

Proceedings of Regular Board Meeting

October 13, 2020

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

President Kniprath opened the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Ziebell moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen to approve last month's minutes. Unanimously approved.

Old Business –

Advanced Disposal will deliver the new garbage and recycling bins in early November. They thought that they could deliver them in October, but weren't really sure. A village resident, at the end of September, purchased a bin from Advanced Disposal for \$75. She wanted the Board to know so that they are not charged for her bin. The Village will not be charged for bins. Trustee Ziebell's question was why did Advanced Disposal, knowing that they were going to be providing bins, charge this resident? Trustee Steinle suggested that the resident ask for a reimbursement of her expense.

Trustee Ziebell questioned if it has really been ten years since the Village produced a comprehensive plan. Consensus of opinion is that it has definitely been that long. The question was raised because The North Planning Commission has advised that a new plan has to be produced. They did not say when, but that it will soon be due.

New Business –

Jerry Reichert, on behalf of the Rudolph River Rovers Snowmobile Club asked permission for the club to mark the trails. A copy of their insurance has been received. President Kniprath moved, seconded by Trustee Steinle to allow permission to use the trails, following the same guidelines as in the past. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Steinle plans to organize a Country Christmas event. Using the Covid 19 guidelines, all activities will take place outside from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. with the parade at 6 p.m. She has received permission from the Fire Department to use their parking lot for a pop-up bar with crafters around it. Santa will be socially distanced, although he is not happy with this proposal. Every activity will be socially distanced. Trustee Steinle needs the Board to approve her as representative for the event to be covered by the Village insurance. Think

Academy does not want any crafters in the school. There will not be a run. There will be live music before and after the parade. The Kiwanis will operate the bar. A liquor license will be required. Trustee Steinle will work with Clerk Reif to secure the license. Assumption Royal Parents Group will host a hot chocolate and hot cider bar. She is working on different food options. It will be staged similar to the Fire Department Street Dance. Permission has been granted for Main Street to be closed for the parade. A representative from the Sheriff's Department will be in attendance. Trustee Larsen moved, seconded by President Kniprath to approve the event to be covered by village insurance, with Trustee Steinle as representative. Motion carried unanimously.

A garbage rate increase is necessary since residents are presently charged \$30 per quarter (\$10 per month) and the new garbage/recycling contract fees are \$9 for garbage and \$4.15 recycling for a total of \$13.15 per month. A village resident questioned the increase in sewer rates. Trustee Ziebell explained to her that there are some unexpected repairs that were and are to be done to the sewer system. Trustee Steinle moved and seconded by Trustee Larsen to increase the rates to \$45 per quarter (\$15 per month). Motion carried unanimously

New Business –

President Kniprath has received some inquiries about parcels of land within the Village and within the Town. He referred inquiries regarding Town property to their Board. Trustee Larsen contacted Nathan Billingham from Rural Development about the inability of the Village to sell any property because we have an outstanding loan with RD. Mr. Billingham wrote that only if the property has a lift station or wastewater treatment plant would RD restrict selling the land. Do we want to entertain selling some land? It would be in our best financial interest to sell as much as we could. President Kniprath was told that the only land that could be sold was in the Industrial Park. Everything else was tied up with the loan. Trustee Larsen has received interest from two different people to purchase property by Sunset and Hilltop. Trustee Larsen would suggest, if any property is sold, the buyers be told they must build on the land within a year. The property in discussion does not include the ball diamond, but it does include the parking lot. Do we hire a realtor to list the property, or what should we do? In all fairness, we should wait until John Van Asten returns because he expressed an objection to selling property on Sunset and Hilltop, which is across the street from his home. It will be a topic for next month's agenda. Is it necessary to ask residents who live in the area, if we consider selling some property? As far as anyone knows, it has not been the policy in the past to ask residents. When Pete Blokhuis applied for a conditional permit to build a kill floor plant, area residents/businesses were asked if they had any objection. President Kniprath believes that someone other than RD has indicated that village property cannot be sold without the proceeds being paid against the village sewer installation loan. He will check into the matter.

Included with the village sewer bill insert was an offer for residents to bid on a Cub tractor that has been in the barn at the park for many years. No one has indicated to President Kniprath an interest in the tractor. It has been sitting in a corner, taking up space. Rather than have it just sit there, and if someone can use it, we should accept an offer. Our deadline for someone showing interest was October 13. Lars Larsen, who was in attendance at the meeting, offered to purchase the tractor for \$600. Not sure what it is worth. Trustee Larsen does not know the last time that it ran. Village Maintenance worker, Larry Hartjes, does not know the last time it ran. President Kniprath, moved, seconded by Trustee Ziebell to sell the tractor to Lars for \$600. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Larsen asked about the lumber in the barn. For what is it being saved? It is burnable material and should be removed. Larry Hartjes thinks that perhaps it was a tree that was taken down and someone from the mill came and sawed it?

President Kniprath and Trustee Larsen will check the lumber. Trustee Steimle put in the barn all of the memorial project paper stuff and concrete mix that she had in a storage unit.

Trustee Ziebell questioned what sewer system service is covered by the two bills she received from Xylem. One is for picking up the material and taking it to the plant for repair. The second is for the cost of repairs.

Speaking of the sewer system, the alarm call-up was looked at and it is still not working. The board behind the door (in the office) is still disarmed and Kniprath received a dispatch communication failure. There are two fuses that can be put in. Should we re-set it and shut it off first, then turn it back on and see if that fixes the problem? Kniprath doesn't think that we can because there is an internal fuse in the little blue box that is the size of a grain of rice. There is another fuse out in the big panel which is 2 amps. We had that once before. It was the 2 amp that went. When he changed that one, it came back on, and started working correctly. Kniprath has the instructions on how to take out the little one. He was never able to get the one in the Lift Station on 34 to work. The call box is not calling anyone. One has a communication failure and the other one, Highway C Lift Station, is out of temperature range. It came back, didn't it, after it was adjusted? In one of them the control box was out of temperature range and then Highway C has a communication failure. The Highway C Lift Station is the one we changed the temperature because it was too high. It was heating all of the time. That is the reason the bill has considerably gone down. At the 34 Lift Station, the temperature is out of control. Last time we turned down the heat. If that one is out of range, perhaps we had better do that one. Trustee Steinle will call Curt and ask about the down alarm. President Kniprath know how to turn it on, but the las time it went back and started calling all of the people from way back. Trustee Steinle and

Larsen were present the day that Curt re-programmed it. Curt was actually in the panel behind the door. It is disarmed. It hasn't called Kniprath. Has it called anyone else? It says the alarm does not acknowledge. That board is disarmed.

Trustee Ziebell then asked again what we are doing about a maintenance program. Trustee Steinle asked if anyone had been approached about an interest in doing the work. Trustee Ziebell had not because she forgot about it until she read it in last month's minutes. In last month's minutes, at the top of page three, "Kniprath suggested to table a decision on a yearly maintenance contract until the October village meeting." Kniprath mentioned hiring FLYTE to get the pump fixed and returned. Which we did. There were two maintenance plans submitted. Flyte was \$1,500 per year. Staub was \$1,500 per month with an annual inspection fee of \$5,000. Flyte may be something we can consider. Staub's proposal is too expensive. Trustee Steinle is not necessarily in favor of using someone like Flyte or Staub. She would like to find a properly trained Rudolph area person who knows what we want done. Instead, perhaps we should use someone local. T. J. Milanowski or a friend of Curt Agen who have some experience in this field. T.J. has just taken a job with the Town, but perhaps may be interested in a side job. Trustee Larsen will talk to him. Trustee Steinle would suggest Curt Agen's friend who wants to build in Rudolph. Presently, he works for the city of Whiting sewer system. What could we offer for financial compensation? Trustee Ziebell suggested \$15/hour. Trustee Larson thinks that is the rate of pay T. J. was offered from the Town with the expectation of overtime for plowing snow, etc. The duties will include checking out everything and to be the first phone number on the dialer. All of this will be explained to the person who is offered the position. President Kniprath will make an outline for the job. We can come up with an hourly rate, but we have no way of knowing how many hours per month will be needed. The hours can be limited. When Jared looked at the check valves, he said that they look at them all of the time. When these valves were checked, they were really, really dirty. With a regular exercise, that problem will be eliminated. Initially it may take more hours, but once a system has been set, the hours should decrease. We need someone who can do this at his own schedule. Kniprath, Larsen and Steinle will work on a job description. If the person offered the job hesitates at \$15/hour, we could go up to \$20/hour. But at this time, that would be the maximum amount. At \$15 hour how many hours could they put in? Thirty hours a month, initially and then see how it goes? Someone who is starting out will probably do 10 hours a month. After they set up a routine, the person can ask for more hours and we will consider the request. Once a routine and rotation is set, it will be easier with which to deal. In the past, it was difficult, financially, to justify paying someone an hour a day for what work was done.

Trustee Steinle said that the Village will be re-assessed next year or the following year and she hopes that it will increase our income as the re-assessment in

Minocqua did with her properties. Her taxes were greatly increased. So, perhaps we can see something like that happening here when the re-evaluation is done. This is just a blanket statement when she hears about how people question sewer prices being increased. Along with that, how many times do you flush the toilet? Do you know what the inside of our sewer system looks like? That is just a price you pay. Some Board members stated that they did not know about the sewer system operation, until being on the Board. It is quite a system that works very well. In Stevens Point Kniprath put in an E1, a pressurized sewer system, in each house in a subdivision, with 1 ¼” check valve to a 2” force main. Our system is just bigger and has to be maintained.

Trustee Larsen had two people remark about the tax referendum not being on the November ballot. Both asked if it will be on the spring ballot? He told them yes. These resident had no objection to a 10% increase. President Kniprath stated that we will be going with an 8% increase. A double digit increase would be questioned by the Department of Revenue. The way we originally worded the tax referendum was too vague, ‘to maintain services in the community’. If you go into double digits, it will be scrutinized. If you were going to buy a fire truck for \$500,000, or something large like that, it would not be questioned. This 8% increase will realize an increase of \$1400 to \$1900.

Reading of the bills. Expense for Junemann Well Drilling was questioned. It was for the pressure tank at the park. It was the closest place that had the size that was needed. It is an 80 gallon pressure tank. Another question was the check to the Village for delinquent sewer. As Treasurer Pawelski receives past sewer payments, she forwards them to Trustee Ziebell for deposit into the sewer account. Trustee Steinle moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen that the bills be paid as typed. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Ziebell moved, seconded by Trustee Larsen, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ziebell, Acting Clerk