

Executive Session – 9/8/25

Trustee Reiss made a motion opening Executive Session. Trustee Andrade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members present: Pres. Munroe, Atty. Schuering, Trustee Andrade, Trustee Kindred, Trustee Eandi, Trustee Reiss, Trustee Carver, Clerk Gerberding

Pres. Munroe shared resumes for each candidate and explained the goal for tonight is to fill the open position on the board. We have 2 candidates to interview tonight. No votes will be done within this particular portion of the meeting. Atty. Schuering explained what can or cannot be asked. He suggested treating it like any job interview. The purpose is to allow you talk with each candidate and to talk amongst yourselves away from the general public. Trustee Kindred stated that Pres. Munroe could have simply chosen one but is giving us the opportunity to be involved – thank you for that!

Trustee Reiss asked Pres. Munroe for one strong point for each candidate. Pres. Munroe offered that Ms. Giles-Brown is newer to community and has an expansive resume. She seems to be a “think outside the box” thinker. Mr. Butcher served on the board previously and was an asset. He was born and raised in Rochester and raises his kids here. He is very familiar with the community and has contacts on both sides of the aisle to help get some potential funding for the Village.

Trustee Andrade pointed out Mr. Butcher was on Pres. Munroe’s campaign, as a paid consultant. Pres. Munroe confirmed that. Trustee Andrade went on to share what some of his internet research brought forward. Trustee Eandi spoke in support of Mr. Butcher.

Leigh Giles-Brown was the first candidate. Tell us about your interest in this position: She moved to Rochester about 5 years ago. She has family connections from her youth in Rochester. More of her family has moved to Rochester since she moved here. This will potentially be she and her spouse’s retirement location. She wants to give back to her community. It has a hometown feel. She sees how responsive residents of the school district are. Trustee Reiss asked if she has any experience with trustee/community/elected positions. She was PTA President when her sons were younger. She ran a Non-profit as well on the east coast. Nothing formally government related. Trustee Carver asked her to talk about her grant-related experience. She is at Lincoln Land Community College specifically to work with 3 programs and get grants for those programs up and going. She has received internal grants and also larger grants from state agencies. Atty. Schuering asked if those grants were do the research to find and write the grant or if they were grants already established and she was simply needed to write them. Ms. Giles-Brown explained there is a person at the college who specifically finds grants. Sometimes she calls and says, I found something what do you want to do with it? Ms. Giles-Brown then has to write application and oversee the grant administration – doing quarterly reports, etc.

Trustee Andrade asked what she saw as some areas for opportunity in Rochester. Ms. Giles-Brown stated she has been to the board once before about North Park and advocated for a Splash Pad type of set up in that area. She would also appreciate a dog park. She has also noticed the parking at the comfort station to the bike trail head can be tricky.

Ms. Giles-Brown was then excused.

Matt Butcher was the second candidate. Why are you interested in this position? He grew up in Rochester and his wife grew up here as well. He served for 6 years on the board previously. He also served on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a while. With that experience, he is familiar with what is needed and how the Village works.

Why does he want to come to this position?

One issue is that there have been issues at the school board, Village Board, Fire board and that has caused trust issues with the government. Another reason is he has been helping grow the community by size. Another reason is the park needs lots of improvement – playground, parking, ball fields. There is room for improvement on parks. He is aware that Sherman has TIF district money that Rochester doesn't have.

Mr. Butcher has worked with RYAA in the past and has a good relationship with the current RYAA President.

Trustee Reiss asked if he thought he could help the Village receive grants to help make improvements to the parks. Mr. Butcher responded, yes. Rep. Coffey is located across the hall from my office. There are lots of grants out there and available. One hang up that Rochester runs into is per capita per household limitations. That is where the community can get involved with sponsorship and such.

Trustee Andrade asked what were some big wins when you were on the board previously. The previous Village President wanted the Village to leave CWLP for water. There was another plant from the Illiopolis area that provided water. He was happy to pump the brakes on that decision and stayed with CWLP. Switching to that co-op could have been a disaster for the Village for several reasons. Getting the DG Market was another win, which was towards the end of his tenure on the board.

Trustee Kindred asked if he is appointed again, would he run again for the seat. Mr. Butcher answered yes. Trustee Kindred asked if he misses it. Mr. Butcher stated when he opted to leave, there were some board member issues, which he believes have since resolved themselves.

Atty. Schuering asked if he were to be selected, it could be pointed out that you helped get the current Village President get into her position. How do you respond to that? Mr. Butcher offered that he has been on the board before so I have the experience. I am from this community. Since I am from here, and people know me, I don't see that being an issue. It is defendable.

On an additional note, Mr. Butcher has checked with Don Gray's office to see if it is a conflict for him to serve on this board and the Sangamon/Menard County Board of Education. Don Gray's office confirmed that is it not a conflict.

Board member discussion:

Trustee Reiss stated that we have 2 good candidates. Outside leadership is good for Giles-Brown. State connections with Butcher gives him the edge.

Trustee Carver stated Butcher has the intelligence of what we can do. Both great candidates and both very close.

Trustee Eandi stated she has known Butcher for long a time and always comes through with flying colors.

Trustee Kindred offered Butcher has been there, done that for 6 years. What does he bring to the table? Did he use his state connections previously? 2 great candidates. He is leaning towards Giles-Brown due to the optics issue.

Trustee Andrade stated that he also works in the general assembly and has similar connections. Optics issue is a problem for him as well. Butcher's previous legal issues are a concern. He found some unsavory campaign tactics, which are problematic for him. His preference is Giles-Brown as a safer candidate.

Atty. Schuering stated whoever is chosen will be a qualified candidate. He doesn't have the same legal concerns as others have expressed. He could make an argument for or against either candidate. Giles-Brown – not from here, no experience on this type of board, might have issues separating her roles. But, how do you get experience without getting experience? Nothing wrong with a fresh set of eyes. Argument against Butcher – he is from here and he has a target on his back as he is already part of partisan politics. During campaign time, he won't be available to do Board work. However, he is an example of young leadership.

Pres. Munroe asked the attorney if we could appoint the non-selected person to a committee or another position. Atty. Schuering answered with yes, there are ways to get the other person involved.

Trustee Kindred stated the general consensus seems to be Butcher, but he would like to offer Giles-Brown something. Yes, definitely.

Trustee Carver made a motion to close executive session. Trustee Reiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 7:22.