

MEETING MINUTES APR 12, 2023 6:30 PM VILLAGE HALL

6:30pm meeting called to order by President Tom Bush. Attendance: President Tom Bush, Trustee Bob Babcock, Trustee Amy Hajdasz, DPW Brian Beckel, Clerk/Treasurer Brad Bartels, and others in the audience.

- Minutes from last meeting reviewed Tom made one correction to the minutes from March meeting. The missed typed statement was: Tom brought up the idea to purchase a plow for the shop at the hall. Brian said he would get a few different quotes for the equipment they would want. This comment corrected as: Tom brought up the idea to purchase a welder for the shop at the hall. Brian said he would get a few different quotes for the equipment they would want. Minutes accepted and approved with correction.
- Tom gave the floor to Cole Paulson from CCF Bank. Cole introduced himself and Stacey Bunkelman. Cole is the business account manager for CCF. Cole discussed the position of the CCF bank in relation to recent banks that have folded and the concern of other banks folding soon. He stated that CCF Bank is in a very good position and FDIC insured. He also presented the village with an offer to put all our different funds/accounts in a public fund checking or money market account that would earn a 2.5% interest rate. Brad B. passed out a handout that showed our current accounts earn interest and those rates range from 1-1.24% our general fund / checking account, for example, currently earns 0%. Cole then turned everything over to Stacey. Stacey is a treasury management specialist for CCF. Stacey went over the different benefits to positive pay to detect any fraud activity and to minimize our risk to fraud. Stacey then discussed the ability for the Village to scan and mobile deposit checks. Brad stated that with the scanner and mobile deposits, that would likely save a few hours per week of labor. This would streamline the reconciliation process and the collection of utility payments. Stacey stated there would be \$85 a month cost to the scanner and positive pay fraud protection. The machine would cost the Village \$400. Which is a one-time cost. The machine itself is just like a scanner tellers use at the bank. Any updates needed would only be for the software on the Village computer. Cole then discussed the village loan for the municipal building. Currently the loan is at a good interest rate with Chippewa Valley and that any rate CCF could offer right now would not be worth refinancing at this time. Board discussed the pros and cons to moving our deposits to CCF. Amy H. suggested to have Brad get the building loan details, stipulations, and terms from Chippewa Valley on that loan and to table the decision until the boards May meeting. Bob and Tom both agreed.
- Tom brought up the VFW Hall referendum passing with a vote of 48-22. He also stated that the VFW has their monthly meeting Saturday APR 15th and would be discussing the sale of the property. The VFW will need to conduct inventory and a few other miscellaneous items before moving forward. Tom would bring back that information for the board to discuss at our May meeting.
- Spring clean up updates. Tom stated we should allow the property owners to place their piles of brush at the curb or the alley since some of the limbs are large. So, the Tree Guys will go up and down each street and alley to clean up anything in the right of way and pick up the piles. Brad mentioned the importance of having the piles at the curb or alley by Monday May 15th at 8:00 am. this is to prevent the tree service guys from having to bounce all over the place throughout town.
- The old snowplow from the F450 was listed on WI surplus outlet and the highest bid was \$3,010. The board agreed to list the plow on again for two weeks with WI Surplus at a reserve of \$3,700.

- Brad passed out an email from Bakke Norman Law Office with a draft ordinance for snow and ice removal on sidewalks. The board had a few minor wording changes and Brad will send it back to the law office for a final draft to be ready for decision at the May meeting.
- Tom brought up the potential need to draft an ordinance on “tiny homes”. The board discussed the need, and all agreed to have some ideas ready for the May meeting to start a draft on such an ordinance. The board agreed that any ordinance for tiny homes will at a minimum need to follow the uniform dwelling code and our current village ordinance for modular / trailer homes.
- The Weyerhaeuser Fire Dept. asked if the Village would be interested in purchasing a large gas-powered fan. Greg and Brian both said there wouldn’t be enough need for the fan. The board then agreed not to make the purchase.
- Brain presented a quote for a welding set up from Praxair of \$7,244.93. The purpose for wanting a welder is for any emergency fixes to equipment the Village may need. With Greg’s retirement, this will be a need. The board discussed hiring out welding needs now that Greg is retiring. But it could be beneficial in a snowstorm to have a welder at the shop available for those types of emergencies. The board agreed that is a good way to move forward but not ok with paying that much for a brand-new welder. Amy was going to see if some of the vendors they use at Active Dogs could come up with a cheaper quote. And the Board asked Brian and Greg to look for a deal on a used welder for the shop.
- Discussed the damage to the pavilion at the park. Greg O. proposed putting the lights that were knocked over on the roof, on columns next to the building. The board agreed and approved that proposal.
- Brian and Greg asked the board if they could get some quotes for added electrical outlets in the cold storage bay on the west end of the hall and in the storage shed on the south side of the lot. Currently the electricity in those areas is inadequate for the needs of the shop. Board agreed and approved.
- Board review the 8 applicant received for the Assistant Maintenance Operator and decided to offer interviews to 3 candidates. To be interviewed Tuesday April 18th, 2023. Candidates are Steve Smith of Ladysmith, Vincent Voldberg of Ladysmith, and Brian Takach of Glen Flora.
- Brad asked the board for adjusted office hours now that he has retired from the military to new office hours to start May 1st, 2023, of Monday and Tuesdays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and Wednesdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Bob motion to approve new hours. Amy H. seconded.
- Brad brought to the boards attention that the village will need to adopt a TID amendment and revised plan for the remainder of the TID plan. Currently the Village has surpassed the original projected costs of the TID. The Village currently has a positive balance of approximately \$800,000 in the TID but will need to conduct a joint review board with Chetek Weyerhaeuser School District, Northwood Technical College and Rusk County to ensure all parties are informed of the district status.
- Village of Bruce Ambulance Service sent the Village a donation request. They asked for a minimum of \$210.57. Tom B. made a motion to approve a donation of \$250 to the Bruce Ambulance. Bob B. seconded. Motion approved.
- Brian let the board know the sander will need a new drive chain and it will cost \$865.00. They would like to order from Marty Becker to save on shipping costs. Bob motion to approve and Amy H. seconded.
- Brian mentioned an old jetter that the village bought and has never used it. Because of that Greg and Brain suggest list that on the auction site as a bigger municipality may have use for it. Bob made a motion to list the equipment on WI Surplus Outlet. Amy H. Seconded the motion.
- Tom B. Made a motion to adjourn. Amy H. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.