

VILLAGE OF GOODRICH  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Meeting was called to order by President Wartella at 10:00 am

PRESENT: Jackson, McAbee, Wartella, Horton, Morey, Admin. Sidge, Clerk Schierup, Atty. James Hammond.

ABSENT: None

Explanation of purpose of meeting. Mrs. Wartella explained that the council would discuss the request for the resignation of the Village Administrator as Sidge does not enjoy the confidence of the council.

PUBLIC INQUIRY: Wartella read the rules for Public Comment

Norm Bass, Hawthorne Ridge – questioned the procedure for the hiring of a municipal attorney and handed the councilmembers a document. Bass is concerned about the way in which the attorney was hired and questioned the legality. He stated that standard hiring practices of advertising, obtaining resume's, interviewing and doing background checks, etc., were not followed. He questioned the necessity of excessive special meetings.

Steve Keehn , Erie Street – My question is what are the checks and balances. Maybe she (Sidge) sees things with her years of experience that new councilmembers may not see. Asked the reason for the number of special meetings and stated that it was sneaky to hold special meetings during the day on a Friday when people are working and unable to attend.

Angie Adamec, Dutch Road – Stated that the new council members gained office by rumor mongering and promises of reduced spending but are costing the Village money. You have an agenda and are firing people who get in your way, first the Village attorney and now Jakki Sidge. Are you running a smear campaign to get rid of her? I never suspected corruption in government until the new council took office. Ethics are out the window with a council that is sliding in special meetings that should be reserved for emergencies. Mr. McKenney is no longer handling the lawsuit that we were told he would continue on.

Keith Walworth, Pine St. - Jakki has been an excellent employee. She has brought more money into this community than anyone else. The projects she has gotten funding for include the Bike path, Hegel Road bridge, Erie St. culvert, Sidewalks and street lighting, pathway, bridges and streetlights on M-15, Erie st. right turn lane, Hegel Rd. west, Dutch Road bridge. She is a tremendous asset to the community and should not be fired.

Doreen Hogness, Park Drive - Since the November 2010 election, I am aware of three special Village council meetings: Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. and February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Couldn't the agenda items of the two special meetings in February have waited until our regular meeting on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>? The Feb 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was to hire Plante Moran to do a study on village operations and the main topic of the Feb 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was to ask our Village Administrator to resign. The safety of our community would not

have been in danger if we waited a few more days and put these topics on the Feb 14<sup>th</sup> agenda. Why was it so urgent that these meetings had to be held before Feb 14<sup>th</sup>?

The special meeting on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> awarded a contract to Plante Moran for a price of \$12,000-\$15,000. This came about because Municipal Consulting Services could not comply with the April 11<sup>th</sup> completion date; however, they would have been able to complete the project by June 1st for a cost of \$11,700. So in order to get a study back six weeks early, the job was given to Plante Moran for a higher price (possibly \$3,700 more). What exactly is the hurry? Let me again say that Mr. McAbee and Mr. Jackson campaigned on saving the village money; this sure is foolish spending of my tax dollars.

Then we have the Feb 11<sup>th</sup> special meeting asking for the resignation of our Village Administrator. At a prior meeting it was stated that no jobs or services would be in jeopardy until the study was completed. However, once again Ms. Wartella, Mr. McAbee and Mr. Jackson are impatient and can't wait for the results of the study. They would rather waste money, call a special meeting and ask the Administrator to resign by Feb 24th. If she does not resign by that time, the Village attorney will start termination proceedings. A case of more wasted money! Are we on a cost savings mission, a witch hunt or an in your face "I'll show you who's in charge" vendetta? Has anyone thought to sit down with the Administrator and pick her brain, learn from her and capture the vast knowledge she possesses? After 20 years of being a civil servant and doing a lot for this community, she's being asked to resign. This is out of control governing.

I was a civil servant for 37 years. If I tried to get rid of every person that thought differently than me, I would have been doing a disservice to my position. My whole goal as a civil servant was to support our soldiers in the field by listening and evaluating all opinions that supported that goal, even if they were different than mine. As civil servants, the goal of all members of the Goodrich Village Council should be to support the residents of the Village by maintaining services as well as listening and responding to ALL residents' concerns, even if their opinions differ from council members.

Ms. Wartella, Mr. Jackson and Mr. McAbee need to get beyond the mindset that it's time to get rid of the "good ole boys". It was the "good ole boys" that reduced our taxes by 30% a few years back. These three council members need to start acting responsibly and without haste. It would do our community good if they put their efforts into preserving Goodrich instead of tearing it apart.

Shirley Kautman Jones, business owner, M-15 - for the past 25 years Jakki has been helpful and proactive with the business community. She has upheld the ordinances and encouraged new business  
Motion to close public comment

Moved by Wartella, seconded by McAbee

No vote taken

1. Request for resignation of village administrator.

**MOTION: To request the resignation of Jakki Sidge on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2011 and if she refuses council will direct the village attorney to send a 30 day notice.**

**Moved by Jackson, seconded by McAbee**

**Jackson Yes, McAbee Yes, Wartella Yes, Horton No, Morey No.**

2. Request to village administrator for keys to any and all locked doors, cabinets in the Village of Goodrich administrative building, DPW garage, DPW vehicles, and DPW offices.

**MOTION: To request to village administrator for keys to any and all locked doors, cabinets in the Village of Goodrich administrative building, DPW garage, DPW vehicles, and DPW offices.**

**Moved by Wartella, seconded by McAbee**

**Wartella repeated the motion with the addition of “to the Village President” and called for support again, seconded by McAbee. The first motion was not rescinded or amended and was still on the table. The vote is attributed to the motion on the table.**

**Jackson Yes, McAbee Yes, Wartella Yes, Horton No, Morey No.**

3. Request to village administrator to make her computer available to copy the hard drive.

**MOTION: To Request to village administrator to make her computer available to copy the hard drive.**

**Moved by Wartella, seconded by Jackson**

**Jackson Yes, McAbee Yes, Wartella Yes, Horton No, Morey No.**

4. Order village administrator not to delete any e-mails.

**MOTION: To order village administrator not to delete any e-mails.**

**Moved by Wartella, seconded by McAbee**

**Jackson Yes, McAbee Yes, Wartella Yes, Horton No, Morey No.**

**MOTION: To adjourn**

**Moved by McAbee, seconded by Jackson**

**All present voting in the affirmative**

Adjournment at 10:31