen. The ones that voted for Rick and the ones that voted for Mike. He stated that it has worked for 30+ years, probably 50 years it has been going this way and then all at once it changes overnight. He stated that the voting that way has been for 50 years. He stated that we can't work backwards, we have to work forwards. He stated to Randy Boesch that he is correct. We are the laughing stock. He stated that we created it ourselves. No one came in and did it, sitting right here at this table. Stenklyft stated look, nobody is looking at the crowd when they are talking. When they were talking no one had the common courtesy to look at them other than Tim and Mark. Koffarnus stated that I looked at them. Gary Boesch stated that he looked at them. Stenklyft stated look at them. At least look at them and answer them. Chet Johnston stated that he just wants them to vote the right way and he thinks that they are all doing a good job. He stated that this has nothing to do with it except for the democratic process. He stated that obviously these guys would not be on the board if they did not care. He stated that we have to understand it. Stenklyft stated that he and DuPrey got into it today and he put him in the middle again. He stated that he apologized to him for it. He stated that DuPrey has been getting calls and calls and calls. Stenklyft stated that he shouldn't be getting calls and calls and calls. We should have been getting calls and calls and calls. Stenklyft stated that he never asked him which way they went and he wants to tell us fine if not, fine. DuPrey didn't say anything. Stenklyft stated that it is out there. He thinks that they only got those few people that called for or against. He stated that the people that are against it are pretty bashful that they are not here to speak up. He stated that if there are so many people out there that do not want Rick to be our chief because he is so bad, then why are not more people here. He stated that he understands that people who called them and don't want to give out their name out. It comes back to the same point where if we get a complaint and they won't sign it, do we act on it, no. He stated that if you have a feeling say it. Don't sit back and be bashful. Stenklyft asked if there was anyone else who wanted to speak. Chet Johnston stated that he wants to apologize because we take it for granted that sometimes we make it difficult for you. He thanked them for all of their work. He stated that he understands that they will vote the way they feel is best. Koffarnus stated that he would like to thank everyone for coming and thanked Rick Thiel for everything that he did for the board during his time on it. Stenklyft asked one last time if there was anything anyone else wanted to add. He stated that the recommendation from the fire department is that we appoint Rick Thiel as the fire chief. Action – to approve the recommendation from the fire department to appoint Rick Thiel as fire chief for 2015 – motion: Stenklyft; he asked for a second. There was none. He asked again for a second. There was none. He asked for a third time if there was a second. There was none. The motion failed for a lack of a second. It goes back to the fire department for their consideration again. Stenklyft stated that it goes back to the fire department and they will decide if they want to keep the same recommendation or if they will make a different recommendation. Starfeld wanted to point out that Mike

Loose is still fire chief and the department does have a chief at this time.

TID District #1 – nothing new.

Property Maintenance Ordinance – nothing new.

TID District #2 – nothing new.

Street Committee – The next regional flood meeting is 1/21/15. Someone will attend and represent the village. Gary Boesch reported that Charlie and he did a drive around for houses that don't meet the new regulations for house numbers. He stated that as soon as it warms up they will make personal contact.

Discussion and possible action on how to proceed with development assistance – Stenklyft stated that he would like to get a price from the company that Connor Nett works for to help look for funding for projects. DuPrey stated that he is meeting with MSA next week and can also get a price from them.

"Looks of Hilbert" (Aesthetics) – There was nothing new on the street signage. There was nothing new regarding the Main St. lights.

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Charlie Fochs reported that tentatively bids will be advertised on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with bid opening on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and awarding of the bids on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He stated that Kruczek started yesterday and found 4' of frost in the parking lot. There was nothing new to report on the Hilbert Acres Mobile Home Park.

New Business:

Application for operator's license – There was an application received for Jesse Propson. DuPrey noted that everything checked out. Action – to approve the operator license for Jesse Propson – motion: Koffarnus; second: Keuler; carried.

Classes/Seminars/Schooling for employees – nothing new.

Summer Help – Charlie reported that Alvin Dohr desires to come back next summer so we should be set.

Request to purchase line locator – Charlie presented information on this. He stated that his current one is not operational and that he has \$3,500 budgeted. Action – to approve the purchase of the line locator at a cost not to exceed \$3,500 – motion: Koffarnus; second: Starfeld; carried.

Water and Sewer Committee – Action – to approve the committee meeting minutes as presented – motion: Koffarnus; second: Starfeld; carried. The first recommendation was to approve the agreement with Robert & Carolyn Hipp to allow them to hook into the interceptor sewer main. DuPrey reported on the ability to place unpaid utilities on the tax roll. The property is in the Town of Rantoul and the town board would have to approve it and the property would have to abut the village limits. It does not. Because of this, we would not be able to place a lien on the property for unpaid bills. The board felt that because of this, the deposit should be higher or there should be a way to cut off the sewer. The board decided to send it back to committee for further review. Charlie reported that the flow meter for the mobile home park to check for infiltration would cost \$300 per month to rent and the cost to get the info would be \$200 - \$300 per month. It was noted that the board could not act on it for now so it was referred back to committee for review.

Plan Commission – Action – to approve the committee meeting minutes as presented – motion: Breckheimer; second: Koffarnus; carried. The first recommendation was to amend the garage size. This will have to go to public hearing and it will be held in March. The second recommendation was to rezone property on the west side of the village. This will also have to go to public hearing and will be held in March. The third recommendation was to approve the property split for Fox Trails Subdivision. This split would add land to the Schneider property. Action – to approve this recommendation – motion: Koffarnus; second: Starfeld; carried.

Request to have the village explore the lowering of the speed limit on the north side of the village from the railroad tracks to Crosstown Rd. – Todd Thiel presented the board with some information regarding his request. He stated that as they have more functions at Paul's barn he is concerned about people crashing into people turning into this property. He stated that the 55 mph sign is south of the railroad tracks so people are accelerating while people turning into the property are slowing down. He stated that the request has to come from the municipality. This will get referred to the street committee. Breckheimer commented about looking at lowering the speed limit on the highway from 35 mph to 25 mph as long as we are exploring this.

Village Board Informational Report – Koffarnus brought up about concerns expressed by Judy Brunner last month regarding the sidewalk and clearing snow when it goes nowhere. The street committee will address this when they meet next.

Village Employee Informational Report – none.

President's Report – none.

Keuler brought up about getting some idea of what will happen if the same recommendation comes back for fire chief.

Adjournment – Action – to adjourn – motion: Starfeld; second: Breckheimer; carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

*Dennis DuPrey*

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Dennis DuPrey, Clerk

Administrator Dennis DuPrey called the special meeting village board to order at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2015.

Roll Call – all members reported present. Others present were Charlie Fochs, Josh McDonald, Patrick Mares from the Times Journal, Randy Boesch, Mike & Anita Loose, Ed Byrne and Rick Thiel

Resignation of Village President – DuPrey presented a letter to the board from Ken Stenklyft resigning his position of Village President effective 1/15/15.

Appointment of individual to fill unexpired term of Village President – Boesch commented that Mark Breckheimer is on the ballot for the April election running unopposed so it would seem logical to appoint him as village president. The other board members present felt that same way. Action – to appoint Mark Breckheimer as Village President to fill the unexpired term of Kenneth Stenklyft – motion: Boesch; second: Keuler; carried. DuPrey then administered the Oath of Office to Breckheimer and stated that he would proceed to run the remainder of the meeting.

Citizens Questions and Concerns – Rick Thiel asked to address the board. Rick Thiel stated that after the last board meeting he was really humiliated by everything that was all negative that was said. He stated that when he went home, he was just sick. He questioned how could there be this much negativity. Nobody is for him for anything. He stated that he decided to take it upon himself and go around town and just interview people for his own piece of mind and find out because all the things that he heard were the bad things and that people called and this and that. He stated that what he found out after going around town and talking to people that is not the case at all. He stated that what he actually found was the complete opposite. He stated that are disgusted the way that things are going on with the board. Not the appointment as fire chief. He stated that what he did was he had a thing going door to door and asking people to sign stating "I support the Hilbert Fire Department's recommendation to appoint Rick Thiel as fire chief for 2015". He stated that he has 111 signatures already and he has just started. Rick Thiel stated that he had not found one single person, NOT ONE, that is against me. He stated that they all have the same reaction. They can't believe what the board is doing and that they should let the fire department handle their own issues. He stated that this is something that he wanted to bring to their attention. He stated that these 110 people are just not his friends that he knows in town. He stated that he went around random. He stated that he got old people. He stated that he got Donny Richart, Gordy Hauser, Charlotte Pethan, Voigt's, Nadler's. He stated that there were some people that he didn't really know but they heard about what was going on and think that it is so wrong. Geiser's, Thiel's, Halbach's, Schaffer's, Roehrig's, Cummings, Dohr's, etc. He stated that it is going on and on. He did this on purpose to see if it is the younger people that are against it. Is it the older people? Is it the middle people that are against this? He stated that he found out that it is none of them. He stated that he wanted to tell the board that this is what is going on. He stated that he is going to continue to go and get more signatures. He stated that he has no doubt that he can get 200 or more signatures. The hard part is catching these people at home. He stated that there are several ones that only one person was home at the time otherwise he would have 50 more signatures. He stated that he is trying to hit every house. He stated that this is more for his peace of mind because the board made him feel that he was such a piece of crap. He stated that he couldn't sleep for two nights and felt terrible. He stated that he doesn't think that it is right to do this to him because remember, his name is Rick Thiel. It is not Kenny Stenklyft. It is not Todd Thiel. He is Rick.

Announcements – DuPrey stated that he mentioned it at the last board meeting regarding an upcoming seminar on strengthening communities. He stated that he will try to attend. None of the other board members will be available to attend.

President's Report – Breckheimer stated that as far as his seat goes, he wants to wait to recommend an appointment until after the election in April.

Unfinished Business:

Fire Department – Mike had nothing to report. The board then discussed the process for appointment of a fire chief. Boesch stated that it felt it should be looked at with all of the things that we had incurred the last couple of months. DuPrey stated that Breckheimer had him do some checking on different options out there. He touched on the police and fire commission or a committee or mayor or village president that recommends. DuPrey stated that he check Chilton, Brillion and New Holstein which are all municipal owned. Chilton and Brillion are on recommendation from the mayor subject to council approval for an indefinite term. New Holstein has a police and fire commission. He touched on how a police and fire commission is formed and the duties and powers that they do have. He stated that the police and fire commission has the final say in all decisions and the city councils or village boards do not have any say or oversight. DuPrey stated that it is like another layer of bureaucracy. He stated that with conversation with Andy, this type of set up is a big layer of bureaucracy when we are not required to have it and are only about 20% of the population required to have one. He stated that this was his opinion but it is up to the board to decide what they wanted to do. Breckheimer stated that the Health Board committee oversees the fire department and he feels that they should meet and discuss this issue and bring a recommendation back to the board next month. He also stated that anyone that can attend that meeting would be great so that we can get everyone's input of the whole board. Piepenburg asked if we are just addressing this issue for the future? Breckheimer stated that the way things have been going for awhile, they are looking at the whole process and they may look at making changes or they may not. Piepenburg asked if it would be for future elections or this one also. Breckheimer stated that he felt that

they would look at both. He stated that we had two meetings in a row where both recommendations were turned down. Boesch stated that he feels that there has been no chain of command and until this governing body decides to appoint someone different, the current chief, Mike Loose, continues to serve as fire chief. They will meet before the next board meeting.

Wastewater Treatment Plant – The first item discussed was the revised easement with Euclide's. Charlie explained to the board the changes needed for the easement. He stated that he met with the property owners and explained it and they are okay with the changes. DuPrey suggested that we conditionally approve it based upon final language. Action – to conditionally approve the revised easement with Lindy & Carla Euclide based upon final language in the easement being approved – motion: Boesch; second: Koffarnus; carried. The next item discussed was the request to purchase new lab equipment. For the 2015 budget, there is a total of \$6,000 budgeted. Charlie and Josh felt that it would be good to purchase the equipment now and get acclimated to it while it is a slow time. The total cost of the equipment is \$5,962.97. This equipment will make the testing more efficient and would save on some labor time. Action – to approve the purchase of lab testing equipment as presented – motion: Koffarnus; second: Boesch; carried.

Adjournment – Action – to adjourn – motion: Piepenburg; second: Boesch; carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

*Dennis DuPrey*

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Dennis DuPrey, Clerk