

Village Board Meeting – July 27th, 2020

On July 27th, 2020, the Village Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 613 Main Street, Colfax, WI. Members present: Trustees Halpin, Michels, K. Burcham, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Excused: Trustee Davis. Others Present: Jim Scheffler, Dale Knutson with Viking Disposal, Guy Haseltine, Chad Arendt with Rightaway Rolloff LLC, the Director of Public Works Bates, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger.

Public Comments– none.

Communications from the President – none.

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes –June 22nd, 2020/July 13th, 2020 - A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Halpin to approve both the June 22nd and July 13th, 2020 Board minutes. Voting For: Trustees Jenson, Stene, K. Burcham, Michels, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Training Requests- none.

Facility Rental – none.

Licenses- none.

Consideration Items

Certified Survey Map – Subdivide 1011 University Avenue – Niggemann explained that with the auction of the old nursing home; the sale resulted in three different owners which are why the lots need to be subdivided prior to closing. There will be future meetings which will address rezoning of two of the parcels. Jim Scheffler, with Scheffler Land Surveying was available for any questions. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Halpin to approve the subdivision of the 1011 University Avenue into the three lots in the preliminary Certified Survey Map. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Michels, K. Burcham, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Unanimous Petition for Annexation – The Viking Bowl approached the Village asking about connection to the Village water and sewer and possible annexation. After all the necessary research was completed; the why, when, etc.; there was a meeting scheduled with the Village engineer, attorney, Viking Bowl, H & H as well as Village representatives to confirm goals and the best way to accomplish the goals. After the meeting, the Viking Bowl filed a unanimous petition for annexation which requires the Village Board to approve the annexation. Once Niggemann has the full legal description and the scaled map to create the ordinance, the annexation can be submitted to the County and the State. Niggemann also noted that with an annexation, the Village will be required for five years to pay the Town of Colfax the portion of taxes that they are losing due to the annexation. A motion was made by trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Stene to approve the annexation of the Viking Bowl into the Village of Colfax. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Michels, K. Burcham, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Collection Company Change consideration and possible action – The Public Safety Committee meeting met on July 14th, 2020 to listen to a presentation from the Department of Revenue (DOR) explain their collection program. The Village already works with the DOR through the Tax Rebate Intercept Program (TRIP). The debt collection program is a more aggressive way to collect for unpaid ambulance bills and citations. The program offers debt collection at no cost to the Village, requires a minimum of \$50 to be due, a debt that is greater than 90 days old and a letter to the debtor must be sent prior to submitting to the DOR, additional sources to collect from the debtor such as bank levies, garnishment of wages, retirement garnishments and the TRIP program, fee is billed to the debtor, bank levies can also occur on out-of-state accounts if they bank with certain national banks and best of all is that the Village would move from a sixth place on the collection list to third. A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee Michels to approve signing up with the Department of Revenue as our primary debt collection company. Voting For: Trustees Jenson, Stene, K. Burcham, Michels, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Streets – 2020 Polaris Ranger 570 – Yamaha Viking is not available until fall at the earliest – Bates went to Airtec Sports to ask about ordering the Yamaha Viking and they indicated that the earliest they would be able to get one is fall due to COVID-19 and the manufacturer being deemed as non-essential. Bates asked about the Ranger 570 vs the Ranger 1000 and they provided the estimate of \$10,507.05 plus roof, front and rear glass less the trade-in of \$2,900 + registration of \$135 = \$8,962.05. Bates had requested a \$500 check to put down so that they can get one sooner. A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Halpin to approve the purchase of the 2020 Polaris Ranger 570 since the Yamaha Viking is not available. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Michels, K. Burcham, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Letter of Resignation board Trustee – Keith Burcham submitted a letter of resignation on July 20, 2020 after debating how the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to make his hearing impairment more difficult to communicate with the Board and any other public. With Zoom and other technologies being one of the ways people are communicating to protect them. The technology has made it very difficult for him with a hearing impairment. As indicated in his letter of resignation; “I want to apologize to the residents of Colfax that I cannot fulfill my elected obligations and I wanted to thank each Board member, past and present, for everything that they have done for me. Being on the Board has opened my eyes as to how much the Board is dedicated to understanding and working for the residents of Colfax.”

Halpin did address K. Burcham by saying that the Board will only accept his resignation after discussion concerning some of the options out there to help with hearing impairment. K. Burcham, thanked him, but said that he already has programs on his phone for work allowing him to conduct company business. Per K. Burcham’s written response to correct the minutes, “In order to use the technology at Village Board meetings, everyone on the Village Board, everyone who calls in (Zoom) and everyone who comes to a meeting would have to have those same programs on their phones and everyone would have to pay for their own license to have those programs. That is just not a viable or cost-effective option to ‘change the world’ for one person.”

A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Halpin to accept Keith Burcham’s letter of resignation effective after the meeting. Voting For: Trustees Jenson, Stene, K. Burcham, Michels, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Letter of Interest Board Trustee – Margaret Burcham submitted a letter of interest for the vacancy on the Village Board. She has had recent experience and is confident that she can fill the remainder of the vacancy term with no interruptions. A motion was made by President Gunnufson and seconded by Trustee Michels to accept Margaret Burcham’s letter of interest for the vacancy. Voting For: Trustees Michels, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Voting Against: Trustee Halpin. Abstained: Trustee K. Burcham. Motion carried.

For the record: the term will begin July 28th, 2020 through April 19, 2021 or the Monday before the organizational meeting.

Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling – consideration and possible action – Niggemann explained that the Village sent out a survey to all residents that receive a water bill regarding what methods they use for trash disposal and recycling. The survey is in response to the potential per capita increase in rates for the 2021 budget season. The Dunn County program has not been able to be sustainable for the last few years causing a large deficit to be covered by the County General Fund. After a meeting of several municipalities; Menomonie Disposal provided quotes to those that provided number of households in the municipality to help Municipalities determine if they would be able to have a program at a cost less than what the Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling per capita cost will be for 2020. Niggemann estimated the cost if no Municipalities left to be approximately \$42,000 greater than 2020 and if Town of Red Cedar were to leave the program, the cost would be approximately \$47,000 greater than 2020. Menomonie Disposal provided three estimates to the Village of Colfax which includes the following scenarios:

- Run program as the County does right now with the site open and curbside pickup for recycling with a rental fee for a compactor. Pull compactor every other week and 5 recycle boxes per month with an annual fee of \$60,000/year.
- Run program as the County does right now with the site open and curbside pickup for recycling with NO rental fee for a compactor; but Village would have to purchase a compactor for approximately \$23,000. Pull compactor every other week and 5 recycle boxes per month with an annual fee of \$55,200/year.
- Curbside pickup for trash weekly and curbside recycling collected monthly for an annual cost of \$120,060.

Other options include continue working with Viking Disposal for curbside recycling and hire a hauler for the trash. Estimated cost for recycling would be \$24,436 plus trash hauled at \$250 per pull plus tipping fee of \$68 per ton for a 40-Yard Receiver (Rightaway Rolloff LLC, Bloomer, WI).

Department of Natural Resources has determined that municipalities have the right to pull out of the Dunn County program based on the agreements that were entered into.

Suggestions were given by Knutson and Arendt that the Village should contact Town of Howard or Cooks Valley to see how they run their program, but they are suggesting a similar process. Things that would need to be considered and thought out in more detail are the following items: who would be the responsible unit? Who would man the site? How many people are needed to man the site? What would the annual permit fee be? Would we charge after a certain number of bags of garbage? Would we have a different rate for those that do not buy an annual permit? Would we take electronics, building materials, branches, yard waste, construction material, etc.?

Gunnufson will contact Dean Logslett to see about scheduling another municipal meeting to see what the other municipalities are thinking about staying in the Dunn County program or withdrawing?

A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Stene to table the Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling discussion. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Michels, K. Burcham, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Public Works vacancy discussion and possible action – Bates informed the Board that Mitch Kreutzer’s last day will be July 29, 2020. The position was posted with a deadline of August 5th at 4 pm. Other items discussed included whether or not a third person is still warranted and whether the rate of pay should be modified. It was determined that that the rate in the ad should be the starting range for the rate of pay and that the position is necessary. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Halpin to continue the hiring process of the third Public Works position. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Michels, K. Burcham, Stene, Jenson and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

COVID-19 Review/Updates

Stene informed the Village Board that the numbers in Dunn County are rising. The numbers expected to be reported this week are very high. Dunn County has moved from the Moderate classification to Moderately High classification.

Review/Approval – Bills –July 13th, 2020 to July 26th, 2020 – A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Halpin to approve the bills for July 13th, 2020 to July 26th, 2020. Voting For: Trustees Jenson, Stene, K. Burcham, Michels, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee Michels and seconded by Trustee Halpin to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted in favor to adjourn. Motion carried.

Scott Gunnufson, Village President

Attest: Lynn Niggemann

