

Village Board Meeting - May 22nd, 2023

On May 22nd, 2023, the Village Board met at the Village Hall, 613 Main Street, Colfax, WI at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Trustees Burcham, Rud, Jenson, Best and Prince. Excused: Trustees Davis and Stene. Others present included Jess and Nick Anderson with The Blind Tiger, representing the Elevator Committee included Mark Johnson and Gary Swartz, representing both the Elevator Committee and Library Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt, Nancy Baumgartner representing the Library Board, Kathy Dunbar representing the Colfax Women's Club, Barb Black, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes –May 8th, 2023 – A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Rud to approve the May 8th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Review Statement of Bills –May 8th, 2023 to May 21st, 2023

Review Statement of Bills Solid Waste & Recycling Checking – May 8th, 2023 to May 21st, 2023

A motion was made Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Rud to approve the Village of Colfax Statement of Bills and the Solid Waste & Recycling Statement of Bills for May 8th to May 21st, 2023. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Training Request – none.

Licenses

- **Temporary Class “B” Retailer’s License – Russel Toycen Post 131-Colfax Free Fair June 15th to June 18th, 2023- The Beer Garden** - A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Rud to approve the Temporary Class “B” Retailer’s License for the Russel Toycen Post 131 for the Colfax Free Fair June 15th, 2023 to June 18th, 2023 at the Beer Garden of the Fairgrounds. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.
- **Transient Merchant License- Alvin Lu, China Taste Food Truck – May 1st, 2023 to October 31, 2023** - A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Jenson to approve the Transient Merchant License for Alvin Lu with the China Taste Food Truck for May 1st, 2023 to October 31st, 2023. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration Items

Advertising Wall – Jess & Nick Anderson – Anderson was wondering if the Village of Colfax would be interested in sponsoring the wall. The wall will say “Welcome to Historic Colfax”, the drawing being passed around shows the pictures that will be painted on the wall, the modified version will include a tornado to replace the tobacco leaf. Any financial support would that the Village would have interest in, would be issued directly to the artist, Jenna Wood. It has been difficult to find someone to come and paint the wall and Jenna Wood has been very interested and designed the wall. The total cost is \$4,000 of which The Blind Tiger has paid \$2,000. A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Burcham to table sponsoring The Blind Tiger wall until the June 12th, 2023 meeting so the Board can talk more about it. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Elevator Committee Project Update – Bragg-Hurlburt explained that the Elevator Committee is a point that they need to know what the Village Board’s vision is. Over the last five years the committee has met monthly, held various events and conducted multiple fund-raising drives to offset the Village’s cost share of the project. Currently the committee has raised over \$123,000 through community support. The message the committee has been delivering includes the following points:

- Space needs for meetings, library program, community events and voting.
- The library wants to make the building work for their needs because people love the historical building and their memories of it.
- The building is in a central location in the downtown, proximity to the school and the history make this building an asset.

- For the Library’s future growth in the space, they need access to more of the building and cannot let stairs be a barrier to inclusion.

What is the Village Board’s vision? What are the community’s space needs? Is this project a good thing for the community or does the Village have another vision? How can we give the people of Colfax the Municipal Building they deserve?

What the Committee has learned:

Craig Johnson - West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

In talking with Craig Johnson with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC), he could help with the grant writing for a CDBG grant. With the rules recently changing, in order to apply for a grant a full design would be required to be completed which cannot be funded by the grant funds, he recommends bidding out the design along with the construction portion so that same engineer is working the project from start to finish and matching funds should be available at the time of grant submission.

Bryant Christenson - River Valley Architects, Eau Claire, WI

Bryant Christenson points indicate the current design is a good concept, he cautions on putting too much work into the basement since there still are some water concerns, what is the longevity of the project, full design cost is approximately \$130,000 and takes about 4 to 5 months to complete, total project estimate is \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 and River Valley does not have grant writing services.

Cory Scheidler & Lynn McIntyre – Cedar Corporation, Menomonie, WI

Cory Scheidler also urged the elevator committee to consider the Village’s long-term plan before undertaking this project. Space needs should be evaluated for not only the library, but the other departments as well. Due to the historical status of the building, this will be a “specialty project”, which means there may be limitations on what can be done. Timeline would include applying for grant in May, receive notice of the award in July and construction would start the following July. Preliminary design will be 1-3% of construction cost, design ready for grant application is about 6% of construction cost, Cedar Corp has grant-writing with estimated cost of \$7,000, Final design will be 6-10% of entire project. CDBG grant is a 2 to 1 match. The money this committee has raised can be used toward the village contribution and can offset the village expense with additional grant monies from foundations.

Next Steps

- A representative from the Elevator Committee would like to participate in the Public Property committee meetings to become more aware of the Village long-term concerns.
- Are there improvements that the village will be able to show people that have donated to the elevator fund?
- The Elevator Committee cannot proceed further without the Village of Colfax support and activation of a timeline.

Discussion

Mark Johnson’s comments include: Where does the Board see the project going? The side door is very difficult for individuals in wheel chairs to open and the steps to the back of the building are not safe. Maybe the Board should re-visit a public survey.

A motion was made by Jenson and seconded by Burcham to table the Elevator Committee topic and request that the Public Properties committee work towards a ten-year or longer ranged plan. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Village Property off 810th Street in the Town of Colfax- Consider Cutting Timber – Niggemann referred to the email from Rob Strand, the Dunn County Forester. Strand has presented an action plan to thin the woods, care for the storm damage and address any start of disease. The email references estimated amounts of revenue that would be generated from the project and provided a list of vendors and indicated the vendors he has worked with and preferred.

Niggemann indicated that there has been expressed interest from some local foresters that would like the opportunity to be considered, however, they just found out about it. A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Best to table the timber cutting and consider a vendor at a later meeting when more information has been gathered. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Natural Lawn Application in non-renewal status due to non-compliance of noxious weeds - informational –

Niggemann explained that the Village ordinance authorizes the Village President to send a letter of non-compliance for natural lawns. Niggemann received the natural lawn application request from Northwest LLC. The process to approve the application is to notify the land owners within 300 feet of the border of the parcel the natural lawn is being requested for. Once received, any objections or in favor of comments are evaluated for a majority. In this particular case, there was only one objection due to non-compliance. Niggemann asked Mark Mosey, retired Biology professor, if he would identify any invasive species in the current natural lawn. Mosey provided a list of all the plants he could identify which included two invasive plants, buckthorn and honeysuckle. A letter has been emailed and mailed to Mr. Drury indicating the findings of invasive plants, which puts the permit into non-compliance standing, and the natural lawn permit will not be renewed after June 22, 2023. No action needed.

Committee Assignments Updated – The committee list has been updated to include Trustee Best. No action needed.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Burcham to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Jeff Prince, Village President

Attest:

Lynn Niggemann
Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer