

Village Board Meeting –October 23rd, 2023

On October 23rd, 2023, the Village Board met at the Village Hall, 613 Main Street, Colfax, WI at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Best and Prince. Excused: Trustee Stene. Others present included Sheila Riemer, Director of Public Works Bates, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger requested audio.

Public Comments - none

Communications by the Village President – none

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes –October 9th, 2023

Review Statement of Bills Pooled Checking–October 9th, 2023 to October 22nd, 2023

Review Statement of Bills Solid Waste & Recycling Checking – October 9th, 2023 to October 22nd, 2023

Training Request –Badger Book Training at Dunn County Government Center-November 6th, 2023 for Lynn Niggemann & Sheila Riemer

Facility Rental and Licenses – none.

A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Rud to approve the consent agenda items which include the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 9th, 2023, the Pooled Checking and Solid Waste & Recycling Checking for the period of October 9th to October 22nd, 2023 and the Training Request for Lynn Niggemann and Sheila Riemer to attend Badger Book Training for Elections. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration Items

Dunn County Humane Society Contract – January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 – Niggemann explained that she requested the number of intakes that Dunn County Humane Society has taken in from the Village of Colfax. The numbers are 2019 -12 cats and 3 dogs, 2020 - 2 cats and 3 dogs, 2021- 4 cats, 2022 – 4 cats and 1 dog and 2023 5 cats and 1 dog. The cost to the Village in 2019 - \$2,107.48, 2020 - \$2,230.79, 2021 - \$2,179.05, 2022 - \$2,179.05, 2023 - \$2,254.20 and 2024 was quoted at \$2,254.20. Discussions included that the number of intakes seem very low for the cost. Questions regarding what happened in the Village when we did not have a contract with the Dunn County Humane Society? The response was that Village Hall would post photos of lost pets on the Village Facebook page and our personal Facebook pages. Until the owners had been found, the Police Department would kennel them at the Lift Station in the kennel. Between the police and public works, the animals would get fed, etc. Davis indicated that he feels we should manage the lost animals for 2024 and re-evaluate for 2025. A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Jenson to not contract with Dunn County Humane Society for 2024 and re-evaluate for 2025. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Best and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Parks Committee Recommendations from October 12th, 2023 meeting – Best explained that the Youth Summer Ball Program has created a list of projects they would like to add to a possible project list to work towards. The Batting Cage is in the process of being constructed, they have been raising money to complete. Other projects include the fences. The fence could be handled in one of three ways: a functional fix would be to install a bar at the bottom of the fence and fasten the fence to the bar, replacement of fence sections in stages or replace the entire fence. A storage unit approximately 12'x12' to store the youth equipment - Village would be part of the decision of what type of structure should be constructed. A wooden structure estimated cost is \$8,000 – could talk with Timber Tech regarding their community project program or a concrete structure which cost has not been estimated yet. Dirt infields with possible change of the material to red lime rock, with an estimated cost of \$1,100/load. The Whitetail Organics field needs at least 3 to 5 loads. Once the infields have the correct amount of lime rock, then to keep up with the erosion, the fields will need at least one load annually. Net between the two fields for soft toss. Parking lot posts need to be replaced and/or repaired. Advertising signs – 4' x 8' vinyl signs for advertising of approximately \$300 per year for 10 years and approximately 10 signs would allow approximate \$3,000 to be raised annually.

With Village approval of the project list, the youth group and/or softball can continue to fund raise for the projects. As they get cost estimates, they will bring new information before the board for final approval and/or discussions regarding funding for each project. A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Best to approve

the list of projects to allow for the group(s) to fund raise. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Requests for Donations from Groups/Financial Contribution Requests/ Rental of Village Buildings/Reserve Park Space

Niggemann explained the memo in the packet indicating that there were some concerns regarding the October 4th, Messenger article that included the financial donation to the Colfantastic Halloween Event of \$100 when the Board voting unanimously in favor. There was concern expressed that a request from the Woman’s Club in October of 2022 was tabled with Trustees expressing interest in helping the Woman’s Club find additional donations of the winter of 2022 – 2023. In March the Woman’s Club returned to a Village Board meeting advising that they had received enough donations to fund the 2023 Music in the Park and they were no longer requesting any donations from the Village. Niggemann advised that the Board should review if they would like to establish a policy addressing financial contributions, rental of Village Buildings and reservation of park space.

Comments from a majority of the Trustees still want to handle requests on a case-by-case basis. It is important for the Village to recognize community events supporting our local business, etc. Other comments reminded the Board that it is difficult to give to one, but not others and the article reflects that image that the Board has discussed in the past.

A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Best to leave as is and donation requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Voting For: Trustees Best, Rud, Davis, Burcham and Prince. Voting Against: Trustee Jenson. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-17 – Revised Snowmobile Route-Trails – Niggemann needed to get clarification regarding the request of the Snowmobile Club regarding whether they were wanting the Blind Tiger listed as part of the snowmobile trails or not. Buchner did communicate that the snowmobilers were already parking in the back of the Blind Tiger. This does cause some congestion; however, the alley is part of the trail to the Express Mart so it becomes difficult to enforce no parking by way of the alley at the Blind Tiger. To eliminate confusion, the Blind Tiger should be added to the resolution and the Synergy parking lot is designated parking if you plan to visit any other businesses not listed in the resolution. A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Burcham to accept the revised Resolution 2023-17 Snowmobile Routes-Trails, with Blind Tiger listed and the designated parking at Synergy wording changed. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Consider possible write-off – The Colfax Health and Rehabilitation is in the process of being sold. The sale is not going to provide enough funds to pay some of the outstanding debt and/or bills. The Village of Colfax has a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with Colfax Health and Rehabilitation and/or Assignees, \$15,000 per year. Currently the 2022 and the 2023 bills are not paid. The Village did not record the agreement against the property in 2012 when the agreement was entered into. The Village could file a lis pendens, however, there is potential that the buyer may contest the payment due to the contract to buy is to purchase the assets and normally excludes any outstanding liabilities in the sale. If the sale does not occur, the building could potentially sit empty with no tax money and approximately fifty jobs would be lost. With the change to assisted living status, the number of employees may decrease, but they will still employ a large number of people. In the research that Niggemann has done, it appears that the buyer will be providing an assisted living for profit business and the building will be on the tax roll. The Village’s portion of the real estate taxes on the Colfax Health and Rehabilitation Center building will most likely exceed the annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes by two times in the first year. The Village Board needs to decide if they are willing to write-off the \$30,000 plus interest. A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Burcham to write-off the Payment in Lieu of Taxes for the Colfax Health and Rehabilitation. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Best and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Cedar Street Updates – If any – Bates commented that the patches do not look very good and he has talked with the Nichols the engineer with Ayres Associates regarding concerns with the raised asphalt with the snow plowing season approaching. After discussing, the punch list will include looking at the patches after the winter to see how the asphalt held up. The retainer payment will not be paid out until the punch list items are satisfactory. The retainage is \$9,208.54. Bates also reminded the Board that it is important that the Board asks questions and possibly deny payment in the future if they are not satisfied with the work. No action was taken.

Close Village Hall –Monday, November 6th, 2023 from 9 am to approximately 1 pm. Badger Book Training - A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Best to approve the closing of Village Hall on Monday, November 6th, 2023 from 9:00 am to approximately 1 pm for training. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Christmas Board meeting – Cancel or Re-schedule – A motion was made by Trustee Burcham to cancel the Board meeting on Christmas day. Trustee Burcham retracted her motion when a motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Best to cancel the Board meeting on Christmas day and re-schedule on Wednesday, December 27th, 2023 if a meeting is needed. A voice vote was taken with five members voting in favor and opposed was Trustee Burcham. Motion carried.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Rud to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 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