

Proceedings of Regular Board Meeting

November 10, 2020

Present: President Bruce Kniprath, Trustees: Richard Larsen, Christy Steinle, John Van Asten and Barb Ziebell; Treasurer, Sandy Pawelski. Excused absences: Clerk Mickey Reif

President Kniprath opened the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business –

President Kniprath asked if there will be games at this year's Country Christmas celebration. Trustee Steinle stated that there will not.

Another Country Christmas item – Trustee Ziebell moved, seconded by President Kniprath, to issue a one day beer license to the Kiwanis for December 12, with the provision that the Kiwanis submit a current copy of their insurance.

The alarm system is working because President Kniprath received a call this morning.

At last month's meeting we talked about the waste lumber in the barn at the park. Lars Larsen will pay the Village \$20 and will remove the lumber.

Trustee Steinle has been in contact with Jared about the part-time sewer maintenance person. He is meeting with his employer this evening to ask permission to accept our offer. Jared will let Christy know if he can accept.

New Business –

Tax Resolution Update – The Department of Revenue has changed the rules for submitting a resolution. They now need the 2020-2021 tax levy work sheet. Kniprath talked to Clerk Reif and with Roseann Dorshorst. They will work together to submit the paperwork to the Department of Revenue. It should be completed so that this will be a December meeting agenda item and so that we can get it on the April 2021 ballot.

Fischer Property Update - Mr. Fischer did not show for his court hearing and has been issued a fine. We have two options to resolve this situation – (1) Issue another citation, probably another fine, and drag it out. Or, (2) Issue an abatement order. This will be at our expense. With an abatement order, Mr. Fischer will get 'x' number of days to clean up the area around his property (the old feed mill). If the work is not completed to our satisfaction, the village can authorize someone to do the cleaning at Mr. Fischer's expense. Rather than continually issue citations, the

Board has authorized President Kniprath to contact our attorney to say that our decision is to issue the abatement order. After this work is completed, the attorney will work on a raze order to demolish the building. It is extremely unsafe. The sewer fees will still be applicable to this property, until Mr. Fischer disconnects the sewer. Someone from the Village Board will verify the disconnection, if it comes to that.

Trustee Steinle has submitted a claim for the Recovery Act. Approvals will be issued around Thanksgiving. A municipality can apply for as much as needed as long as the requests are legitimate. Our new voting machine will be delivered on November 11.

Trustee Steinle has filed the proper paperwork to hook her storage units into the village sewer system. She will let Trustee Ziebell know when the system is active in her units.

Trustee Steinle has questioned the recent billing for locating utility/sewer lines where digging will happen. Four of the charges seem to be for the same location and three charges are for work in the Town of Rudolph. Trustee Steinle has spoken to someone who said the grid we submitted must be wrong since it includes the Town of Rudolph. The tickets for the Town are on Oak Road, west of Highway 13/34. Also, our contract was for \$20 a visit. Then, in March we were notified that there would be a 3% increase to \$20.50. Two tickets are for \$24.40 and two are for \$42.44. President Kniprath will contact the insurance company and USIC regarding these charges. Trustee Stienle will also follow through with USIC.

Trustee Steinle reported that there are a lot of street lights that are out. Two on Grotto Avenue and one on Highway 34. President Kniprath has already contacted Alliant Energy about the lights on Grotto Avenue and a couple of others. Alliant Energy usually takes 5-7 days to complete the work. Trustee Larsen will change the bulb on Highway 34. He recently retrofitted one with an LED bulb. Trustee Steinle has offered to contact Alliant Energy when she is notified of a streetlight that is not working. The information that will be needed is the number on the pole.

Trustee Steinle reported that there is a wire on a pole in front of Bank-A-Count that needs repair. Trustee Larsen will look at the situation.

If Clerk Reif is unable to maintain the Village website, Trustee Steinle will contact Sue Nigon, who offered to do the work.

Trustee Larsen again asked about the lots on Sunset. Should we have them surveyed and assessed for possible sale? Are there other properties within the Village limits that are for sale? President Kniprath stated that this is village

property, but it is part of the park. Initially, the park belonged to the Town and they gave it to the Lions who gave it to the Village. Joostens donated the land, to which Trustee Larsen referred, to the Village to be part of the community park. Trustee Larsen brought up the subject because the Village needs money, and this may be a financial incentive for us. He said he would love to see more young people move into the Village.

Should the property be surveyed? Should a realtor be contacted to determine the value of the property? If it is worth only a thousand dollars, it won't be worth our while to sell. Larry Hartjes believes the property could be worth \$25,000 to \$30,000. Trustee Larsen will contact a realtor to assess the value of the property.

There is land in the industrial park that is for sale. President Kniprath has not heard from the person who seemed interested in two acres along Highway 13/34. Since the sewer is not connected, people soon lose interest in buying. Can we possibly consider extending the sewer system into the industrial park? Larry Hartjes surmised that a lift station will cost \$100,000. Trustee Steinle will investigate the possibility and cost of extending the sewer. Everybody who builds or has built in the industrial park will be required to connect to the sewer system.

Trustee Larsen asked if we are going to change the toilet at the Village Hall. It will be replaced.

Trustee Larsen asked about the railroad tracks on Main Street. President Kniprath reported that the railroad personnel told him it is on their agenda. No date was given for repairs.

Trustee Larsen has two granddaughters, ages 13 and 16, who are looking for employment. Will the Village Board consider hiring them to do the cleaning of the hall that Trustee Larsen presently does? Trustee Ziebell stated that some years ago the Village Board decided that Board members should not be doing village maintenance work. (*I have looked through the minutes from 2012 to present and cannot find this in any minutes.*) Will our insurance cover the girls if one of them should get injured on the job? President Kniprath will be contacting the insurance company about other matters, so he will ask about the girls working. President Kniprath does not see any problem with hiring the girls. They will be employees of the Village. The election workers are covered under insurance, aren't they?

Trustee Larsen announced that the Christmas decorations will be put up soon.

Trustee Van Asten asked about the blacktop going into driveways on Hilltop and Sunset, that was supposed to have been gone over with another coat. The driveways dip considerably. President Kniprath had requested that this work be done with the

50/50 money. He was anticipating that it would have been done this fall. Another road condition that needs attention is in front of the elementary school. It is breaking, up to the driveway of the school.

Leaves were inside the storm sewer on Grotto Avenue and filled up the basin. Same for the leaves on Main Street by Pete's Market and Patsy's Bar. The leaves on Main Street came from Trustee Ziebell's home. She asked if she should have cleared them. Someone cleans up the leaves in her yard weekly. Or, should Pete or Patsy have cleared them. On Grotto Avenue, by Chuck Trickle's property, the leaves amass in the gutter. Can the Village fine him for not cleaning up his leaves. We do not have a leaf ordinance, only a yard ordinance.

The new license to operate our sewer system has been received.

270 or 290 people voted in the November election. The voting machine was not used because no one knew how to set it up.

A CDBG Intent to File was submitted for \$25,000 for park improvements.

Department of Agriculture sent a ballot with one person's name running for office. President Kniprath was advised to put a checkmark by this person's name and return the ballot. The Village Board does not have the name of anyone else for the position.

Trustee Steinle moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen to accept the bills as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Steinle moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ziebell, Acting Clerk