

Proceedings of the Regular Monthly Meeting
Village of Rudolph Board of Trustees
May 11, 2021

Present: President Kniprath, Treasurer Pawelski, Trustees Larsen, Steinle, Van Asten and Ziebell. Clerk Reif was excused.

President Kniprath opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Steinle moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen to approve last month's minutes with the correction of the spelling of Bradach. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

There are several street signs which need to be replaced. Hilltop Avenue, Rocky Run, County Trunk C. Trustee Larsen will find the file containing information about purchase of past signs and will follow through on having the signs replaced.

Lars Larsen, Town of Rudolph Board member, said the Town will grade Ponds Road but will not pay for any road base. A decision was made that the Village pay for the road base and have the Town grade the road. Grinding of the compost pile was considered. Last time, it cost us \$1,000. This work does not have to be done immediately.

Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce has requested a temporary Class B license to sell fermented liquor at Ashbeck Interiors on Monday, June 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. for the Off The Clock event. President Kniprath moved, seconded by Trustee Steinle, to approve issuing the license. Motion was carried unanimously. The C of C has submitted a copy of their insurance.

A permit was submitted for approval for a temporary Class B license for Wisconsin Rapids Lions to sell liquor at the Dick Trickle Memorial Event on Sunday May 23 at the Rudolph Community Park. Trustee Steinle moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen, to approve the request.

New Business

Compliance Review was discussed. This is concerning the seven property owners who were issued letters to clean up their yards before May 10. Simon Larsen has cleaned up his property. The six other property owners have not complied with having the cleanup completed. Trustee Steinle communicated with Rebarchek who is operating a small repair business out of his home. She advised the family that they do not have a license/permit to operate the business. The Board's next move forward is issuing a citation and setting a court date. Affected residents will be given another date by which to comply or a daily fine will be imposed.

If the Board has to get an attorney involved it will cost everybody money. President Kniprath wants village residents to know that the Board is responding to complaints from someone. **Also, all complaints have to be in writing, signed, and address of violation. Anonymous complaints will be discarded.**

The Village Board has a contract with SWCHS (South Wood County Humane Society). If someone sees a loose dog, he/she should call SWCHS. They will, in turn, call a Village Board member, for authorization to pick up the animal. If the owner wants the animal, he/she will have to pay any charges. President Kniprath does not believe that the Sheriff's Department will handle calls about loose animals.

Recently on Facebook, the owner of two loose dogs, asked for assistance in locating them and asked for no mean comments. Recently, a resident with a pitchfork, held off a dog who was acting in a threatening way towards him. Fortunately, he was not injured. Trustee Ziebell said that it does not seem fair – Welcome to Rudolph – Lock Up Your Animals. Trustee Steinle said that we would not tolerate children who are vandalizing property. So, we cannot tolerate loose animals who are terrorizing people. President Kniprath will send to animal owners a copy of the ordinances relative to their animals. Trustee Larsen is considering carrying pepper spray because he has been attacked outside the post office. Bottom line – residents should call SWCHS, not the Wood County Sheriff's Department, to report any stray animals.

There is a sort of plan for moving of the playground equipment at the park. Trustee Steinle feels that we should make some decisions on finalizing this project. President Kniprath stated the Clerk has to issue letters to interested parties re the cost of excavating, concrete work (as some of the equipment is set in concrete), and moving the equipment. Since the project cost will be extensive, letters for bids have to be sent. We do have an estimate from Ron Adamski of \$15,000 with a donation of time for part of the project. There is \$7,289 in the park account. It is not the responsibility of the park committee to issue bids. The bid requests will ask if the business can donate or reduce cost of any part of the project. President Kniprath will work with Clerk Reif to issue the bid requests and, hopefully, have them for approval at the June 8th Village Board meeting.

The park committee's duty is to assess the condition of the park and give written recommendations to the Village Board. The park committee cannot be a fund raiser for this work because two Village Board members are on the committee.

A resident asked if a grant has been requested from the Rudolph Community Fund. A grant request has not been made for this project, but has been requested and received for other projects. The park committee had requested and received a grant for gaga balls. That was for a different purpose than relocating playground equipment. So, a new grant request can be made.

President Kniprath has not received any new information about the stimulus money. The federal government just opened the portal for municipalities/local governments to apply. MSA has said that we are to receive \$40,000 in two installments. \$20,000 should be received in June or July and \$20,000 in November. If and when the money is received, the Board will have to decide how to spend the money. It can be used for anything within the Village. For instance, road repairs can be a consideration.

Wild parsnips are back. Trustee Larsen spoke with Dan O'Connell about the influx of the plant at the park by the ball diamond, bleachers, and along Hilltop Avenue. Trustee Larsen will work with Dan and Larry Hartjes to spray the plants. A patch of wild parsnips behind the bleachers may mean that the area will have to be closed off to prevent children from touching the plant. They look like yellow rocket. If you come in contact with the plant, it can be injurious to your skin. What is coming up now is from two years ago. Seeds dropped this year will come up next year.

If no one accepts the responsibility of organizing and advertising the Rudolph Area garage sales next year, Trustee Ziebell asked if the Village Board is interested in taking charge. She will ask the Town Board if they are interested in sharing the expense of this event. The idea was only presented as something to think about.

Trustee Steinle will be meeting on Wednesday, May 12, remotely, with someone to try to get the sewer computer back online. The new computer will be ready by mid-summer.

President Kniprath said that the Department of Revenue has issued a new tax exempt number for the Village. Anyone who uses the tax exempt number should contact him.

Trustee Larsen asked if the Village paid the fire dues and Treasurer Pawelski assured him that they have been paid.

Trustee Steinle had copies of storage container ordinances from a few municipalities. Do we need an attorney to issue a new ordinance? President Kniprath advised that we only need to issue an addendum to our current ordinances. We have made addendums in the past. It will have to be posted a certain number of days before it can go into effect. There will be a special Village Board meeting on Tuesday, May 25 to discuss this matter. Each Trustee is encouraged to present municipal ordinances that we can review.

Bills were reviewed. Trustee Steinle questioned the amount paid to Attorney Nick Flanagan. This was for his work with the tax resolution. John Van Asten moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen to accept bills as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Larsen moved, seconded by Trustee Van Asten, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Ziebell, Secretary Pro-Tem