

Village Board Meeting – December 11th, 2023

On December 11th, 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, Stene, Best and Prince. Others present included Mitch Nichols with Ayres, Sheila Riemer, Director of Public Works Bates, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger.

Public Comments - none

Communications by the Village President – none

Consent Agenda

Regular Board Meeting Minutes –November 27th, 2023

Special Budget Public Hearing Minutes – December 7th, 2023

Review Statement of Bills Pooled Checking–November 27th, 2023 to December 10th, 2023

Review Statement of Bills Solid Waste & Recycling Checking – November 27th, 2023 to December 10th, 2023

Training Request –none

Facility Rental and Licenses – none

Licenses – Operator’s License-Christian Ebert-Synergy Cooperative and Viking Bowl-November 11th, 2023 to June 30, 2024

A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham to approve the Consent Agenda items which include the Regular Board meeting minutes of November 27th, 2023, Statement of Bills for Pooled Checking and Solid Waste & Recycling for November 27th, 2023 to December 10th, 2023 and the Operator’s License for Christian Ebert for Synergy Cooperative and Viking Bowling for November 11th, 2023 to June 30, 2024. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration Items

Skid Steer Guy -Payment Four - Ayres Associates provided the fourth payment request for Skid Steer Guy in the amount of \$9,208.24. The payment would be the final payment with the project being substantially complete it is recommended to pay the invoice since the punch list authorized by all parties indicates that the manhole covers need to withhold the winter season of plowing and grass seed will acceptable. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham to pay Skid Steer Guy \$9,208.24. Voting For: Trustees Best, Stene, Jenson, Rud, Davis, Burcham and Prince.

Ayres Associates Agreement – Balsam Street and Oak Street – Ayres Associates provided a project agreement for Balsam Street and Oak Street. The amended version includes the cost with Oak Street as part of the 2024 Streets & Utility Improvements. The estimated total cost is \$87,850 for the engineering. Survey \$7,300, Preliminary , Final Design & Permitting \$61,600, Bidding Phase \$4,200 and Construction Administration Phase \$14,750. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham to approve the Ayres Agreement for Balsam Street and Oak Street – 2024 Streets and Utility Projects in the amount of \$87,850. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Stene, Best and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Emergency Medical Services & Ambulance Transportation Joint Response “intercept”

Billing/Reimbursement Sharing Agreement between Eau Claire Fire Department and Colfax Rescue - There are no changes. Any requested intercept calls will still require the Colfax Rescue to invoice and send 50% of the received payments for both the primary insurance and the secondary insurance. A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Stene to approve the Eau Claire Fire Department and Colfax Rescue agreement for “Intercepts”. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department charges – Charge back to residents/businesses - Discussion regarding how the Village handles the invoices from the Colfax Fire Department when charged for fires in the Village of Colfax. The current process has been to pay the invoice and the invoice has not been charged back to the property owner. In 2023 the process required the Village to pay the Colfax Fire Department approximately \$6,000. The homes should be insured and the fire call would be a covered cost. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Rud to pay \$500 of the fire bill and invoice the balance to the property owner. Voting For: Trustees Best, Stene, Jenson, Rud, Davis, Burcham and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

2024-2025 Election Poll Worker List- Diane Hodgson, Chief Inspector, Abbie Hartung, Chief Inspector, Trustees Ruth Hill, Kathy Dunbar, Carey Davis, Richard Olson, Gary Stene, Barbara Black, Nancy Mouledoux and Susan Anderson. A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Jenson to approve the 2024-2025 Election Poll Worker List as presented. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Sewer Rates Review- Niggemann provided a worksheet that showed how a 2%, 4% and 6% sewer rate increase would affect the water bills. The 2% increase would be a \$3.00 increase per quarter for an average resident and \$6.20 per quarter for a large resident and annually \$12.00 and \$24.80. A motion was made by Trustee Jenson and seconded by Trustee Burcham to approve the 2% increase for the sewer rates. Voting For: Trustees Best, Stene, Rud, Davis, Jenson, Burcham and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Rescue Rates- No change.

2023 Audit Engagement Letter – A motion was made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Rud to approve the Audit Engagement Letter for 2023. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Stene, Best and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Closed Session – A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Stene to convene into closed session pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(c) considering the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises at 7:54 p.m. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Stene, Best and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Open Session - A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham convene into open session to take any action resulting from the closed session at 8:32 p.m. Voting For: Trustees Best, Stene, Jenson, Rud, Davis, Burcham and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Village President announced that the Village Board used the CPI of inflation at 3.2% while considering raises. Public Works each received 6% increase. Public Works each received 6%. Rand also was required to get a DNR license certification for Wastewater. Since that was a requirement, the Board granted a \$0.50/hour for the certification. Police Department provided a wage study for the Full Time Police Patrol (the source is not identified) that included 107 different agencies. Types of agencies included local police, county police, jailers, dispatchers and State Patrol. The Village of Colfax rank #105 at the bottom of the list. #1 was Fitchburg at starting rate of 33.79 and max rate of \$43.02 with Colfax at \$22.00 for a base rate and \$22.50 with night differential. The Village Board did grant a \$4/hr. raise based on that data for the Full-time Police Patrol. The Police Chief contacted five Police Chiefs around our area for wages and they ranged from \$33/hr. to \$37.56/hr. He also provided Police Chief new job postings with three of the agencies listed with a population of 1,467 to 1,485 and the rate of pay ranges were Cornell, WI \$30.04 to \$34.61, Bonduel, WI \$31.25 to \$38.46 and Cleveland, WI \$30 to \$40. The Village Board granted a \$5/hr. raise for the Police Chief; from \$28.15 to \$33.15. The EMS Director resigned prior to completion of the evaluations. The EMTs were all granted pay rate increases in September of an increase of \$2/hr. Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy-Clerk-Treasurer granted a 6% increase.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Stene to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 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