

## Regular Meeting Minutes February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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, Pete Filla, Dan Molstad, Harold Olson, and President Marc Baures. Also present: Village Clerk Jane Jensen, Public Works Director Courtney Kotlarz, 2 members of Tenacity Volleyball Club and Andrew Dannehy of the Trempealeau Co. Times. Trustee Dana Stoner arrived at 6:02;

The board opened with the Pledge of Allegiance;

Jane Jensen verified that posting requirements were met;

**(10) Minute Open Forum:** No one was present to speak in open forum. Members of Tenacity Volleyball Club were not on the agenda, but had some questions regarding the use of the Ettrick Community Center. Marc Baures told them that their club is using the facility in compliance with the rules, and it was not necessary for them to stay for the Village Board meeting. He told them that the board will be discussing the agreement between the village and GET School District later in the meeting, and possibly scheduling a meeting with GET School District;

### **Report from the Public Works Department;**

Courtney Kotlarz reported that 2 parties wish to donate benches to be placed on the village walking trail. Courtney said the village will purchase the benches and submit the cost to the donors for reimbursement. He said there are possibly 2 additional bench donations coming in the future. The board told Courtney to use his discretion regarding placement of the benches;

### **New Business**

There was no new business on the agenda;

### **Old Business**

Marc Baures asked if the village should move forward with discussion on the Engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and whether the village should develop plans for an upgrade to the facility, or plans for replacement of the WWTP. Marc said all of the Engineering firms who made presentations to the village are great firms, with many options presented for the plant. Pete Filla said that there are no immediate problems with the WWTP, and he thinks the village should continue to maintain the current plant and begin to explore all funding options. Kaylee Waldvogel said that the village should begin the application process for any available funding. Dan Molstad said that the village will have to have a plan in place in order to apply for funding. Marc Baures said he will look into cost estimates for design plans for upgrades;

Marc Baures reported some complaints from residents concerning use of the Ettrick Community Center. Kaylee Waldvogel said she reached out to Jamie Thill at Ettrick Elementary for a key fob for the community center in order to have access when she wishes to use the facility. Jamie told her that she would have to specify a time that she wishes to use the center and make a reservation. Kaylee said that when the agreement language was previously clarified, the village was told that Village of Ettrick and Town of Ettrick residents could simply check the community center calendar, and use the center when it is available. Marc said that he talked to representatives of GET, and they want reservations made by residents using the facility. Pete Filla said that is not the policy agreed to between the village and the school district. Marc noted that there is a legal agreement between the parties that needs to be followed. Harold Olson said that GET School District cannot change the policy without talking to the village. Pete Filla said that GET agreed to the policies, and he would like the Village Committee of the Whole to schedule a meeting with representatives of GET School District, including District Administrator Michelle Butler and Dean of Students Rick Schmidt and get the policy firmly in place, and communicate that to school district employees. Marc Baures said he will contact GET School District for dates to schedule a meeting;

Marc Baures asked for a preview of Section 14 c) 29) of Animal Control Ordinance #4-B concerning the keeping of chickens in the Village of Ettrick. He presented policies concerning the keeping of chickens from the Cities of Galesville, Blair and Onalaska and from the Village of Trempealeau. Josh Hanson asked why we are considering chickens within the Village of Ettrick. He noted that they stink, they are noisy and they don't belong in town. Marc and Dan Molstad pointed out that other communities have policies in place that limit the number of chickens and the orderly, clean keeping of chickens. Harold Olson asked who is going to enforce these policies. Pete Filla said that no resident of the Village has approached him requesting to raise chickens. Jane Jensen said as a resident of the Village, she does not want her neighbors to have chickens. Marc Baures said he has heard people expressing interest, and he has presented plenty of examples of guidelines to regulate chickens. Marc suggested drafting samples of ordinances outlining the guidelines. Dan Molstad asked if the Village should ask for community input. Marc said that cannot be done until there is an outline that would include a limit on the number of chickens, potentially 5 per residence, for example. A motion was made by Dan Molstad to proceed with development of a draft ordinance to present to the public for input on keeping chickens in the Village of Ettrick, with emphasis that this action is seeking public input and does not approve the keeping of chickens in the Village of Ettrick at this time. Marc Baures called for a roll call vote with the following results: Josh Hanson-no; Kaylee Waldvogel-yes; Pete Filla-no; Dan Molstad-yes; Harold Olson-no; Dana Stoner-yes; Marc Baures-yes. The motion carried 4 to 3. Marc Baures said he will prepare a draft ordinance to present for board review;

The board reviewed the minutes of the Village Caucus and the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Josh Hanson to approve the minutes of the Village Caucus and the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The motion carried 7 to 0;

The board reviewed the checks written during January. Dan Molstad inquired about check #39466 payable to the Town of Ettrick in the amount of \$16,039.93 for Ettrick Fire Department expenses. Dan asked for a summary of the expenses. He said he thinks that the Village should be given an ongoing breakdown of expenditures similar to the monthly voucher listing. Marc Baures said he will request a summary of EFD expenses. A motion was made Dan Molstad seconded by Pete Filla to approve for payment voucher #'s 39450-39484 plus 1 auto payment in the amount of \$253,506.74 from the General Checking Account and voucher #'s 11006 to 11026 plus 1 auto payment in the amount of \$9,363.46 from the Water/Sewer Checking Account. The motion carried 7-0;

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Dana Stoner to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of January. The motion carried 7 to 0;

In open discussion, it was reported that there is still a couch sitting on the boulevard at 22963 N. Main Street. Jane Jensen was instructed to send a letter to Mark Hadley to remove the couch and send a copy to the property owner, Pete Filla asked if there was any further discussion on the plaque honoring former Village President John Beirne. Dan Molstad suggested presenting the plaque at Ettrick Days in August. Marc Baures said he will contact a trophy company to design the plaque;

A motion was made by Pete Filla, seconded by Josh Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. The motion carried 7 to 0;

Jane Jensen  
Village Clerk  
Village of Ettrick