

VILLAGE OF ELIZABETH
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Village Hall / 200 E. Myrtle St. / Elizabeth, IL

Wednesday, June 5th, 2024 @ 6:45 p.m.

Attending: Jason Thomasson-Mayor; Michael Sellers, Nate Karberg, Denise Anderson, Judy Glew-Trustees; Duane Brotherton-Public Works; Karla Rolwes-Clerk
Absent: Terry Kurt-Village Attorney; Craig Ketelsen-Trustee

Audience: Steve Wyland-General Manager of the Galena Territory Association; Cheryl Rife-Elizabeth Area Chamber President; Michael Dittmar-Citizen; Chance Newcomber-Owner/Operator of Driftless Helicopters; Paul & Jamie Kluzek-property owners near the subject properties

- I. Call to Order – Mayor Thomasson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.
- II. Roll call – 4 trustees present; 1 absent

Mayor Thomasson asked if anyone wished to comment at this time:

- Steve Wyland spoke first and stated he has received a “couple complaints” from home owners in the territory about helicopters going over their homes. He feels the board should take more time to make a decision on these annexations to consider the “negative impact” it will have and to answer more questions and concerns from the community.
- Chance Newcomber spoke next. He introduced himself, gave a brief summary of his background as a pilot in the Florida area, then explained the general flight patterns of his tours. 30 minute flights, typically between the 4-7 p.m. time frame and he stated he has all of his required certifications and will follow the FAA rules as he’s always done.
- Cheryl Rife spoke next. She expressed her opinion that this area needs more “experiences” to draw tourists to our area and that this is a great and unique experience that we can offer in our small town to get people to visit. She stated that she also owns the B&B in Elizabeth and it will be a way to draw more business to that too. She feels the annexation in to the Village of Elizabeth will allow this process to be simple and easy, which is the way it should be.
- Mike Dittmar spoke next. He is a local resident of Elizabeth and former Elizabeth Mayor. He stated that small towns like Elizabeth need things like this to keep them going so they don’t die. He questioned why the Territory Assoc. would have a problem with this when they have their own private heli pad. He fully supports the annexation. He stated Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa is excited to have this in our area as it will draw guests to their resort.
- Paul Kluzek spoke next. He lives to the south of the subject property. He and his wife Jamie used to live in town in Elizabeth and moved out to that area years ago to get more space and quiet. His main concern is the noise.
- Jamie Kluzek followed up from what Paul said to ask if there are rules and regulations Driftless Helicopter Tours will need to follow and if there is a noise ordinance.

- Chance Newcomer responded that Driftless Helicopter tours will be as mindful as possible to the land owners. He stated the airspace is regulated by the FAA as much as some of us may not like it.
- Steve Wyland spoke again stating the Galena Territory Assoc. used to have a helipad but no longer do.

At this time no one else had any other comments so Mayor Thomasson asked for a motion on the action items below.

- III. Discussion and possible action to approve the Pre-Annexation agreement for the following parcels: 07-000-236-15 and 07-000-233-06 – Both of these parcels are owned by the same person, who requested to be annexed into the Village. **Motion to approve. 1st Michael. 2nd Nate. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.**
- IV. Discussion and possible action to approve the Pre-Annexation agreement for parcel 07-000-149-06
 - This is the parcel which Jo Daviess County Local Foods plans to develop. **Motion to approve. 1st Denise. 2nd Judy. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.**
- IV. Other Comments – A public hearing is scheduled for 7/10 at 6:45 at Village Hall to further discuss these annexations and address comments/questions.
- VI. Adjourn – **Motion to adjourn. 1st Judy. 2nd Denise. All ayes. Motion carried. 7:07 p.m.**

Submitted by: Karla Rolwes; Clerk