

Village Board Meeting – December 9, 2019

On December 9, 2019, the Village Board meeting began at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 613 Main Street, Colfax, WI. Members present: Trustees Halpin, Davis, K. Burcham, M. Burcham, Jenson (7:25 p.m.) and Gunnufson. Others Present: Logan Michels, Mark Johnson, Sheila Riemer, Lisa Smestuen representing the Outhouse Bar, Mike Buchner representing the Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club, Police Chief Anderson, Public Works Director Bates, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger.

Public Comments– Buchner wanted to make sure that the property owners are aware that they are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks and the sidewalk ramps to the street. It is very difficult for walkers to get through the windrows at the end of the sidewalks.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 25th, 2019

Budget Public Hearing Minutes – December 2nd, 2019 – A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee Davis to approve the minutes from both the November 25th, 2019 meeting and the December 2nd, 2019 Budget Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Davis, Halpin, and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Licenses

Seth Sikora- Operator’s Licenses-Express Mart – December 9th, 2019 to June 30th, 2020 – A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to approve the operator’s license for Seth Sikora for December 9th, 2019 to June 30th, 2020. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, K. Burcham, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Consideration Items

Elevator Project Update- Johnson wanted to thank the Village Board for allowing the Elevator Group to open the basement for tours for the open house. There was a poster created that referenced the different photos of the basement water issues. He also wanted to thank everyone that helped clean and decorate for the open house; Sheila and Lynn. There was between fifty and seventy-five people in attendance at the event and \$220 donated for the elevator project. The estimated pledged fund balance is \$61,000 and the operating administrative fund is currently \$1,212.03 which is a fluctuating account based on expenses for advertising, etc.

Trustee Vacancy – Letter of Interests Received – There were two letter of interest submitted, Gary Stene and Logan Michels. Michels was present and gave a little background about him. He grew up in Colfax and is living in Colfax; he has a rental property and wants to give back to the community. Gunnufson made a motion to appoint Michels to the vacant trustee position and M. Burcham seconded the motion. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, K. Burcham, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried. Michels first official meeting will be Monday, December 23rd, 2019.

Request for Payment – Orion Enterprises – Robert Scofield – Mr. Scofield had a complaint regarding the snow plow leaving a windrow in the driveway apron. Because he had to shovel the driveway entrance two times, he felt that the Village should pay for his time in completing the task so that they could get the vehicles out to go to work. With the Village attorney guidance, Niggemann sent a response letter indicating that the Village had not been contracted for any service to plow out the driveway. The Village Board will review the invoice for approval or denial. Niggemann responded to a question regarding who Orion Enterprises was. Niggemann indicated that it appeared that Mr. Scofield may be self-employed since he also is associated with Orion Construction at his home residence address. A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Halpin to deny the request for payment or snow removal. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Snow Removal – Susan Lanou – Gunnufson talked with Lanou regarding her request to have Main Street plowed better during the business hours to allow customers better access to her business. There are several factors that

are considered when plowing; the time that snow is over usually drives how the plowing can occur. The safety of the employees while trying to plow Main Street, Highway 40 is the primary concern. The vehicle and semi traffic begins around 4 a.m. After discussions between, Bates, Logslett, Niggemann and Gunnufson, a pilot program will be considered for future snow falls. The Public Works department will implement the odd/even calendar parking rules for cleaning the parking spaces of Highway 40 whenever possible. They will however, continue their normal routine plowing schedule when the snow finishes early enough to allow the proper cleaning of both sides of the street.

Snowmobile Trail Resolution 2019-12 – Niggemann stated that the Board wanted to know if Legion Drive is owned by the Village. The Village owns to the alley and beyond. The proposed trail to the Outhouse would be from Cenex Parking Lot to Legion Drive to the alley. Police Chief Anderson asked why does the Outhouse have to be the only business with a trail to it. You have Mom’s Restaurant, A Little Slice of Italy, the Café and other downtown businesses. Gunnufson said that this stems from the fact that the Cenex parking lot to the Outhouse is not too far off the current path. Anderson reminded that there are surveillance cameras on the Cenex parking lot and there is not in the Outhouse parking lot. Buchner stated that when the trail was opened through the alley to Express Mart, it appeared that the trail was created to go to the Blind Tiger, even though it was not. Anderson would like the right to revoke the trail if it is being abused. A motion was made by Trustee M. Burcham and seconded by Trustee Halpin to approve Resolution 2019-12 indicating that there will be an approved trail signed by the snowmobile club to go from the Cenex parking lot to Legion Drive to the alley with the ability to retract any part of the resolution if the trails are being abused. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Jenson, K. Burcham, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none.

Sign Request –Pleasant Valley Properties – Scharlau is requesting permission to include the Welcome to Colfax and Thank you for Visiting to the sign. A motion was made by Trustee M. Burcham and seconded by Trustee Jenson to approve the sign to include the Welcome to Colfax and Thank you for Visiting. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Jenson, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-11 Corrected – The resolution had the incorrect amount listed for the school levy portion which in term changed the tax rate. A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Gunnufson to approve the corrected Resolution 2019-11. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Jenson, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

H.S.A. Contribution discussion – Niggemann explained that in previous meetings we discussed the H.S.A. relative to the deductible change required by WEA Trust. We have not formally decided if the Village will contribute \$1,000 or any other amount to the employee H.S.A. account. With the change in deductibles the premium increase is minimized to eleven percent increase in premiums. WEA Trust will give a three percent discount which would come from the Village funds contributed during the first two years of being enrolled with WEA Trust. For background purposes, the 2019 WEA Trust renewal increased the individual deductible by \$1,000, while decreasing the premiums by 3.9%. The Board offered that savings to the employees by contributing \$1,000 to an employee H.S.A. account. At the same time the Board also offered the employees that were not enrolled in the Village health insurance a \$1,000 health stipend. Riemer commented in favor of keeping the \$1,000 H.S.A. contribution. A motion was made by K. Burcham and seconded by M. Burcham that there will be no H.S.A. contribution for 2020. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: Trustees Jenson and Davis. Motion carried. A motion was made by K. Burcham and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to change the motion to include that there will be no health stipend in 2020. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: Trustees Jenson and Davis. Motion carried.

Weber Inspections – 2020 Contract – A motion was made by Trustee M. Burcham and seconded by Trustee Halpin to approve the 2020 Weber Inspection contract. Voting For: Trustees Halpin, Davis, Jenson, K. Burcham, M. Burcham and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Review/Approval – Bills – November 25th, 2019 to December 8th, 2019 – A motion was made by Trustee Halpin and seconded by Trustee M. Burcham to approve the bills for November 25th, 2019 to December 8th, 2019. Voting For: Trustees M. Burcham, K. Burcham, Jenson, Davis, Halpin and Gunnufson. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee M. Burcham and seconded by Trustee Davis to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 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