

VILLAGE OF NORTH UTICA
2681 E Rte. 6 | Marseilles, Illinois 61341
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 7, 2017
AGENDA

- I. **6:00 p.m. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call – at Village Hall, 801 S. Clark St., Utica, IL 61373
- IV. Proceed to Zip Line Chicago, 2681 E. Rte. 6, Marseilles, IL 61341, for overview of property
- V. Board Discussion regarding a request from Zip Line Chicago open a business in the Village of North Utica on property currently owned by Dee Bennett, and leased by Kindred Spirits Distillery
 - a) Proposed 12 X 24 building for the purpose of office / ticket sales
 - b) Proposed signage for Zip Line Chicago – both locations
 - c) Proposed future shuttle services between the Utica and Marseilles Zip Line Locations
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Adjournment

Posted: 09-05-17

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MINUTES

At 6:02 pm the meeting was called to Order by Village President David Stewart who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Village Clerk Laurie Gbur called meeting attendance. Present at the meeting were Trustees Debbie Krizel, Mary Pawlak, Jim Schrader, John Schweickert, Joe Bernardoni and Ron Pawlak. Also present was Village Engineer Kevin Heitz and Zoning Enforcement Officer Curt Spayer.

Mayor Stewart stated that the purpose of the Special Committee Meeting is so that the Board can visit Zip Line Chicago in Marseilles to review the zip line operation and size of the towers. Zip Line Chicago would like to put up towers in Utica on property owned by Dee Bennett, and leased to Kindred Spirits. They are proposing to construct two towers of approx. 50 ft. each for the purpose of zip lining across the property. They would also like to put up a building for retail and ticket sales and possibly run shuttles between both locations.

At 6:06 pm the group departed the Village Hall and drove to Zip Line Chicago in Marseilles.

Mr. Steve Flynn greeted everyone and began the tour of the building and operations. He introduced his staff and spoke to the Board about the operation. They began the off-road adventure park in 2004 at the 'Cliffs' in Marseilles. They added zip lines in 2012. They would like to put up two to four zip lines in Utica. They would range from 600 ft. in length to 1,000 ft. and two of them may be dual racing lines. Mr. Flynn also mentioned the possibility that he would move a portable container zip line onto the property. This would include a rock climbing wall as well and the benefit is that it can be installed more easily and since its portable, it can be moved at any time, should they decide to install a more permanent structure. He also spoke about the safety of his operation and the equipment and gear that riders are required to wear.

Mayor Stewart asked about the size and location of the building they would like to put on the property.

Mr. Flynn stated that the building is 12 X 26 and would resemble a log cabin. It is a portable structure and would not have a permanent foundation. It will be located near the current Kindred Spirits building.

Mr. Flynn stated that the financial investment in the construction of zip lines and towers in the Village of North Utica would be approx. \$200,000. They would like to move the portable building onto the property right away so that they could establish themselves for the remainder of the year. They would plan to construct the zip lines in early spring 2018. The zip line business would then be open annually from mid-March through November. He also stated that he is looking forward to becoming a part of the community.

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Before leaving the tour, Village Treasurer Jamie Turczyn and Village Engineer Kevin Heitz decided to ride the zip lines. The Board asked questions about minimum and maximum height and weight for zip line riders as well as the cost of such.

Mr. Flynn stated that the minimum weight for a rider is 70 lbs. and 280 lbs. is the maximum and the cost is approx. \$20 per ride.

At 8:10 pm, the Board reconvened at the Village Hall. Motioned by Trustee Schrader, seconded by Trustee R. Pawlak.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Public Comment: Mr. Steve Stout, Ottawa Daily Times, had also joined the Village Board on the tour. He stated that he thought it was a safe operation and run very professionally.

Trustee R. Pawlak asked about the possible effect on traffic.

Trustee Schweickert suggested that in the future maybe some of the traffic would come off of Rt. 6.

With no additional comments or questions, it was motioned by Trustee Schrader, seconded by Trustee Bernardoni to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Gbur
Village Clerk