

MEETING MINUTES July 12, 2023 6:00 PM VILLAGE HALL

6:30 pm 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 and approved as presented.
- Erv M. was present and asked if the Board seen the letter to the editor in the Ladysmith News from a Rhonda Stevens of Madison. Tom stated he was aware, as Dave W. sent it to Brad and I just before our meeting. The woman's letter stated some inaccurate statements and was very misleading to the context around the decision to not close the TID. The woman asserted the Village deceived the county and school districts at the beginning with the approved district plan. Rhonda also stated the decision may be unethical. Erv suggested the Village submit a rebuttal for the residents of the county to read both sides of the story. The board agreed and asked Brad if he would coordinate a joint effort with Tom to submit a letter of response. Brad agreed.
- Brian B. presented a summary and needs from public works. Brian stated there is 1 fire hydrant left to fix and would require the use of a torch to fix. Amy suggested renting one. Brian said he would look into that.
- Brian also submitted a quote from Superior Sealers LLC. For \$2,030 to complete some crack sealing on 6th and 7th Street and Culver Ave to the east of 7th Street. Tom B. made a motion to accept the quote and hire Superior Sealers. Bob B. seconded and motion carried.
- Brian then submitted a quote from Rusk County Highway Department for two patches. One on 5th Street and the other on Church Street. The quote was \$3,630. Tom B. made a motion to accept the quote and hire Rusk County for the patch work. Amy H. seconded and motion carried.
- Brian stated he has not received a completed estimate back from Altronex Control Systems on what it would cost to move the SCATA system from old village hall to new one if the village accepted the offer from Brent Labrie. This sparked debate on that agenda item. Erv M. stated it would be foolish to sell the building if the cost was going to be approximately \$25,000 for example. Bob and Amy agreed and stated we needed that quote before they could decide on whether to accept Brents offer of \$30,000. Brad stated that when that quote comes in also need to keep in mind the fact that we pay heat and electric now for that building basically as a storage building. We are about to purchase the VFW hall and would be paying those bills as well. The sale of the old fire hall would be an opportunity to not have to pay for any renovation costs and would add a building to the tax roll for the community. Instead of having two buildings to pay for and neither of them bringing any tax revenue. Erv stated that his concern is that if we sell it and 10 years down the road Brent sells it and then what will happen to the building. The building means a lot to the community and the community's history. If the Board accepts an offer to sell it, there should be a clause in the sale agreement the Village gets 1st opportunity to purchase the property back. The board agreed and decided to table the decision for now until they had more information on the cost to move the water tower SCATA system.
- Brian presented a quote from Hydro Klean to televising and clean portions of the sewer that have not been done for a while. However, the Board wants a map of what has been done recently and what sections need to be done.
- Brian presented a quote from Full Throttle that we got back at the last minute today. It was for a 2022 900 Can Am Defender. But the board doesn't want to spend nearly \$20,000 for a machine. They want the guys to continue to look for something used like JD gator or something similar.

- The updated start date for the street project will be July 24th.
- Discussion over switching deposit accounts to CCF Bank. Brad presented both proposals from CCF Bank and Chippewa Valley Bank. Both were very comparable and essentially the same. However, after further debate the Board decided to make the switch to CCF Bank. They felt the potential for more modernized options for village members to make payments will become available with CCF as their system is compatible with the Workhorse software we use. And the board was disheartened by the fact that when they received the offer from CCF and discussed that with CVB to find out the possibility for receiving a similar offer on interest earned on deposit accounts, their response was an immediate quit trip and threat of closing the bank in town. The consensus was that if Chippewa Valley Bank could in the end offer that same 2.5% interest, why did we go so long without any interest on our general checking account. Bob B. made a motion to move the deposit accounts to CCF Bank and leave the building loan with CVB Bank. Amy seconded motion, Tom B. voted yes as well. Motion approved.
- Shirley Rouleau requested an agenda item for the board, asking if the board would approve her to head a committee to raise funds for a veteran wall like the one in Bruce and all over Ladysmith as well as decide on a location. The Board unanimously approved and decided the best place to start with the first wall would be between the RR tracks and Railway Ave, facing Railway Ave near the Garden tree area and work across that section back towards the Depot with future walls of Veterans.
- The board reviewed license picnic licenses for Pork in the Park and Booster days and operator licenses for Dave Wierzba and Robert Warner (BOBBER). Tom B. made a motion to approve all the licenses. Bob B. seconded. Licenses approved.
- Brad presented a quote from Memorial Installation & Restoration of Ladysmith for restoration of grave site headstones in the Village Cemetery. The quote is \$4356.25. Bob B. made a motion to accept the quote and hire M.I.R. to restore the headstones in need. Amy H. seconded the motion. Brad also mentioned that MIR suggested advertising that they would be working on those headstones, and you might get some donations to help with the cost of restoration. The board all agreed the work needed to be done regardless but if we received some donations that of course would help.
- Tom presented a letter that needs to be signed by all the Board members to submit to the WI VFW stating the intent of the Village to purchase the VFW Hall for the purpose of a community center and allow tenants to lease the property for events. VFW Post 5780 would still be one of those tenants. Bob. B., Amy H., Tom B., and Brad B. all signed the letter. Tom stated that the letter would be sent 7-13-2023 via email to WI VFW for approval of the sale.
- Bob B. brought up a concern on the Bass Lake Beach responsibilities. Tom. B stated the Village purchased the beach with the community club years ago, in order to preserve the beach for the community to use. No action was taken.
- Tom made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

VILLAGE OF WEYERHAEUSER
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