

VILLAGE OF MAHOMET
STUDY SESSION
AUGUST 18, 2015

The Village of Mahomet Board of Trustees met for a Study Session, immediately following a Special Board of Trustees meeting, Tuesday August 18, 2015 at the Village of Mahomet Administrative Offices, 503 E. Main St., Mahomet, IL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Colravy, Vicki Cook, Andy Harpst, Donald Lynn, Bill Oliger, and Brian Metzger.

OTHERS PRESENT: Village President Sean Widener, Village Administrator Patrick Brown, Village Clerk Cheryl Sproul, Village Attorney, Jim Evans, Chief of Police Mike Metzler, Mahomet Citizen Editor Amelia Benner, Greg Pasley, Don Clapper, Bill Dale, Suzanne Ronne and her son Ben, a Boy Scout.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

President Widener called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Dispensing with the Pledge since it was done at the Special Board meeting. Roll Call was done for the record and a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

PRESENTATIONS:

FROM "MIDDLETOWN TO MAHOMET" – GREG PASLEY:

Widener stated he had met with Pasley-and went over his research and the document he had prepared and had been distributed to the Board.

Pasley thanked the Board for allowing him to come and speak. He stated his family had been residents of Mahomet since 1848 before there was a Board of Trustees. Pasley stated Widener had asked him to clarify the name Middletown and subsequently naming of Mahomet.

Pasley stated he started 6 years ago doing family history and one thing led to another and it became more and more interesting that he continued to look into the history of Mahomet.

He stated he had always been interested why the name Middletown and why the name Mahomet. He stated he had always heard the stories about where the names came from but wanted more detail.

He said there was never any details about Mahomet's founder Daniel T. Porter so his little quest turned into a major one. As he began his research into Daniel Porter other interesting facts were unveiled and led to a larger research project.

Pasley stated he found that Porter was one of 3 families from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire that settled in Indiana. One family, the Buseys came to this area in 1830 and bought a piece of land in what is now Urbana and reported to the others the good farm ground and they picked up and moved here in 1832. Eventually, Daniel Porter married Mr. Busey's daughter but didn't acquire land until 1836 which was Middletown.

He stated that Main Street followed an old Indian trail and that is why Main Street is at a 17 degree angle.

He stated one reasoning for the Middletown name was because it was half way between Bloomington and Danville, but at the time Bloomington was not even Bloomington then or a very significant town.

Pasley stated after studying the family closer, he found the Porters were from Middletown, Connecticut. He believed that is where the name Middletown came from.

He said he also found out that the Porters lived in peace with a Mohegan tribe while in Connecticut. The "chief" was called a "Sachem" named Uncas. Uncas had a son Mahomet, who had a son Mahomet Weyonomon. He stated Mahomet Weyonomon was a well-educated Mohegan who spoke several languages, including English and Latin. Pasley stated he believed that the name "Mahomet" was selected by the same Daniel T. Porter because of his familiarity with the Sachem "Mahomet Weyonomon" of the Mohegan Tribe.

Pasley said one story was that Mahomet was named after the Masonic Lodge, but Pasley found that the Masons didn't settle here until 1856 and no Porter was listed as a member of the Masons.

In 1840, Daniel Porter wanted a post office and petitioned for one and named it Mahomet. Pasley stated according to his research the Postal service did not name the post office Mahomet, as one explanation stated.

Harpst asked if there was a collation between Mahomet, IL and Mahomet TX. Pasley stated John Ader, who lived in Monticello and did work for Benjamin Franklin Harris, had a brother George who lived outside of Middletown. Ader moved to Texas and named the town Mahomet after Mahomet Illinois.

Pasley stated he had been to Mahomet, Texas and our Mahomet is quite a Metropolis compare to Mahomet, Texas.

Harpst asked if it was possible that if the post office was named Mahomet when the lodge came, that the lodge took its name from the Post Office.

Pasley stated he had read the Masonic statutes and that Theodore Brown's brother was a mason and they could have asked for the lodge name to be the same as the post office. He stated whether the Mason's knew where the name came from was questionable.

When the railroad came through in 1869 a depot was established, but there was another Middletown in Logan County and the name needed to be changed and any freight that came in was listed as Mahomet. Pasley stated Mahomet was established as a town in March 1872 and that it was run under a town council format or a town meeting.

Thomas Mortimer Brown created a subdivision and called it the town of Mahomet.

Cook asked if the T.M. Brown was the same person that was seen on the plats. Bill Dale who was in attendance stated he lives in T. M. Brown's original house on Walnut Street.

Pasley stated there would be a series of articles in the Mahomet Citizen outlining his research and he felt it was important for Village residents to know who built the town.

Pasley also stated the reason he did not believe the name had any Islamic ties was that Porter was a Baptist minister and he would have never named the town after Mohammed the Prophet, that would have been blasphemous.

Brown wondered if there was more significance as to why Porter would have named it after the Indian. He asked Pasley if his research was done. Pasley stated he was not done and he was certain that the other stories of how the town was named were incorrect.

Pasley stated the Indians had vacated this area before the Porters came so there would not have been a local "chief" to name the town after.

Pasley stated there were squatters here before the Porters.

Widener thanked Pasley for his efforts on behalf of the Board and the town. Pasley stated it was his goal to correct the misinformation that was circulating.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/OTHER APPROVALS:**FINANCE****TREASURER'S REPORT**

In Treasurer Schacht's absence, Brown stated she included her report for their review. Brown reviewed the revenues and expenditures and stated the Real Estate check had been received.

Lynn moved, Oliger seconded, "TO PLACE THE TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2015 BOARD AGENDA." ROLL CALL: ALL YES. Motion carried

BILL LIST

Brown reviewed the additional bill list and stated he did not think there would be any additional bills next week.

Colravy moved, Cook seconded, "TO PLACE THE BILL LIST ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2015 BOARD AGENDA." ROLL CALL: ALL YES. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR AUDITING SERVICES – BRAY, DRAKE, LILES AND RICHARDSON, URBANA, ILLINOIS:

Brown stated the Village had been using this agency for quite some time. He noted that at one point the service was put out to bid but no other bids had been received.

Brown stated Schacht was considering retirement and suggested the Village remain consistent with the auditors and recommended a 3-year contract. **Lynn moved, Oliger seconded, "TO PLACE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR AUDITING SERVICES – BRAY, DRAKE, LILES AND RICHARDSON, URBANA, ILLINOIS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 25, 2015 BOARD MEETING." ROLL CALL: ALL YES. Motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS****WATER/WASTEWATER**

It was noted that the Water/Wastewater monthly report was from April.

TRANSPORTATION

Lynn asked about the salt situation. Brown stated Crowley reached out last week to CMS and they have not completed everything yet. Crowley has been told that Mahomet was on the list but no solid information could be provided. May know something in 3 weeks or so.

PARKS AND RECREATION**POLICE/ESDA****COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Brown stated he anticipated there would be an EDC meeting next week even though the Joint meeting was held last week. Brown stated not much has come out of that Commission in the last few months.

Brown stated there has been a lot going on in Planning but lately it has been light due to getting out of the season for development.

The Joint meeting with the school will be at Middletown Prairie at 6:30 p.m. September 8th. Brown stated normally the Joint meetings take place on Monday, but due to Labor Day the meeting was moved to Tuesday. He stated the Village departments will meet in a combined Study Session on Sept. 15th.

Brown asked Trustees to submit any discussion items for the Joint School meeting to him.

Brown also announced that Representative Bill Mitchell would be holding a Mahomet Village Hall meeting, from 1-2 on August 20th.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Widener reminded the Board of the following meetings:

Subdivision Ordinance Open House,#1, August 20, 2015 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Presentation from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Board meeting – August 25, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

Subdivision Ordinance Open House #2, August 26, 2015 – from 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Presentation from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Widener stated the Sangamon River Music Festival would be Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29th. He stated booklets were available in the lobby.

Widener stated he would be meeting with the Realtors group to discuss residential growth.

Evans reminded that Plan and Zoning Commission will hold two public hearings one in September 1 and October on the revised Subdivision Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

(Discussion of any items that the Trustees may have for new business not listed on the agenda. No formal action will be taken on these items during this proceeding)

Colravy reminded everyone of the 5th Annual Duck Race, Saturday, during the Festival, at 6:00 p.m. He stated ducks were \$5.00 and there were great prizes this year and he added that even if you are not a winner the proceeds go to a good cause.

Brown stated that Waldinger was needing volunteers for the dunk tank.

Lynn stated that he had been receiving comments from the neighbors of the former Transportation building and they were saying the site was the cleanest it had been for years.

Brown reported 7 people participated in the landscape drop off on August 15th. He stated he anticipated more participation in September since that would be a collection “off” month.

Cook asked Mr. Dale, Mr. Clapper and Trustee Olinger how far back their families went as residents of Mahomet. Mr. Clapper and Mr. Dale stated their families came to Mahomet about the same time, which was a long time ago. She stated there were several historic families in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Harpst moved, Lynn seconded, “TO ADJOURN AT 7:00 P.M.” ROLL CALL: ALL YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cheryl Sproul

Cheryl Sproul
Village Clerk/FOIA Officer
approved as presented, August 25, 2015