

Village Board Meeting – November 25, 2019

On November 25th, 2019, the Village Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 613 Main Street, Colfax, WI. Members present: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Jenson, M. Burcham, K. Burcham (7:20 p.m.) and Gunnufson. Other Present: Attorney Anders Helquist – Weld Riley S.C., Administrator of the Colfax Health and Rehabilitation Jill Gengler, Colfax Health and Rehabilitation Board member Del Gunderson, Mike Buchner representing the Sno-Drifters snowmobile club, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger.

Public Comments– none.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 12th, 2019 – A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee Jenson to approve the minutes from the November 12th, 2019 Regular Board meeting. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, Jenson, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Audit and Finance Committee meeting – November 18th, 2019

Audit and Finance Committee meeting – November 21st, 2019 – A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to approve both the November 18th and November 21st, 2019 Audit and Finance Committee minutes. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Jenson, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Licenses

Paula Duncan – Operator’s License – Blind Tiger – November 25th, 2019 to June 30th, 2020 – A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee Davis to approve the operator’s license for Paula Duncan for November 25th, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, Jenson, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Consideration Items

Snowmobile Trail Discussion – possible action – Buchner explained that there is interest in the snowmobile trail crossing Highway 40 from the Cenex parking lot to Legion Drive, the alley and to the Outhouse Bar. There was discussion regarding the topic. Niggemann stated that the main concern is the fact that Hwy 40 is a state highway and state statute 350.02 (2)(a)(1) which states that no person may operate a snowmobile on any highway except in the following manner or as otherwise authorized by law: Directly across any roadway having fewer than 5 lanes, but only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway. Crossings under this subdivision may be made only at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing. For purposes of this subdivision, “obstruction” includes but is not limited to impairment of view and dangerous roadway condition. Niggemann also noted that Police Chief Anderson was unavailable to express his thoughts and/or concerns about the topic. Niggemann presented two possible trails, the first one is the direct route from the Cenex parking lot as indicated above, the second would be to take the alley south, however there would be several property owners that would need to grant permission and it would be a long route around. Buchner expressed concerns about the second option regarding to the length of the trail to get to the gas stations. The Board asked Niggemann to confirm the ownership of Legion Drive from Highway 40 to the alley. A motion was by President Gunnufson and seconded by Trustee Halpin to table the snowmobile discussion until the next meeting. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Jenson, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Health Insurance Update/Review – Niggemann explained that the prices received from Amanda Webb with Kado and Associates resulted in very little cost savings and the lowest priced plan was facility specific. Niggemann feels that the Village should renew with the option offered by WEA Trust to increase deductibles from \$3,000/\$6,000 to \$4,000/\$8,000. This would be a 11 percent increase, but WEA Trust will discount the monthly premium by 2.7 percent by using the fund balance to bring the increase to approximately an eight percent increase. A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to approve the health insurance renewal option 2 effective for January 1, 2020. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Jenson, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Review/Approval – Bills – November 12th, 2019 to November 24th, 2019 – A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to approve the bills for November 12th, 2019 to November 24th, 2019. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, Jenson, K. Burcham, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by President Gunnufson and seconded by Trustee Jenson to move item 11 Committee/Department Reports, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Report before the closed session portion of the meeting. A voice vote was taken with all Board members voting yes. Motion carried.

Closed Session – A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Halpin to convene into closed session pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session at 7:34 p.m. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham Jenson, K. Burcham, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Open Session – Open session began at 9:48 p.m.

President Gunnufson announced that no action or vote was taken on the closed session material.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee Haplin and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted in favor to adjourn. Motion carried.

Scott Gunnufson, Village President

Attest: Lynn Niggemann
Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer