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Posted: 04/29/15

Village Council goes to compromise to get Siglow's appointments OK'd

by DENNIS A. SETTER
Contributing Editor

It took a compromise and four separate votes before the Romeo Village Council approved President Tadd Siglow's annual board appointments at last week's Monday night meeting.

Trustee Ron Rossell was not present at the April 20 meeting.

The compromise came in the form of Siglow agreeing to go along with increasing the size of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors from eight members to 10 members plus the village president and keep Carol Humphreys, business owner in the district and Lisa Hall, village resident on the board.

Siglow's list of appointments had taken both Humphreys and Hall off of the board. Humphreys served as the board's treasurer and Hall as secretary.

Some council members were against his decision to drop Humphreys and Hall from the board, particularly Humphreys who DDA Chairman Randall Seidel said saved the DDA close to \$5,000 a year because of her accounting expertise. Humphreys is owner of Romeo Accountants.

"I didn't think we were appointing accountants," said Siglow, adding that the DDA could always go to an outside source for accounting services. "I thought we were appointing board members. That would be up to the DDA to determine who that would be."

"It doesn't make sense to use taxpayer dollars when they already have a qualified, capable person who is willing to volunteer their services, but that's just me," said Trustee Christine Malzahn.

One area Siglow did not compromise on was the services of Mark Clark as village prosecutor. Trustee Bob Hart called for finding another attorney to handle those duties citing Bruce and Washington townships as having somebody in that position for \$80 an hour and that would represent a budget savings for the village. Clark's fee as prosecutor is \$125 an hour.

He asked Siglow if he would hold off appointing the prosecutor until the village held its budget meetings.

"I'll negotiate adding two members to the DDA right now but Mark Clark is my appointment as prosecutor," said Siglow, adding he would not budge on his decision.

Trustee Zach Fowler said Clark is important to the village because of his personal knowledge and to put another into that position because of cost would not be worth it.

"Even though he is a prosecutor, he still represents the Village of Romeo and I think that personal touch is important here in the Village of Romeo," said Fowler.

The first motion was for the council to vote on approving Siglow's appointments as presented. That motion failed by a vote of 4-2 with Fowler and Siglow voting yes.

Hart then made a motion to have the council vote on Siglow's appointments individually. That failed by a vote of 4-2, with Malzahn and Hart voting yes.

Then a vote to add two more members to the DDA board was approved by a vote of 5-1 with Siglow voting no.

Adding two members to the board will require a change to the ordinance. The council will take up the issue at its next meeting. Clark said there is no need to hold a public hearing on the matter just somebody to propose the change, for the board to adopt the change and then publish the change.

Siglow then called for a motion to approve all the appointments

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