

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 6, 2017. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, John Stauter, and Christine Wilen. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Matt Keegan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Tim Morgan, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Michael Rizzo, a landowner in Whiteside County, shared his concerns about the 911 consolidation and the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Rock Falls and the County. He feels the consolidation is being dominated by law enforcement. He believes the County will push this agreement through at their March 21 meeting. He has had crime at his family farm and his interactions with the Sheriff's office and dispatch have not been good. The County has attached their proposed IGA to their February minutes.

Terry Lynch, resident of Ward Four in Sterling, asked when the tax will be implemented that the Council voted on 4 to 3 to pass and when will the next tax go into effect. Mayor Lee explained that the 4 to 3 vote was the tax levy that will be effective this year. The question on the ballot will be for an additional ½% sales tax. Lynch confirmed that this goes to the voters and asked why the other vote was not proposed to the citizens. Mayor Lee explained the tax levy is passed annually to determine property taxes to support City services and pensions, while the ballot question must go before the citizens to increase the sales tax.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) Minutes from February 21, 2017
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$531,755.30

The motion was seconded by Alderman Conklin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee recognized Janna Groharing for her exemplary work with Sterling Main Street. Groharing stated that Sterling Main Street board members were present to tell their story. Brian Grummert remarked that in 2010 he was the only business in the 400 block of Locust. Mead's Bike Shop and NICIL worked with Sterling Main Street to receive façade grants and then the Sterling Theater reopened. Grummert is proud to be a part of the downtown.

Sheila Martinez stated that she has been a part of Sterling Main Street when they received accreditation in 2008. Main Street has moved their office around in the downtown when businesses seek a new location, such as the Rusty Fox.

Nick Lareau has called Sterling home for four years. He has been on the board for 3½ years. He has many clients talk about what the town use to be or that it will never be what it was before. Lareau's philosophy is to leave it better than you found it. On the other hand, he met a young man for lunch and as they walked back to his office, the young man was pleased to see that the downtown theater was open again.

Grummert closed by informing the Council how Sterling Main Street uses the Strategic Plan to coordinate their mission with the City's. He encouraged the Council to contact them with any questions or concerns.

Mayor Lee applauded the cooperation of Sterling Main Street, the Chamber, and GSDC. An example is the World Series Championship Trophy. Brian Garza, a Sterling native, has been with the Chicago Cubs for 23 years and contacted Sterling to make arrangements for a viewing of the trophy. With quick coordination, the trophy will be on display at Challand Middle School on Thursday, March 9, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Groharing announced there will be 500 entry tickets distributed. People may line up at 3:45 pm. A VIP viewing will be at 5:30 with public viewing from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Groharing also reminded everyone to vote on the site, "Independent We Stand". We were in the top 25 last year and we have another opportunity to win up to \$25,000 for Sterling Main Street. Please contact Groharing with any questions.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2017-03-01 Amending the Special Use Permit for 2811 Locust** to expand the ground area for equipment and an equipment shelter; seconded by Alderman Martin. Superintendent Schmidt stated another company wanted to co-locate at this site. An expansion of the Special Use was not necessary to add onto the antenna but a generator and equipment shed will be added. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to table **Ordinance #2017-03-02 Amending Chapter 54, Article 1, Section 27 of the Sterling City Code, Creating the position of Deputy Chief with the Police Department** for more information; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to authorize the Mayor to submit a letter of "No Objection" to the Whiteside County Zoning Office for a petition from Peter Harkness and

Busy Properties, LLC to rezone property west of 3705 Emerson Road from County A-1/R-1 (Agricultural/Residential) to County B-2 (Business) and encourage the County to ask the property owner for buffering, landscaping, noise reduction, and water drainage to protect the existing residential uses; seconded by Alderman Elston. Manager Shumard stated this property is within 1½ miles of the City. If the City does object, the County needs a 2/3 vote to approve the petition. Shumard reminded everyone that the problems can become City problems when they are annexed in the future. Answering a variety of questions, Superintendent Schmidt reported the property is not close to City limits at this time. Following rezoning, any appropriate use can occur, not just storage buildings. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Chief Morgan introduced Brinkley, the new Community Dog (Golden Retriever puppy). Officer Diehl and Lt. Mohr picked her up in Kalamazoo, Michigan last week. The City has had everything donated. Morgan also reported the great turnout for the 80 beds for 80 kids project last weekend at the YMCA, with help from the Chamber.

Manager Shumard reported that Superintendent Schrader was not here because his daughter is playing basketball on the Sauk Valley Community College team. They just took the Region 4 Championship. Shumard reported there will be a dispatch consolidation meeting on Wednesday. Next Council meeting, we will have a study session to discuss the Police Deputy Chief position.

Alderman Martin reminded citizens that yard waste collection will start next week.

Alderman Wilen reported a tree that had fallen at 1307 Seventh Avenue on private property and asked what could be done. Superintendent Schmidt advised that it is a civil matter between the property owners. Manager Shumard stated the Tree Board could may be able to help with this issue. Wilen also received a complaint from a resident in the 500 block of East 19th Street who is concerned that her street needs repairs and her property values will depreciate. Manager Shumard stated that the engineers are working on the list for this year's projects.

Alderman Elston thanked Superintendent Schmidt for helping with a property issue.

Alderman Stauter thanked Janna Groharing and the Main Street crew for what they do in this community.

Alderman Schuchard was thankful that last week's storm missed our area. Ottawa was not so fortunate.

Mayor Lee reminded everyone that we set the clocks forward this weekend. Lee thanked the City for the nice floral arrangement for his wife, Sue, following her recent knee surgery.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:34 pm to discuss personnel matters as covered under subsection (1) of 5 ILCS 120/2(c); seconded by Alderman Conklin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the open meeting at 7:53 pm; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

The regular meeting was adjourned to a budget study session at 7:57 pm.

Manger Shumard reviewed the following budgets:

Band – created in 1919 and the Grandon Center was built in 1938. Shumard shared a few proposals for redesigning the Grandon Civic Center. TIF funds can be used in for this.

SIDC – Controls land in the Industrial Park and funds GSDC to run the incubator. SIDC has committed \$10,000 for three consecutive years to support the Small Business Development Center at Sauk Valley Community College.

IMRF – trying to work reserves down in this account. When tax levy is set, Sterling's contribution level has not been determined.

Social Security – based on salaries.

Rock River TIF – the Best Cobb building will likely be demolished because of its construction.

IGIG Grant Fund – ready to be closed out.

Mud to Parks Grant Fund – ready to closed out.

BRP Grant – Superintendent Schmidt stated that we have asked for an extension to expend \$135,000 in remaining funds.

APP Grant - \$71,000 has been awarded.

Manger Shumard informed the Council that the Library and Health Insurance budgets will be reviewed at the next meeting. On March 24 the budget will be displayed. A public hearing will be held on April 3 with adoption on April 17.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk

March 6, 2017

TO: Sterling Mayor Skip Lee & City Council
212 Third Ave.
Sterling, IL 61081

RE: ETSB (Emergency Telephone Systems Board)/ 911 Dispatch

SUBJECT: Whiteside County Sheriff/ Dispatch consolidation

The agenda of the Whiteside County Board of Tuesday, February 14, 2017, page sixteen, number eight, reads in part, "Mr. Horn presented a draft intergovernmental agreement between the city of Rock Falls, the city of Sterling and the county of Whiteside Special Service Area #1 authorizing the creation of the Twin City Consolidated PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point). Mr. Horn explained this agreement establishes an over site (sic) Board, the hiring of the Director and sets up that the employees will become County employees and various other items."

Within the February, 2017, County Board Meeting Attachments, beginning on page seventy-eight, there is a proposed, "Intergovernmental agreement between the city of Rock Falls, the city of Sterling, and the County of Whiteside authorizing creation of the Twin City consolidated PSAP) public safety answering point).

Continuing on page seventy-nine, Section 3 reads in part, "The members of the "Oversight Committee" shall consist of: (with my notes in parentheses)

- (a) City of Sterling Chief of Police (an unelected public employee paid by taxpayers)
- (b) City of Rock Falls Chief of Police (an unelected public employee paid by taxpayers)
- (c) An individual appointed by the Mayor of Sterling (suggest no law enforcement affiliation in immediate family, and confirmation by city council to ensure non-partisanship)

- (d) An individual appointed by the Mayor of Rock Falls (suggest no law enforcement affiliation in immediate family, and confirmation by city council to ensure non-partisanship)
- (e) Director of Pre-Hospital Services at CGH Medical Center
- (f) Chief of Twin City Fire Command
- (g) Sheriff of Whiteside County
- (h) An individual appointed by the Chairman of the Whiteside County Board (must have no law enforcement affiliation in immediate family, for example, former deputy Tim Cain currently "public-at-large" member of County 911 Board)

The composition of the Oversight Committee as described above fails to include process for citizens at large, and maintains the control of the Sheriff's element centered around the county seat in Morrison.

Reference my statement of February 7, 2017, attached to the record of the Rock Falls City Council meeting for further details of Sheriff's dispatch interactions and malfeasance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The two individuals appointed by the Mayors of Sterling and Rock falls must have full council vote prior to appointment.

The two individuals appointed by the Mayors of Sterling and Rock Falls must have no law enforcement affiliations themselves or within their immediate family.

The individual appointed by the Chairman of the Whiteside County board must have no law enforcement affiliations themselves or within their immediate family, and must be subject to vote of full county board prior to appointment. (Example, retired deputy Tim Cain on Whiteside ETSB).

Continuing on page 79, section 3(a) reads in part: "For two year terms each, the Chairman of the Committee shall be the Chief of Police for each of the two cities and the Sheriff of Whiteside County."

Once again the blatant seizure of control by the police element. Why not have the Fire Chief as chairman, or the CGH Hospital representative, or a citizen-at-large?

Continuing, "The initial chairman shall be the Sheriff of Whiteside County, followed in order by the Chief of Police of Rock Falls and then by the Chief of Police for the City of Sterling."

Again the blatant seizure of control by the police element.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Rotate the Chairmanship between the police and all others on the Oversight Committee every two years. For instance, the hospital representative, then a Chief of police, then a citizen-at-large, and so on, so each of the committee members has the chair every two years.

Whiteside county and the city of Morrison in particular have been overcome by the police element within government in recent years, since Whiteside deputy Roger Drey was Mayor of Morrison.

For another example of this embedded relationship, deputy Jed Renkes, who threatened me at my property on July 2, 2016, was initially hired by the Morrison police, then hired as a Whiteside deputy, and is currently part-time with Morrison police. Former Mayor and Whiteside deputy Roger Drey is currently part-time with Morrison police.

Continuing on page 79, section 3(b) reads in part: "The Oversight Committee herein agrees to create the position of Dispatch Director...The Oversight Committee shall select the individual who shall serve as the Dispatch Director but all disciplinary authority or authority to remove, provided that removal is only done after majority vote of the Oversight Committee, shall be vested in the Sheriff of Whiteside County."

(Any pipe dreams the people of Sterling and Rock Falls had regarding the independence of their own dispatch center just went up in smoke right there).

“The Dispatch Director shall be an employee of Whiteside for the purpose of payment of salary, withholding tax, insurance coverage, retirement and other employment benefits and employment contractual matters...”

(He who pays wages to the worker shall be their master).

“Other than selection and removal, the County Administrator and Sheriff of Whiteside shall retain all other authority over the Dispatch Director consistent with the personnel practices of Whiteside, the employing agent.”

(Translation: the good old boys in and around the county seat will control your dispatch director and dispatch center, not the little people in Sterling and Rock Falls. You are not part of the in-group that knows the secret handshake. That’s how we do things around here).

The language above does not represent a mutual agreement between equals, it furthers empire building and political patronage for the Sheriff and cements Sterling and Rock Falls as the second class cities “around here.” This document embodies the invisible government in and around the courthouse. It’s interesting how blatant and obvious this is.

Continuing on page 80, section 3(e) reads in part: “All records related to the operation of the consolidated PSAP shall be maintained by Whiteside, as administrative agent.”

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Require retention of audio records of non-emergency calls for ninety days per this agreement. Many of the incidents of malfeasance I have experienced interacting with Sheriff’s dispatch concern the non-emergency lines. This allows dispatchers such as Ellen Anderson to run interference for deputies.

Require retention of audio records of emergency calls for ninety days per this agreement. This will provide a chain of evidence to ensure accountability of dispatch and police personnel.

As far as I know, there is currently no state law that mandates storage of these records. For example, the SB1304 Body Cam bill passed in 2015 does not have criminal penalties for deleting or altering video evidence, or disabling recording devices. This was done at the urging of police unions. Therefore the Body Cam bill is a hollow joke.

As a result, only two of five cameras on scene at the Laquan McDonald shooting by Chicago police were "working" at the time. Police cannot police themselves, ever.

Continuing on page 81, section 9 reads in part: "All individuals necessary to operate the consolidated PSAP shall be employees of Whiteside. Supervision of dispatchers, shall be within the sole control and authority of Whiteside."

Once again, the people of Sterling and Rock Falls will not control their dispatch center, the Sheriff will. I cringe for your citizens to think of dispatch supervisor Ellen Anderson "training" your employees and teaching them "here's how we do things around here."

Being Sheriff's employees, they will next attend picnics with the deputies to be inculcated into the corrupt patronage culture of "us and them" and taught how to run interference for the deputies. Lessons to be administered outside the official textbooks of course. A truly frightening thought for anyone concerned with public safety in Whiteside county.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

If the people of Sterling and Rock Falls accept the proposed IGA for dispatch consolidation as is, you lose. Your families and your personal safety is in danger if this deal is controlled by the Sheriff's office. If you wish to be part of the corrupt past of Whiteside county, do nothing and the good old boys will make the decisions for you, as evidenced here.

Those that are concerned about the future of Whiteside county will wish to attend the Executive committee meeting at the courthouse on March 14, 2017, where the IGA is on schedule for discussion. I predict the good old

boys will try to ram it through, with the excuse, "we have a deadline from the state, we have to get something done."

The proposed IGA is then scheduled for vote before the full county board on March 21, 2017. If the people of Sterling and Rock Falls do not wish to be controlled by the Whiteside Sheriff for the next twenty to thirty years, attend and look out for your interests.

I am willing to bet that the state of Illinois will grant a stay of enforcement for dispatch consolidation if more time is necessary to negotiate a fair agreement.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Rizzo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Rizzo