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From Page:  
12  
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## 241 800 Turney board recollects April 8 meeting

by Brett Adkison

A previously unknown meeting of the Turney Board of Trustees came to light this past week, as the Board has released minutes for a meeting that they had held on Thursday, April 8.

Recently-elected Turney Trustee Tim Mulligan had asked his fellow Board members about the April 8th meeting during their regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 9. He stated that he had noticed several of the Trustees' vehicles parked at the Turney Community Center that day and asked about the nature of the meeting.

Chairman James Gorham stated he wasn't aware of any meeting held on April 8th, but added that he could have been wrong. Trustees Chad Swindler and Ruth Newell also stated that they could not recollect a meeting being held that day.

Mulligan then stated that he had spoken with Trustee Rob Hall, who was absent from the August 9th meeting, and asked him about the April 8th meeting. Mulligan stated that Hall had told him that the meeting was held in order to pay the

Village's bills.

Later that week, Chairman James Gorham contacted The Leader and revealed that the Board had in fact held a meeting on April 8.

"We just kind of forgot about it," said Gorham. "It wasn't purposely done."

Gorham added that there has been extenuating circumstances surrounding the Board of Trustees since this past April that led to the Board's mishandling of the meeting. The Trustees went through a reorganization after the April elections, and have faced tougher scrutiny since, including a barrage of questioning from residents and new Trustee Tim Mulligan, as well as more oversight from local publications.

Gorham also provided minutes for the meeting. According to the minutes, which have yet to be approved by the Board, the meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. that day. In attendance were Chad Swindler, James Gorham, Ruth Newell and Rob Hall. The Trustees were in session for a mere nine minutes, and the only action taken

was the payment of bills.

Chairman Gorham told The Leader that the Board of Trustees felt they had to approve bills on this day, as opposed to waiting until the regular monthly meeting just four days later, because Treasurer Ruth Newell had considered resigning from the Board. If this had occurred, the Board would not have been able to pay the bills during the regular monthly meeting because outgoing payments from the Village require the signature both of Gorham, who had been voted off of the Board two days prior, and Newell.

He further stated that Newell had considered resigning after Tim Mulligan was elected to the Board.

Also last week, each Trustee was sent a letter from the Missouri Attorney General's office concerning the April 8th meeting, as well as the Board's overall compliance with Missouri's Sunshine Law. In that letter, signed by Chief Counsel of Governmental Affairs Patricia Churchill, the Office requested a copy of the minutes and the public notice

