

VILLAGE OF MANSFIELD

Special Board Meeting June 3, 2021 at 6:30pm | *Meeting called to order by April Manning*

In Attendance

Present: April Manning, Lucas Gilbert, Ron Konen, Jessica Bartley

Absent: Andy Stiger

Items of Business

DISCUSS OPEN TRUSTEE SEATS

Attorney Amy Rupiper consulted with IL Municipal League since last meeting. There is a procedure in the IL Municipal code that allows the board to determine if a vacancy exists due to abandonment of office or failure to qualify. Rupiper has not found any case law or examples to address this situation or to define "abandonment of office." The IML code gives the local board control to decide on a vacancy and a court would want the board to take that step first before the court would get involved. Konen asked if Todd Jones would get to vote. Rupiper answered no, because of conflict of interest. Rupiper said if board decides there is a vacancy, then Stiger has the power to make an appointment with the board's advice and consent. She said the board has 30 days to act on Stiger's suggestion for appointment. This could happen twice and if still no consent is given by the board, then Stiger can appoint someone on a temporary basis. Gilbert asked about having a special election and Rupiper said it would come up at the next regular election. Rupiper said appointees must be discussed in closed session. Gilbert asked why it's even a question that there could be a vacancy in office. Rupiper said the way the code reads is that someone could hold onto a seat forever if no one runs against a person. Gilbert asked if an ordinance should be made to fix this issue going forward and Rupiper said she would think on that item. Rupiper said IL Municipal League says a judge may say there is a vacancy on policy reasons. Gilbert asked if Andy Stiger could veto a vote, which Rupiper did not have an answer for yet. Konen said the motion would be to determine if a vacancy exists. Rupiper said Jones is a holdover in office at the moment, but is not entitled to the benefits of office. Konen asked what happens if Jones does not lose his seat? Rupiper said Stiger may wish to go to court. Gilbert clarified how many years Jones would be in that seat if he did get to keep his seat. Rupiper said that question would be best answered by Jennifer Harper, Piatt County Clerk. Rupiper said to bring this item up as the first item of business at the next meeting.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Someone asked if a vacancy is not found, what happens next? Rupiper said Stiger would have to file an action in court and have them make a judgement, which would likely be that there is a vacancy.

Adjourn

ACTION: Konen moved, Bartley seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: ALL YES. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned.