Village Board Meeting – August 25, 2025

On August 25th, 2025, the Village Board met at the Village Hall, 613 Main St, Colfax, WI at 7:00 p.m. Members present included Trustees Stene, Rud, Jenson, Davis, Burcham, Best and Prince. Others present were Public Works Director Bates, Police Chief Anderson, Library Director Bragg-Hurlburt, Allie Petznick, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Riemer, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Mitchell and LeAnn Ralph with the Mesenger.

Communication from the Village President – Fireman's Ball is coming up in a couple of weeks. All permits are in place.

Public Comment – Bragg-Hurlburt gave an update on the summer reading numbers, Story Time grant of $1,000, matching funds for $5,000 for the Endowment Fund the library is starting, and $200 from Colfax Chevrolet which allowed the library to receive 75 new children's books valued at $1,300. The annual thrift sale brought in $4392.

Consent Agenda

- **Regular Board Meeting Minutes –August 11th, 2025**
- **Review Statement of Bills Pooled Checking– August 11, 2025 to August 24, 2025**
- **Review Statement of Bills Solid Waste & Recycling Checking – August 11, 2025 to August 24, 2025**
- **Licenses – Operator's License-Audrey Ebert – August 15, 2025 – June 30, 2026; Synergy Cooperative**
- **Temporary Class "B" License – Colfax Firefighters Ball – September 6, 2025**

A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham to approve consent agenda 5a-5e. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration Items:

Parks Equipment/Grant Update- Allie Petznick has done initial research for a Splash Pad and/or Playground. Trustee Jenson asked where the splash pad would be located. Petznick said that plan A is at the fairgrounds, and plan B is at the Tom Prince ballfields. Petznick asked for approval to begin fundraising activities for funds dedicated to this project. Trustee Jenson asked if ongoing maintenance has been considered. Petznick said that would be taken under advisement. This would be the only splash pad in Dunn County. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham to authorize Petznick to follow up with information and bring it back to the board and to follow through with grant writing and fundraising. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Firewall Replacement – Mitchell suggested tabling this item as a meeting will occur this week with Dunn County IT Director, so the firewall may not need to be replaced. Motion made by Trustee Burcham and seconded by Trustee Jenson to table this discussion until the next meeting. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Davis, Rud, Jenson, Stene, Best and Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Weed Ordinances – Trustee Rud asked who enforces the weed ordinance, and why it was not being enforced. Anderson said he has given out notices for long grass and weeds. Trustee Rud stated she complained about weeds adjacent to her property and Anderson stated that he did not know where her property ended and where the adjacent property began. Much discussion was had over the property lines. Anderson will continue to enforce the weed ordinance and will send a letter to all landowners of the area described encouraging them to clean up the abandoned alley and come to an agreement on who is responsible for each area.

Simplified Rate Case Percentage to Increase – Riemer said the Village can apply for a 3% increase in water rates. Bates said the last increase was in 2009 and Trustee Jenson said the rise in water rates before that was in 1998. While sewer rates have increased, water has not. A motion made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Best to apply for the 3% increase in water rates. Voting For: Trustees Burcham, Rud, Jenson, Stene, Best and Prince. Voting Against: Trustee Davis. Motion carried.

Banking Options -Discussion and possible action- Mitchell said it doesn't make sense for the Village to use two different banks, Bremer and Dairy State. Trustee Burcham said that the reason we used both banks is because we had both banks in town at the time and wanted to divide the business between them. Now that Bremer is no longer in town and is changing over to Old National Bank, Mitchell said it makes sense to consolidate to one bank to handle the Village business. Trustees Jensen and Burcham advised Mitchell to follow up with Stacy Medin with Dairy State. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Burcham for Julie to pursue the banking options of going to one bank. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

End Loader Discussion and possible action – Riemer pulled information for Bates on the costs of maintaining the end loader over the past 14 months. The total was $23,253.48. The end loader is a 2001 and has rust in several places. It still runs and does what we need it to do, however there is concern about the continuing costs and how much money we

want to keep putting into it. Bates indicated that we do have a backup plan in case the end loader broke down, but not a long-term fix. A motion was made by President Prince and seconded by Trustee Burcham for Bates to get prices for new and used end loaders. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.
Assessor Ad – Discuss/Approve – Riemer said the ad was ready to go as long as it looked okay to the Board. A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Rud to approve the advertisement for the assessor. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion Carried.
Bauman Agreement Extension – At the time of the meeting, Riemer hadn't received the contract extension from Eric with Bauman. No action taken.

Closed Session - Motion 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.

i. Personnel

A motion was made by Trustee Best and seconded by Trustee Burcham to convene into closed session at 7:58 pm. Voting For: Trustees Best, Stene, Jenson, Rud, Davis, Burcham and President Prince. Voting Against: none. Motion Carried.

Open Session- Motion to convene into open session to take any action resulting from the closed session.

i. Personnel

A motion was made by Trustee Best and seconded by Trustee Burcham to re-convene into open session at 10:05pm. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.
After much discussion , the Board moved to get legal advice from Weld Riley.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Trustee Stene and seconded by Trustee Best to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

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Jeff Prince, Village President

Attest: ________________________________
Julie Mitchell, Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer