

Regular Meeting Minutes October 3rd, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Village President Marc Baures at 6:00 p.m. and roll call was taken. The following were present: Trustees Josh Hanson, Kaylee Waldvogel, Dan Molstad, Harold Olson, Dana Stoner, President Marc Baures, Village Clerk Jane Jensen, Ettrick Fire Chief Denny Bishop and Village resident Heather Freehling. Trustee Pete Filla was absent;

The board opened with the Pledge of Allegiance;

Jane Jensen verified that posting requirements were met;

(10) Minute Open Forum:

Fire Chief Denny Bishop was present to speak in open forum. Denny reported that the fire chief or a designee from the fire department is required by law to conduct fire inspections 2 times per year in all non-residential buildings in the Village and Township of Ettrick. WI Administrative Code permits the fire chief to reduce the frequency of fire inspections to at least 1 inspection per calendar year, provided the interval between inspections does not exceed 15 months. Denny asked the Village of Ettrick to consider adopting an ordinance establishing fire inspection duties as set forth by State of Wisconsin rules of the Department of Safety and Professional Services and WI State Statutes. Denny supplied a sample ordinance that was adopted by the Town of Ettrick. Marc Baures told Denny that because the matter is not on the agenda this month no action can be taken. Baures instructed Jane Jensen to place the Fire Inspection Duties Ordinance on the agenda for board discussion at the November 7th, 2023 meeting, and on the December 5th, 2023 agenda for approval or disapproval. Baures thanked Bishop and he left the meeting at 6:10;

Report from the Public Works Department; Courtney Kotlarz was not present at the meeting;

New Business

Jane Jensen reported that the resident who asked to be on the agenda to seek permission to erect a portable garage has postponed installing the garage and will submit an application and drawings at a future meeting;

A motion was made by Harold Olson, seconded by Dan Molstad to schedule a meeting of the Finance and Claims Committee for Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. to begin 2024 Budget Preparation. The motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting will begin immediately following the informational meeting of the Board of Review members with Assessor Kevin Irwin.

Old Business

Marc Baures opened discussion on the sewer at the Stellflue property located at 22811 US Hwy. 53. Marc stated that Nancy Stellflue has a bid of \$26,000.00 for installation of a private septic system on her property. Marc said he had informed Stellflues that the board had been firm in enforcing the ordinance that does not permit private sewer systems. Dan Molstad stated that the houses by the golf course area are not on village water and sewer, they all have private systems. Harold Olson said that is because the village does not have water and sewer available in that area, so the private systems were allowed. He said that the service is available to the Stellflue property, and he feels that the board needs to enforce the ordinances that are in place, or not have ordinances at all. Marc said that if the board should decide to allow the private system, Stellflues should be charged the minimum for sewer service when they pay for the water service. Dan Molstad asked how that was fair, when the golf course area does not pay those fees. Marc said those are things that would have to be discussed, and said that since Stellflues were unable to attend the meeting, the matter should be placed on the November agenda for further discussion;

Marc Baures reported that he recently spoke with representatives of Dollar General, and they are no longer going to build a store on the former sales barn property. They stated that they are now pursuing the land just south of Hummer's Auto in the Town of Ettrick and are currently requesting rezoning of the parcel from Trempealeau Co.;

Marc Baures reported that the village has received numerous complaints concerning the accumulation of junk and garbage on the Heather Freehling/Nick Dugard property located at 15695 E. 2nd Street. He said there are also many complaints about the number of animals at the residence. Heather Freehling was present at the meeting to address the complaints. Marc told Heather that Village Ordinances permit 2 dogs and 2 cats per household, and that all property must be kept in a clean, neat and orderly appearance and free of refuse and junk. Heather stated that because of physical limitations, she is unable to afford garbage bags to dispose of her garbage. She then stated that she has 2 cats and 2 dogs that are emotional support animals. She said a stray cat on her property had kittens and she took them in, and is on the process of giving them away. Marc told her that she is in very clear violation of the village ordinances and she must clean her yard, and get rid of any animals in excess of 2 cats and 2 dogs. Heather assured the board that she has already cleaned her yard and she has homes for the cats. She left the meeting at 6:30;

Marc Baures explained options for audio/visual equipment for Village Board Meetings. A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Josh Hanson to approve the purchase of audio/visual equipment, including a 55" TV and the necessary accessories, brackets and microphones, not to exceed \$500.00. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Marc Baures presented the preliminary GET School District/Etrick Community Center Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Guidelines for use of the Etrick Community Center. The school district will administer user access, record keeping and FOB distribution. Marc said the village office will keep 2 FOBs in case of emergency. Village of Etrick and Town of Etrick residents will have access to the center as they always have. The center will be available any time that school is not in session, and when it is not reserved for a single use event. The board asked for clarification on the #4 guideline-providing for the access process for repeated/recurring use of Village or Town residents. Harold Olson said that the GET School District Committee of the Whole will have a meeting on October 10th at 6:00 p.m. to approve the cooperation agreement and he encouraged the village board to attend that meeting for clarification and questions;

Marc Baures reported that Etrick Youth Sports Club will purchase 2 trees for the ball park from Tree Savvy, in addition to the 4 trees being purchased by the Village. This will be a total of 6 new trees;

Pete Filla was not present to give an update on downtown beautification plans. Marc Baures said that the American Legion and a group of Etrick citizens are going to create a Christmas display on the empty lot next to CCF Bank on South Main Street. The group of residents are also talking to downtown businesses about options for decorating Main Street for Christmas. They asked if the Village will contribute \$500.00 to help pay for the project;

The board reviewed the minutes of the meetings held in September. A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Dana Stoner to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held on September 5th, 2023. The motion carried 6 to 0;

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Dana Stoner to approve for payment voucher #'s 39276-39308 plus 3 EFT's, 1 transfer and 1 auto payment in the amount of \$75,961.64 from the General Checking Account and voucher #'s 10918 to 10938 auto pay in the amount of \$17,049.76 from the Water/Sewer Checking Account. The motion carried 6 to 0. Dan Molstad noted that Etrick Lions Club reimbursed the Village \$3,600.00 for the concrete at Gametime Park;

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Kaylee Waldvogel to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of September. The motion carried 6 to 0;

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Josh Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Jane Jensen
Village Clerk

