

**July 16, 2013
Executive Session**

**State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in Executive Session on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 7:57 p.m. in the Stickney Village Conference Room, 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Cook County, Illinois

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk stated that the session began at 7:57 p.m. with the following people in attendance: Mayor Deborah Morelli, Trustees Walik, Savopoulos, White, De Leshe, Gomez, and Lazansky, Village Clerk Audrey McAdams, and Attorney Donald Kreger.

Clerk McAdams asked that all in attendance to turn off their phones. Phone activity can be considered a meeting within a meeting. A reminder was given that it is unethical to disclose closed session activity. This is something that the Attorney General would have to deal with. Attorney Donald Kreger reminded people that they should not include in this meeting a topic that they are not suppose to discuss in this particular meeting. Certain things, as an example, such as a certain position and to have a person fill the position. It is his understanding that there will be two topics discussed at this meeting.

Trustee De Leshe began by explaining that this meeting is being held to resolve the legal bill submitted by Attorney John Xydakis. Trustee Jeff Walik asked that when we go over this he is asking that we be fair to each other and not to lie. He felt that Xydakis was padding his bill and not just helping Mayor Morelli. Trustee White agreed that he is entitled to some of these charges but not to all of these charges. Unless, every one of them can be explained. Trustee De Leshe objected to his name being used in some of the charges. Trustee Gomez stated that she is new and is willing to work with everyone. She noticed that her name was included in this bill.

Attorney Kreger asked if there was any billing for work that was done prior to his appointment. The answer was no. Trustee White said that Xydakis has no municipal law background. We cannot take the funds of our residents to pay someone for a learning experience. There are other qualified people here every day. None of us were asked to help either. It was rough for Mayor Morelli. It was rough for all of us. Trustee White stated that he believes that some of these charges were legitimate and many are not. There are many that are repetitive. He is entitled to some money but not all of it. Xydakis is not qualified. He used the example of the charge to change one line in an ordinance. We have more background of writing an ordinance than he does. That is his thought. It is my money; it is your money, we all pay taxes here.

Trustee White then addressed the AT&T issue. Xydakis drove around with that folder for three or four weeks. He tried to hand it off to everyone in his room. Donald Kreger

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wanted an explanation of the AT&T issue. The clerk explained that she gave Xydakis the folder on this project on the first day Mayor Morelli was in office. It was a project that required the signing of a contract for work they wanted to do on Home School property. After three weeks Clerk McAdams took the folder back. The issue was resolved in 10 minutes with Attorney Donald Kreger. She also refuted aspects of the bill that included her name. They could have been nothing more than Xydakis knocking on her door asking her how do I get all of the ordinances.

Donald Kreger explained that some things he should get paid for and other things you just don't do. He went on to give an example of how he himself looked at our current ordinances to education himself. He would never charge for this. He needed to update himself. It is preparation. He gave additional preparation stagey training for being a prosecutor. Mr. Kreger went on to explain adjudication court. He felt all of these examples are not billable.

Mayor Morelli told us that it is hard for her to say things against John Xydakis. He was helpful to her in the beginning. She mentioned one of the items on the bills was a meeting he had with Fred Schimel. She didn't think it should be billed.

Trustee White felt that Xydakis should be entitled to half of the bill and the \$1800 for prosecutor and adjudication. Attorney Kreger said that it is quite generous. It is not something that drives him into the ground. Trustee De Leshe said that he thinks that Xydakis has done work. He would be agreeable to giving him half to avoid going over the bill line-by-line.

Trustee White felt that Xydakis should not be getting a board meeting packet.

Donald Kreger explained that he does not bill to answer questions from trustees. When people want to call and ask a question, they should not be afraid that their name will appear on a bill. He invited people to call if they have a question.

A question was asked if the bill has already been paid. Trustee White mentioned that Treasurer Kasknica is a secretive person. He wondered why Treasurer Kasknica is here every weekend for three or four hours at a time. He felt we should have a forensic audit done. It would start a clean slate.

Trustee Walik asked about a billed item from 5/22/12 that mentioned a labor problem between two employees. Mayor Morelli thought it may have been about the two public works employees that were called back. Complaints were made that the charge was \$700. Another item was questioned. The bill entry on 5/24/13 stated a conflict between two trustees. Trustee Walik wanted to know what this means. He said that if there was anyone here, the mayor, the police chief and there is a problem between themselves and a trustee and they are not notified, it is lawsuit time.

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Donald Kreger is going to recommend to the Mayor that if there is a political battle, this is not village business. Trustee Savopoulos chimed in that it is not village business. Trustee Walik continued to address another item on the bill such as reviewing Kusper's bills. Clerk McAdams asked why Xydakis brings his brother. Trustee De Leshe didn't know about this. He asked if Xydakis is qualified to do what he is doing.

Donald Kreger mentioned that you could talk to the police officers to find out. Trustee White attested that he could have done a better job at the last adjudication meeting. Xydakis took someone into the Mayor's office and closed the door for a private meeting. The person who was charged with possession of cannabis and her attorney. Someone overheard the woman say that she could get rid of the cannabis portion of her arrest and just make it a parking violation.

Trustee White came up with \$5,730 as half of the amount of the bill. This is half of the total bill he submitted.

Donald Kreger thought it would be best to put in into the warrant portion of the bill at the next meeting or as a separate item. It is up to you to tell the audience.

Trustee Walik repeated a statement he heard that Xydakis said that he better get paid in full or he will sue us. Kreger felt that if he does that than you could pay the amount and call it separation pay. Trustee White reminded people in attendance not to discuss this with anyone. Mayor Morelli felt this is the best discussion we have had since she came into office.

John Xydakis will be talked to. Donald Kreger will hold a discussion with Xydakis about the ethics of his billing. Kreger invited people to freely call him about procedural questions. Trustee De Leshe asked if there are other bills pending. Kreger said that if there is additional time in court, the base bill could be larger.

Other examples were given on the Xydakis bill. Donald Kreger talked about a dangerous building case. The board needs to authorize it. The clerk questioned possible retaliation from Xydakis because he is not getting paid in full. Kreger said that Xydakis needs to be

told that this board acted reasonably in regards to this bill. Kreger will take a copy of the bill and tell him that this is what you shouldn't do. Kreger or the Morelli will tell Kurt what the amount should be to include in the warrant list.

Kreger wished that the project on the east end would come to fruition by the end of the year. It will be a truck stop. It will not be a TIF.

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Mayor Morelli adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Clerk

Approved by me, this 25th day of July, 2013

Deborah E. Morelli, May