

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Village President Marc Baures. Roll call was taken and the following were present: Trustees Kaylee Waldvogel, Pete Filla, Dan Molstad, Harold Olson, Dana Stoner, Village President Marc Baures, Public Works Director Courtney Kotlarz, Village Clerk Jane Jensen, Deputy Clerk Beth Osborn, Ettrick American Legion Post 354 representatives Fritz Truax and Phillip Borreson, Gary Hougom and Brandon Crary of Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling, village resident Janice Hunt and Andrew Dannehy of the Trempealeau Co. Times;

The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance;

Jane Jensen verified that the posting and notification requirements were met;

**(10) Minute Open Forum** No one was present to speak in the 10 minute open forum;

**New Business**

Marc Baures requested, and was granted permission to move Ettrick American Legion Post 354 up on the agenda. Fritz Truax presented the board with a conceptual plan for the Runnestrand-Peterson American Legion Post 354 Building Campaign. Phillip Borreson reported the proposal to construct a 4,000 square foot building at 22800 South Main Street. He said the building will serve the American Legion and be made available to the public for rent. He said the organization is considering applying for a Community Development Block Grant, but the village does not meet the low income criteria. He noted that making the facility available and accessible to the disabled and elderly is a more viable benchmark when applying for the grant. Borreson said the grant details will be presented in January 2025. He said the Legion is asking the Village of Ettrick to be the primary sponsor for the building project and no funds will be required from the village. The village will need to publish notice and notify the public of the intention to take action to act as the grantee, hold public hearings on the proposed use of the CDGB funds and pass any necessary resolutions. He noted that the CDBG application will enable the Legion to petition elected officials for support. Mr. Borreson said the grant application will be written by the Legion soon. Fritz Truax again remarked that the building will be open and available to the entire community and will be a huge asset to the Village of Ettrick. Harold Olson inquired how much the project will cost. Phil Borreson said the cost will be approximately \$800,000.00, and the Legion is actively fund-raising. Marc Baures pointed out that Ettrick has always been very supportive of projects such as this. He thanked Phillip and Fritz and they left the meeting at 6:20;

Three bids were submitted for disposal of solid waste and recycling in 65 gallon containers. The following bids were opened by Village President Marc Baures:

**BIDS SUBMITTED FOR DISPOSAL OF REFUSE (GARBAGE) SERVICES ONLY**

DATE submitted	CONTRACTOR	TOTAL BID 5 YEAR	TOTAL BID 7 YEAR
11/25/24	Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling	\$14.60/month/per unit	\$14.00/month/per unit
11/26/24	Tri-City Sanitation	\$17.00/month/per unit	\$18.00/month/per unit
11/26/24	Big Hook Trucking & Disposal	\$13.76/month/per unit	

Marc Baures noted that the proposal from Big Hook Trucking & Disposal also has a container charge of \$90.00 each plus a \$30.00 drop-off fee. He did the calculations to include that charge in the monthly fee. Kaylee Waldvogel also did the calculation and confirmed Marc Baures' math.

**BIDS SUBMITTED FOR DISPOSAL OF RECYCLING SERVICES ONLY**

DATE	CONTRACTOR	TOTAL BID 4 YEAR	TOTAL BID 6 YEAR
11/25/24	Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling	\$8.30/month/per unit	\$7.25/month/per unit
11/26/24	Tri-City Sanitation		
11/26/24	Big Hook Trucking & Disposal		\$6.28/month/per unit-6 yr term \$7.74/month/per unit-7 yr term

**BIDS SUBMITTED FOR DISPOSAL OF REFUSE & RECYCLING SERVICES COMBINED**

DATE	CONTRACTOR	TOTAL BID 5 YEAR	TOTAL BID 7 YEAR
11/25/24	Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling	Garbage    Recycling \$13.60 + \$6.55=\$20.15 total	Garbage    Recycling \$13.05 + \$6.15=\$19.15 total
11/26/24	Tri-City Sanitation		
11/26/24	Big Hook Trucking & Disposal	Garbage    Recycling \$14.45 + \$8.47=\$22.92 total	Garbage    Recycling \$15.41 + \$6.28=\$21.69 total

Marc Baures acknowledged the valid 5 year bid of Big Hook Trucking and Disposal of \$13.76 for garbage disposal only and the combined bid of \$22.92 for disposal of garbage and recycling. He noted that the 6 and 7 year bids submitted are errors and should not be accepted.

The board asked Gary Hougom about the consumer charge for containers. He said customers will be required to replace damaged or missing containers. He noted that Hilltopper will continue with the current hand pick-up services for garbage bags for a period of 6 months from the contract date at a rate of \$3.50 per bag, so that the village can use up the current bag inventory. He said that during this period, they will also collect the recycling using the same 18-gallon bin at the existing rate. Harold Olson inquired about services for the mobile home park and 4-unit and larger rental units. Hougom said that in the mobile home park, each mobile home is considered a single family unit. He said apartment complexes larger than a 4-plex should use dumpsters for waste disposal.

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dana Stoner to accept the bid of Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling for \$19.15 per month per unit for the combined disposal of refuse and recycling for a term of 7 years, and Hilltopper will continue with the current hand pick-up services for garbage bags for a period of 6 months from the contract date at a rate of \$3.50 per bag, so that the village can use up the current bag inventory. A roll call vote was taken: Kaylee Waldvogel-yes; Pete Filla-yes; Dan Molstad-yes; Harold Olson-yes, Dana Stoner-yes; Marc Baures-yes. The motion carried 6 to 0. The board thanked them for coming. Hougom and Brandon Crary left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.;

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dan Molstad to Adopt Resolution #24-03, a Proclamation recognizing 10 years of Faithful and Dedicated service of Village Trustee Joshua Hanson, who passed away on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Village resident Janice Hunt introduced herself as a 61 year old with disabilities due to previous injuries. She said that she lives in Greenview Apartments, across the street from the Salzwedel property located at 15470. She said there is a lot of lawlessness in the village, including the village animal/cat control ordinance. She said that the management of Greenview Apartments does not respond to complaints about the apartment complex. Janice said that the village ordinances are not being enforced. She said she does not wish to gossip or slander people, but she has much distress over the cats at the Salzwedel property. She noted that she has 2 emotional support cats that she is responsible for and she takes excellent care of them. She said she does not like the unkind neighbors, and her anxiety is caused by unkind people. Marc Baures and Harold Olson asked her for specific complaints. Marc stated that the board can only comment on specific agenda items such as cat control and Janice's concerns with the property at 15740 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. He asked Janice to state her specific concerns. Janice said the cats at the home in question are suffering. She said she has tried to be a good neighbor, but Jeff Salzwedel will not be a good neighbor. She said she has video of the animals being abused. Marc Baures asked Janice to identify specific abuse. She said the cats are not being fed and properly housed. Marc told her that the village has notified Jeff Salzwedel of the ordinance violations, such as keeping more than 2 cats on the property, and the board intends to enforce those ordinances. He said the board instructed Salzwedel to refrain from feeding and housing feral cats. Ms. Hunt asked Baures to define feral cats. Marc told her that feral cats are animals that roam at large, are not owned or licensed by anyone and are not under anyone's control, and restricting feral animals is the responsibility of the village board. Janice said the cats in question are not feral because they live at the house. Marc added that the board can only enforce the ordinances to the best of their ability. Ms. Hunt said Jeff Salzwedel does not attend to issues, and she wants the village to have a special meeting with Salzwedel to discuss the matter. Harold Olson asked her what specifically would Janice like the village board to address? She suggested the village purchase the property and said it could be used as a branch of the Trempealeau Co. Humane Society or be used for a pet refuge or petting zoo. Hunt told him that causing suffering doesn't help the issue. She again reported a lack of response from Greenview Apartments and their failure to take action to resolve problems. Marc Baures told her that the village does not have any control over the apartments. Harold Olson told Janice that she has to get to the point about specific issues and advised her to contact Jeff Salzwedel and address this matter with him directly. Janice again said that she wants the board to have a meeting with Jeff Salzwedel and tell him to take care of his cats. She said that if Jeff is unwilling to do that, the village has a responsibility to take care of the cats and feed them and get them proper medical care. Marc Baures said he will reach out to Jeff Salzwedel and ask him to come up with a solution to this problem. He said it is not the responsibility of the village to take care of the cats. Courtney Kotlarz asked Janice if she could gather the cats together, he will take them to a farm in the country that accepts cats. Marc Baures told Janice that with no specific topic to take action on, the board must move on to address the rest of the meeting agenda. Ms. Hunt complained about her lack of time to be heard and said she didn't feel that the board is listening to her. She apologized for taking up so much time and left the meeting at 7:44;

A motion was made by Harold Olson, seconded by Pete Filla to set the date for the Village Caucus on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.-immediately prior to the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Jane Jensen reported receiving complaints about the Kimberly Butterfield property located at 22737 Washington St. regarding the number of dogs on the property and concerning the bus located in the back yard where someone is currently living. Marc said there are at least 3 dogs in the house and 2 dogs in the bus. Courtney Kotlarz has had contact with the property owner and with the occupant of the bus. Marc instructed Jane Jensen to send a second notice of violation to the property owner by certified mail. He told her to include in the notice that having too many dogs carries a minimum fine of \$50.00 plus court costs and attorney's fees. Harold Olson said that the village should consult the Village Attorney to evict the person in the bus. Marc Baures said he will contact the attorney;

## **Old Business**

No Building Permit Applications were submitted for approval;

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Pete Filla to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The motion carried 6 to 0;

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Harold Olson to approve for payment voucher #'s 39867-39923 plus 3 EFT's, 1 transfer and one auto pay in the amount of \$55,763.24 from the General Checking Account and voucher #'s 11229-11261 plus 1 auto pay in the amount of \$57,104.65 from the Water/ Sewer Checking Account. The motion carried 6 to 0;

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

Jane Jensen reported that the only complaints received during the month were addressed on the agenda;

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dana Stoner to enter into closed session pursuant to WI SS 19.85 (sec. C) at 7:58 p.m. The motion carried 6 to 0.

Jane Jensen  
Village Clerk  
Village of Ettrick

## **Closed Session**

The board discussed candidates for the maintenance position and the potential pay scale for new employees. A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Kaylee Waldvogel to come out of closed session and adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion carried 6 to 0.