



Village of Downs
 211 S. Seminary, PO Box 18
 Downs, IL 61736-0018
 Voice/Fax: 309-378-3221
 Email: DownsVillageHall@hotmail.com
 Website: www.VillageOfDowns.org

Mayor, Village Board and Clerk

President/Mayor	Water/Sewer/ President Pro Tem	Parks/Youth Center/Food Pantry	Streets	Public Safety/Services	Finance	Building	Clerk
Mike James	Mike Freimann	Mary Goveia	Danny Lush	Maureen Roach	Susan Luke	Paul Myszka	Julie James

From the Desk of the Mayor
 February 2014

This month our Board didn't have much legislative action to consider, but had plenty of discussion. I will highlight a few things, but please see the meeting overview and other reports.

First, I brought up several items to the Board regarding upcoming training I will be attending, a great meeting with Corn Belt Energy, our first TIF project application and the bar now has food. Please visit the Ups and Downs Roadhouse and try their burger, pork chops, brats or grilled cheese.

The Board heard a presentation from an company about Governmental Aggregation for the supply side of our energy. I am sure you will hear more about this over the next 6 months.

Trustee Freimann and Kevin Whitehouse have completed the DCEO grant survey and will be using this \$25,000 grant to rehabilitate our water filter. This work should improve our color and iron content. The next step will be review, verification of funding and a formal project from DCEO before the work can be completed.

Next month, we will again take up the question of police services. We were unable to finalize some terms being requested by their insurance company. Our lawyer will need to work out acceptable language and hopefully we can make this work.

Also, next month we will hold the required public hearing on the preliminary plan for the new Beecher Trails Subdivision. Our engineer has reviewed the plan and changes have already been made to address our concerns. The public hearing will be March 6, 6 pm at the Village Hall. The preliminary plan can be reviewed at the hall during normal business hours.

Finally, I would like to make a few comments regarding the use of snowmobiles within the Village. Our ordinances (Chapter 8, Article VII) do allow the use of snowmobiles within the Village and it contains allowed locations and rules for usage. This is outdated and we will need to address and modify. **Please respect the property of others by not driving on the land or property of which you do not have permission.**

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, explanation or clarification.

In your service,
 Mike James
 309-830-7374
Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org

Other Positions and Committee Chairs

Public Works Superintendent
 Kevin Whitehouse

Treasurer
 Alan Zwilling

Zoning Enforcement
 Lyndall Cuba

Zoning Board Chairperson
 Linda Bowman

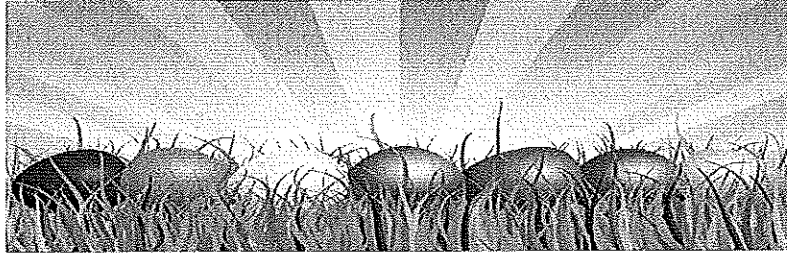
VILLAGE OF DOWNS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 5th, will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Village.

Start time is 10:30, following the first Village Park Committee Breakfast of the year.

Come join us between 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. for a delicious breakfast, and stay for the

Annual Egg Hunt.



VILLAGE OF DOWNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Overview
7:00 PM
February 6, 2014

Village Hall
211 S. Seminary St,
PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736

1. Mayor Mike James called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Roll Call was taken. Trustees Roach, Goveia, Freimann, Myszka, Luke and Lush were all present. Also present was Treasurer Zwilling, Clerk James and Attorney Dawn Wall.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. The agenda order was approved. Resolution 2014-3 item was removed and discussion items a, b were added.
5. Kevin Whitehouse gave the superintendent report.
Kevin's goal of going to all radio reads was hampered by weather. There were no water main leaks in January. However, he found one on Monday Feb 3 that is substantial. Inclement weather has caused other problems at the plant.
6. Alan Zwilling gave the treasurer report.
7. The Mayoral Report can be found in the flyer.
8. The Trustee Reports can be found in the flyer.
9. Discussion
 - a. Government Aggregation - Electricity Supply-Rob Wielt from Affordable Gas and Electric spoke to the board.
 - b. Eagle Scout Report
Kyle Steinmates and Tyler James both updated the board about the progress of their Eagle Scout projects.
 - c. DCEO Grant Survey
Trustee Freimann updated the board on the DCEO Grant. It has been decided that the grant be spent on water filtration.
 - d. Purposed Chapter 12 Changes
Trustee Freimann worked on Chapter 12 Changes for voluntary shut off fees and delinquent water bills.
10. Public Comment came from Fire Chief Mike Manint, Don Adams, Mr. Curt Simonson, and Margaret Keylin. The questions were in reference to the Beecher Trails Subdivision.
11. New Business
 - a. Motions
 - i. A Motion was made to Approve January 2, 2014 Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes. Approved
 - ii. Motion to Approve Continuance of the Village of Downs Regular Board Meeting to ___, 7:00 pm at the Village Hall No Action
 - iii. A Motion was made to Approve Adding Jill Kasparssek and Cyndi Miller to the Events Committee. Approved
 - iv. A Motion was made to Approve Donation of \$100 to the McLean County SHOW Bus. Approved
 - b. Ordinances
 - i. A Motion was made for Ordinance 2014-03 Approving an Amending the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Heyworth and the Village of Downs to Meet the Contract Operator Requirements of the Illinois EPA for Certified Water Operators. Approved
 - c. Resolutions
 - i. Resolution 2014-R03 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for Police Protection Between the Village of Downs and the City of Le Roy, McLean County, Illinois. Removed
12. Old Business
 - a. Postponed

VILLAGE OF DOWNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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7:00 PM
February 6, 2014

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- i. Motion to Approve Recommended Village Donation of \$___ to Steven Kretz' Boy Scout Eagle Project. No Action
 - ii. Motion to Approve Authorization of Kyle Stinemates' Eagle Scout Project Plan. No Action
0. A Motion was made to Enter Executive Session for Personnel reasons. Approved
 1. Action on Executive Session Items
 - a. A Motion was made to Approve Salary Increase of \$2000.00/ yr. for Kevin Whitehouse
The Motion was Amended to Approve Base Salary Increase of \$2000.00/ for Kevin Whitehouse Approved
 2. A Motion was made to approve payment of bills. Approved
 3. A Motion for Adjournment was made. Approved

Senior News:

Soup was a welcome menu for the January meeting. Three different soups (chili, potato, and chicken noodle) with salads and desserts made a delicious meal. Birthdays in January – Barb Folks, Jim Schaefer, Mary Romine and Ruby Wilkie were honored. Mary Bell celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house on Sunday, February 2nd. Francis & Ardell Walle had an anniversary on January 28. They are unable to attend our meetings due to health issues.

Due to the weather, only a small group attended the breakfast on Thursday, February 6th at Shannons.

The February 19th meeting will be at Jack's Cafe in LeRoy at 11:30 pm

Our prayers go out to the family of Thelma Newberry as she recently passed away.



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Finance Report 02/06/2014

Migration to Quickbooks

The Village of Downs is currently in the process of migrating to QuickBooks accounting software. There are several benefits to the Village with making this software change, some of the most noteworthy benefits are: a transition to fund accounting, reduction of the number of bank accounts, and all checks will be printed from QuickBooks out of the General Fund checking account. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer have migrated several funds already – Their migration work will continue until all of the remaining funds have been setup and populated with data. I would like to say ‘Thank you’ to Alan and Carrie for their extra time and effort to complete training and set-up the new account software system for the Village.

Current Cash Balances – January Recap

	01/31/2014	12/31/2013
General Fund	163,601	186,467
Water Fund	115,212	125,301
Motor Fuel Fund	15,275	12,759
SAS – Streets	12,645	20,166
Water Maintenance	4,622	4,062
Sewer	55,448	47,936
DT TIF I	342,433	342,398
TIF II	269,261	272,247
Downs Village Market	2,079	2,123
Christmas Fund	1,206	819
Community Center Fund	<u>6,772</u>	<u>7,240</u>
TOTAL for all Funds	991,431	1,024,052

Please contact me with any questions concerning Village Finance, my cell number is 275-3038. Sincerely, Susan Luke

Public Works Superintendent
Kevin Whitehouse

Treasurer
Janice Cuba

Other Positions and Committee Chairs

Zoning Enforcement
Lyndall Cuba

Zoning Board Chairperson
Linda Bowman



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Village of Downs Buildings Report

February 6, 2014

The Village of Downs Development Committee met at the Village Hall on January 21, 2014. Review and discussion continued on "The Downs Strategic Development Plan". This plan will eventually be submitted to the Village Board for review and adoption and should help to give some direction to future planning in and around the Village.

Heyworth Public Library: This library can be a wonderful resource for Downs residents and many may not be aware that our property taxes help fund its operations. My family uses it often and for more than just books. You are able to check out movies and even Wilton cake baking pans. The library and its staff offer many services and programs such as Lego Tuesdays for the kids. Driving time to the Heyworth Library can be faster than going to the Bloomington Library and there is plenty of parking. It is nice to see such a well-run facility that utilizes our tax dollars and I encourage Downs residents to take advantage of what Heyworth Public Library has to offer. For more information, please visit www.heyworthlibrary.com and I will have a link to it placed on the Village of Downs website as well.

VILLAGE OF DOWNS POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT January 2014

Maureen Roach and Mayor James met with McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery, Jon Sandage and Lt. Mike Kline on December 11, 2013 to discuss an extension of county police coverage until July, 2014. An agreement regarding a three-year contract for police coverage between the City of Leroy and the Village of Downs will be voted on at the next board meeting held on February 6, 2014.

Public Works Superintendent
 Kevin Whitehouse

Treasurer
 Alan Zwilling

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 Lyndall Cuba

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Water and sewer report to the board for the month of January 2014

2/4/2014

The sewer lift station delivered 1,506,000 gallons to BNWRD for the month, averaging 48,500 per day. The total water pumped for the month was 2,309,800 gallons for an average of 74,500 gallons per day. The average iron concentration in the finished water was 1.16 PPM for the month. Conversion to all radio meter reads in the system is progressing. No main breaks or service line leaks for the month. The harsh weather conditions caused several issues at the water plant, the aerolater tank blower fan froze on several occasions as did the pre-chlorine feed line and the air wash lines. Multiple residents reported frozen water lines and one with a burst water meter. I will become the responsible operator in charge for Heyworth until the can fill the position permanently. Duties will include monitoring testing and water quality and signing the monthly operating report.

Kevin Whitehouse
 309-319-1010
 309-378-2137
downswaterplant@hotmail.com

Other Positions and Committee Chairs

Public Works Superintendent
 Kevin Whitehouse

Treasurer
 Alan Zwilling

Zoning Enforcement
 Lyndall Cuba

Zoning Board Chairperson
 Linda Bowman



VILLAGE OF DOWNS BILLING
211 S. Seminary St. PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736
309-378-3221

Monday through Friday 8-12 noon
Contacts: Ruth Hood, Janice Cuba, Malaina Myszka Leckner
Drop box for payments available 24 hours a day.



ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING BILLING ISSUES NEED TO BE DIRECTED TO THE VILLAGE HALL AT 378-3221 DURING OFFICE HOURS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8-12.

THANK YOU to everyone that has been submitting the cross connection survey and the water applications. We still have some forms that are outstanding. Please follow up with this ordinance requirement. Failure to submit the forms is a violation of the ordinance and can result in fines or discontinuation of service. Please contact the Village Hall with any questions.

REMINDER: The billing due date is the 15th of the month. Payments received after the 15th are subject to the late fees.



If using on-line banking to make your payments please be aware that the Village does not receive the funds via a transfer. Physical checks have to be sent to the Village, so time for the checks to arrive through the mail needs to be allowed for. We are in the process of providing the e-pay option. Please watch for future details.

Water Emergencies such as no water or water leaking need to be reported to Kevin Whitehouse at 378-2137 or 319-1010. The water trustee is Mike Freimann and he can be reached at 378-1538.



SEWER: Thank you to everyone that has made the connection and is helping the Village of Downs to be compliant with the IEPA mandate.

All remaining properties with access to the sewer main will be required to connect on or before June 1, 2019 or when any of those properties change ownership. Additionally, any new building constructed on property within 200 feet of the sewer line will also be required to connect.

Those that have not paid the BNWRD fee need to be aware that the fee is now **\$2,975**. Monthly bills now include the BNWRD Property Tax. This is not an optional fee, and the Village is responsible for paying this to BNWRD.



Garbage contact is Casali & Sons and they can be reached at 309-242-9001, or contact Maureen Roach, Garbage Trustee, at 378-1477. **REMINDER:** Yard waste, construction materials and electronics will not be picked up by the garbage company.



Curbside recycling is the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. Please be advised that there is to be **NO** styrofoam, plastic bags and no lids from bottles when recycling.



Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee
211 S. Seminary PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736-0018
309-378-3221

Street Report for February 2013

As you are all aware, winter has dealt us some unpleasant weather this past month or so. The streets department has worked very hard to keep the streets as clean and safe as possible. If it wasn't for our valuable employees, Endless help from Downs Township, and the countless hours our mayor has volunteered, none of this would be possible. They all deserve a big Thank You!

Previously, I had asked for the help of homeowners to do their part in keeping the sidewalks clear during the winter. I had some backlash from that, and rightfully so. It sounded like I was demanding/expecting residents to clean the sidewalks. That is not how I meant it. I basically was just asking that if you were out side cleaning your drive, to do what you could to help out. Anyway, I apologize for the way I conveyed things. Now, on a happier note, the village has invested in a garden tractor with a snowblower attachment. With this, it is my intention to maintain all the major sidewalks in town. Washington and Seminary streets will be the priority. If anyone needs assistance or knows of any other sidewalks that need to be cleared in town, please give me a call and we will be happy to do what we can to help.

The village has been offering a monthly pick up of yard waste and other burnable material. Due to equipment restraints, there is an immediate need to postpone this service till spring time. We will start this service back up in April 2014. However, if anyone has a special need and needs something picked up, you can call me to make special arrangements. That being said, please do not continue to pile up debris and leave it till April.

The Following Rules Apply:

- 1) **Pick up will be on the 1st Monday of each month:** If weather, holidays, or unforeseen circumstances prevent us from picking up on this day, Then pickup will be the following day.
- 2) Items to be picked up must be burnable (examples: leaves,sticks,branches,brush, etc.)
- 3) All items must be on a curb or driveway, as close to the road as possible, without creating a hazard in the road. (NOTE: Since we use a backhoe in most cases to accomplish this, we do not want to tear or rut up anyone's yards or ditches. If we can not reach it from the road or a driveway, we WILL NOT pick it up. If you can't get it near the road, please call me to make arrangements. 309-838-6031
- 4) There is to be **No Burning in Ditches**. This causes clogging and backups in our culverts. This is one of the primary reasons we are providing this service.

From our perspective, things have gone pretty well. I'm glad to see quite a few residents utilizing this service. If anyone has any suggestions or comments on how this service is going from their perspective, please call me to discuss. I would also like to thank Downs Township for their help, support, and use of their backhoe, to make this all possible. Also, please be aware not to put debris over any water inlets or culverts. If anyone has any other needs or suggestions on how we can better serve our residents, please call to discuss with me. Thank you

In your service,
Dan Lush - Village of Downs Trustee - Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks - 309-838-6031

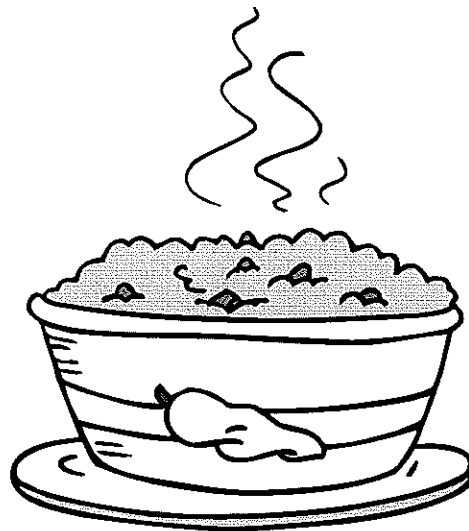
Join us at...

Downs United Methodist Church

...for the annual...

Chili/Potato Soup Supper

Mmm, mmm,
good!!



Just like
Granny
makes!

Sunday, March 2, 2014

4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Free-will offering accepted
for Good Samaritan Mission Fund.

Your Home Town Storage Facility

Downs Self Storage

119 Shaffer Drive

P.O. Box 84

Downs, IL 61736-0084

962-3137

Rental Unit Sizes Available:

6' x 10' with 4' x 7' door
10' x 12' with 9' x 7' door
10' x 18' with 9' x 7' door
10' x 24' with 9' x 7' door
From \$42/month

VILLAGE OF DOWNS
211 S. SEMINARY ST.
PO BOX 18
DOWNS, IL 61736-0018

RESIDENT
DOWNS IL 61736

DOWNS VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor	Mike James	830-7374
Clerk	Julie James	830-7373
Treasurer	Alan Zwilling	378-8554
Trustee	Maureen Roach	378-1477
	(Public Safety & Services)	
Trustee	Mary Goveia	212-0594
	(Parks/Youth Center/Food Pantry)	
Trustee	Danny Lush	838-6031
	(Streets, Alleys & Sidewalks)	
Trustee	Susan Luke	275-3038
	(Finance)	
Trustee	Michael Freimann	378-1538
	(Public Works)	
Trustee	Paul Myszka	558-4673
	(Building)	
Contact person for Pavilion reservations		
	Mary Goveia	212-0594
Non Emergency		Met-Com 888-5030
Emergency		Call 911