

Meeting called to order by President Jim Duncan.

Members present on roll call: Len Manning, Jamey Flaherty, Kellie Flaherty, Jim Duncan, Aimee Newbauer and Jena Paquette.

Members absent on roll call: Corby Stark.

Others present: Peter Nelton, Rebecca Palm, Paul Mahler, Josh Yunker, Todd Miller.

Public Comments: Rebecca Palm was in attendance. Rebecca Palm expressed concerns regarding light pollution from 101 Main Street. The service station recently installed new neon lights around the gas pumps, their building, and bright signs. Rebecca Palm stated many property owners on the lake have shared concerns regarding how bright the lights are from across the lake. She and others closer to the services station have purchased heavy blinds to reduce the amount of light entering their homes from the service station. Currently the Village of Balsam Lake does not have an ordinance for light pollution or maximum brightness for neon signs. Jim Duncan stated that a representative from Lucky Seven General Stores will be attending the March Regular Board Meeting to further discuss this concern.

To consider and possibly act to approve the February 5th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda. **Motion by Len Manning to amend the February 5th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda by moving Item 21 to Item 5A. Second by Jamey Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried. Motion by Aimee Newbauer to approve the amended February 5th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda. Second by Jena Paquette. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action regarding requests from Peter Nelton for June Berry Park. Peter Nelton was in attendance. Mr. Nelton discussed his concerns regarding the larger flowerbed on the southeast side of June Berry Park. He would like the shrubs removed, church sign removed, the river rock removed and that area should be mulched and replanted with hibiscus. Mr. Nelton originally stated he would donate a large maple tree to be planted in that flowerbed, however he redacted that statement and would like the tree to be planted around 25 feet away from said flowerbed. Mr. Nelton stated moving the tree further from the original flowerbed would allow the tree to grow. He stated he will stake an area where he thinks it should be planted and would like Jim Duncan to confirm it can be planted there. Mr. Nelton also would like the soil tested in all the flowerbeds. **Motion by Jena Paquette to purchase 13 hibiscus plants and to have Peter order said plants. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor Carried.** Jim Duncan shared that Chris Sondrol might have two large Black Hills Spruce trees the Village could purchase but will get more information. So, at this time Peter was advised not to put any Black Hill Spruce trees on order until the Board hears back from Mr. Sondrol.

To consider and possible act to approve January 8th, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to approve the January 8th, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

Fire Chief Report was read by Jim Duncan. This past month the fire department responded to six rescue runs and six fire calls. In the Month of January, the department participated in reading books to youth at Unity School and the Unity School job fair.

Public Protection Committee report was given by Aimee Newbauer.

Discussion and possible action regarding payment support to Apple River Fire Department. An invoice was received by the Township of Apple River for the amount of \$7,500.00. The invoice was

itemized as payment support for 2023 Fire and EMS support. **Motion by Jamey Flaherty to pay Apple River Fire for Fire and EMS support in 2023 with the money being paid out of the Fire Department checking account. Second by Aimee Newbauer. On Roll Call: Aimee Newbauer, yes; Jena Paquette, yes; Len Manning, yes; Jamey Flaherty, yes; Kellie Flaherty, yes; Jim Duncan, yes. Carried.**

Public Works report was given by David Patterson. DPW David Patterson reported in January the department monitored water temperatures. The crew is working on data entry for a new lead and copper report the DNR is mandating in 2024.

Discussion and possible action regarding old county highway property proposed CSM. Josh Yunker was in attendance and shares a drafted CSM that he created for the old county highway property. The illustrations showed where the new lot lines would be located. Mr. Yunker noted some considerations the Board should discuss prior to approving the CSM. Historical highway right of way documents were reviewed, questions if easements would be needed for buried Village utilities, and if the Village would need to vacate additional streets in block 14. Village attorney Paul Mahler noted he would contact the tile company to see if additional street vacating would be needed in lot 14. Jim Duncan communicated he would review the proposed CSM with the proposed interested party to verify the property lines as discussed. Mr. Duncan will report back to the Board. Mr. Yunker communicated once ready for approval, he will finalize the CSM, install property pins and work with the Village President and Clerk to record the CSM. No action was taken.

Discussion and possible action on Yunker Land Surveying, 'shop lot' survey and proposed cost. After discussing the proposed CSM with the Village Building Inspector, Ben Campbell noted the Village should consider surveying and updating the CSM for the shop lot just north of the old county highway property as it is a nonconforming lot. The cost for creating a new CSM for the shop lot would be an additional \$250.00. **Motion by Len Manning to approve hiring Yunker Land Surveying to survey and create a new CSM for the Village shop lot. Second by Jena Paquette. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to approve bench donation from Unity Lions Club. **Motion by Jamey Flaherty to approve bench donation from Unity Lions Club. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

Parks Committee report was given by Kellie Flaherty.

To consider and possibly act to approve creating outlay accounts for Village trail improvements. At the last parks committee meeting, Chris Sondrol stated the money donated for the 2024 snowshoe race or fun run would be given to the Village of Balsam Lake to be utilized for trail improvements. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to create an outlay account for Village trail improvements. Second by Jena Paquette. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to approve White Pine Tree donation program for Pine Park. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to hold a 2024 White Pine Tree donation program for Pine Park. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to have public works assist Pro Lawn with White Pine Trees for Pine Park. With the donation program, Chris Sondrol shared at the Parks Committee meeting he would be willing to donate additional white pine trees with the assistance from the public works department. **Motion by Len Manning to have public works assist Pro Lawn with White Pine Trees for Pine Park. Second by Jena Paquette. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action on tree in Pine Park for custom chainsaw carving. Item will be further discussed at the special Board meeting in February.

Streets and Buildings Committee report was given by Kellie Flaherty and Aimee Newbauer.

To consider and possibly act to approve updated to Library bathroom. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to allow the library to update their bathroom utilizing the library grant money. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to approve purchasing Furnace for Balsam Lake Fire Hall. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer hire Maxwell Heating & Air Conditioning Inc. to replace the furnace at the Fire Hall costing \$6,890.00. Second by Len Manning. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to approve purchasing folding chairs and chair dolly. **Motion by Kellie Flaherty to purchase ten additional folding chairs and one platform chair dolly. Second by Aimee Newbauer. All in Favor. Carried.**

Sewer, Water, M&E Committee Report was given by Len Manning.

Discussion and possible action regarding lease with Snowmobile Club. Currently the snowmobile club has a lease agreement with the Village that allows them to have three utility sheds on Village owned property near 901 Old Main Street. The lease ends in 2025. Representatives from the snowmobile club would like a longer lease term or would like to purchase the property from the Village. Todd Miller stated with the investment of club funds for water and sewer hookups, shed repairs and additions, it's a lot of funds to be invested over a short period of time if they were to vacate the property. The snowmobile club would also like a survey done of the property they are being leased as its unclear by the agreement. Attorney Paul Mahler will review the original agreement and report back to the Board regarding findings. No action was taken

Discussion and possible action to allow the Polk County Snowmobile Club to have water & Sewer services. If the lease is not amended for a longer term, then the snowmobile club is not interested in furnishing the building with water and sewer. No action was taken.

Discussion and possible action to allow the Matt Hall to have water & sewer services on 600 Pine Island. In order for Mr. Hall to have water and sewer services on 600 Pine Island an easement agreement would have to be executed. The new water and sewer lines would be located on Village owned property. Because they would be private utility lines, the property owner would have to maintain those at their own expense, as well as pay for the easement and Village attorney time. Paul Mahler, stated he would need a sketch or map of the lines and where they would be located for Mr. Hall before, he could move forward with drafting the easement. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to approve Matt Hall having water & sewer services on 600 Pine Island with Mr. Hall assuming the expenses for the easement and attorney time. Second by Len Manning. On Roll Call: Aimee Newbauer, yes; Jena Paquette, yes; Len Manning, yes; Jamey Flaherty, yes; Kellie Flaherty, yes; Jim Duncan, yes. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to attain bids for a new Village plow truck. **Motin by Jena Paquette to approve David Patterson attaining bids for a new plow truck. Second by Len Manning. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possible act to approve Original Operator License #1472. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to approve Original Operator License #1472. Second by Jena Paquette. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action to approve rental license applications. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to have Police Chief Eric Jorgensen send a letter to property owners of 411 West Main Street to formally start the mediation process for revoking their rental licenses. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried. Motion by Aimee Newbauer to approve all rental license applications that were returned as of February 5th, 2024. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to approve January 31st, 2024 Treasurers Report. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to approve the January 31st, 2024 Treasurers Report. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

Building permit log was reviewed by the Board.

February Meetings: Monday 18th, Parks Committee @ 4:30 p.m., Special Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m., Public Protection Committee Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

To consider and possibly act to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 exemptions (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Discussion with Scott Anderson regarding property withing the Village. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 exemptions (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Discussion with Scott Anderson regarding property withing the Village. Second by Kellie Flaherty. On Roll Call: Aimee Newbauer, yes; Jena Paquette, yes; Len Manning, yes; Jamey Flaherty, yes; Kellie Flaherty, yes; Jim Duncan, yes. Carried.**

To consider and possibly act to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 exemptions (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Discussion and possible action regarding utility easements for water treatment plant. **Motion by Aimee Newbauer to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 exemptions (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Discussion and possible action regarding utility easements for water treatment plant. Second by Kellie Flaherty. On Roll Call: Aimee Newbauer, yes; Jena Paquette, yes; Len Manning, yes; Jamey Flaherty, yes; Kellie Flaherty, yes; Jim Duncan, yes. Carried.**

Motion by Jamey Flaherty to go into open session. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.

Motion by Len Manning to adjourn. Seconded by Kellie Flaherty. Carried. 8:30 p.m.

unapproved minutes

Amy VanDeBrake, Clerk Treasurer