

## Regular Meeting Minutes September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The meeting was called to order by 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, Maintenance Supervisor Courtney Kotlarz, Village Clerk Jane Jensen, and Village residents Amy & James Shea, Adam McRae and Jeanette Dooley of Ettrick Youth Sports Club, and Mark Davy and Carson Hackett of Davy Engineering Co. Trustee Pete Filla was absent;

The board opened with the Pledge of Allegiance;

Marc Baures verified that posting requirements were met;

### **(10) Minute Open Forum:**

No one was present to speak in open forum;

**Report from the Public Works Department;** Courtney Kotlarz had nothing new to report;

### **New Business**

Fire Chief Denny Bishop was not present at the meeting;

Adam McRae and Jeanette Dooley from Ettrick Youth Sports Club were present to give a year-end report for the program. Adam said there is a lot of participation and parent involvement and they have great coaches. He said the program is stable financially. Jeanette Dooley inquired about the trees they had requested and Marc Baures said the matter is on the agenda later in the meeting. Jeanette said they are also repairing the batting cages and improving them with a rubber base. Adam said that will be a spring project. Marc instructed them to communicate with Courtney Kotlarz about weeding and mowing. Adam said they receive many compliments on the facilities. Jeanette noted that because some participants are aging out of the program, there could be smaller numbers in some groups in 2024. Jeanette thanked the board for the new surface on the kitchen floor. Kaylee Waldvogel thanked Adam and Jeanette for all of the hard work they do for the program. Harold Olson told them the board really appreciates all they do. They left the meeting at 6:15;

Eric Rogness of CCF Bank was unable to be present to propose consideration for fraud protection for village accounts. He asked that a daytime meeting on the matter be scheduled. Marc Baures reported that he thinks the village has enough fraud protection coverage provided under the current insurance policy;

Jane Jensen gave the board the following list of current interest rates for Certificates of Deposit offered by area financial institutions: CCF Bank- 12 month Certificate of Deposit at 3.09%, Galesville CCU- a 10 month Certificate of Deposit at 5.25% and Waumandee State Bank offered 2% for a 3 month CD, 3% for a 6 month CD, 2% for a 12 month CD, 2.5% for a 18 month CD and 2.4% for a 24 month CD. Harold Olson said he would like to stay with the local bank, however the rate is much better at Co-op Credit Union at this time. After discussion, a motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Dana Stoner to invest \$40,000.00 in a 10 month Certificate of Deposit at Galesville Co-op Credit Union at a rate of 5.25%. The motion carried 6 to 0;

A motion was made by Kaylee Waldvogel, seconded by Harold Olson to adopt Resolution #23-06 designating Galesville Co-op Credit Union as a depository for village funds to invest in a \$40,000.00 10 month Certificate of Deposit at a rate of 5.25%. The motion carried 6 to 0;

A motion was made by Josh Hanson, seconded by Dan Molstad to adopt Resolution #23-07 to transfer \$40,000.00 from the Memorial Ball Park Fund to the Village of Ettrick General Checking Account in order to invest in a 10-month Certificate of Deposit at Galesville Co-op Credit Union at a rate of 5.25%. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Discussion was held on the whether or not the village has authority under their current ordinance to impose fines on James Shea for his unkempt yard. Sheas argued at the meeting in August that the weeds in their yard are not of the species described as noxious weeds. Marc Baures said that he had talked to the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and the current village noxious weed ordinance lacks specifics. The league said that the threshold for weed height is not specific enough and the plants on the Shea property are not noxious weeds. James Shea said the ordinance is unenforceable as it is written. Marc Baures agreed. Harold Olson suggested having the village attorney review the village ordinance, and after General Code has completed updating the ordinances, the matter of the plants at the Shea property should be revisited. A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Kaylee Waldvogel to continue with the review of the outdated village ordinances, and include in the new ordinance language specifies that better define the acceptable height and varieties of plants. The motion carried 6 to 0. James and Amy Shea left the meeting at 6:30;

A motion was made by Harold Olson, seconded by Josh Hanson to appoint Shirley Johnson to act as Chief Election Inspector;

### **Old Business**

Mark Davy and Carson Hackett of Davy Engineering, were present for a presentation on options regarding upgrades and/or replacement of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Carson Hackett explained that Davy Engineering Co. has been in business since 1929 with 90+ years of consulting experience. They specialize in water and wastewater treatment systems engineering services. Davy designed Etrick original sewer collection system and WWTP in the 1940's, upgraded the plant in 1982 with an RBC plant (comminutor, reused primary clarifier, final clarifier and chlorine disinfection). In 2020 a chemical feed system was added for including ferric chloride for phosphorous removal. Mark Davy noted that the current system is working, maintaining phosphorous levels, and utilizing the Trempealeau Co. Land Management Soil Water Conservation practices. The plant has exceeded its expected 20 year service life, but it is aging, creating potential for failures. It is becoming difficult to meet phosphorous limits with the chemical feed alone. Davy explained that one alternative method to reducing phosphorous levels is Water Quality Trading (WQT). This option would be to construct a project that reduces phosphorous within the watershed with streambank stabilization, barnyard runoff improvements and crop management practices. Davy would work with Trempealeau Co. Land Management Conservation Department to locate projects and speak to landowners, create a design along with necessary permitting, bidding of the project and construction oversight. Marc Davy pointed out that building a new WWTP at this time would involve purchasing land for a building site that will meet separation requirements. The current area is on the floodplain fringe. There would need to be lift stations and collection system modifications at an approximate cost of \$8 million to \$10 million. Mark Davy recommended maintaining the existing WWTP. It is meeting the 0.6-0.7 mg/L total phosphorous limits economically. He said the plant is still performing well and has some years left in it. He also recommended partnering with Trempealeau County to start Water Quality Trading to reach the final phosphorous level compliance of 0.075 mg/L. Dan Molstad asked what would happen if the village continues to maintain the current WWTP, and there is a catastrophic failure. Mark Davy said that effective repairs are realistically available. He said the DNR requires repair plans to meet compliance. Molstad wondered if this is just "kicking the can down the road". Mark Davy reiterated that Etrick's WWTP is still performing well and in compliance with the DNR phosphorous requirements and there really is no compelling reason to replace the existing plant at this time. He thinks there are many more years left in the current operation. He said that in the event of a failure, the DNR would implement a couple-year process to replace the plant. Harold Olson said that he thinks that the WWTP is in good shape, and he sees no reason to replace it. He said Etrick would not be able to afford to upgrade the plant without substantial federal funding. He commended Courtney Kotlarz on the great job he does maintaining the system. Carson Hackett said Courtney does an excellent job running the plant, and he thinks the objective should be to keep operating the existing plant. Marc Baures thanked Mark Davy and Carson Hackett for their presentation and they left the meeting at 6:50;

Marc Baures introduced Project Manager Tia McCarthy and Design Leader Alex Roll of CBS Squared. He met them at the WI Rural Water Conference. Their firm was founded in Chippewa Falls. They have been in this area for 6 years and have 90 employees, with offices in La Crosse, Chippewa Falls, Madison and Waukesha. They offer a wide range of services, including street, park, WWTP and water projects. Tia McCarthy said that Ettrick's WWTP is typical of plants built in the 1980's. However, Ettrick's plant was built in the 1940's and refurbished in 1982. Tia said some aspects of the plant could be re-used or upscaled. Their firm would identify problems, generate options and evaluate the community and ask questions. She said the best option would be a pre-manufactured, mechanical unit process with a lagoon-based system. There are 5 options available with different technologies, but this would be a better option leverage with funding. Marc Baures told them that Ettrick's plant is beyond its serviceable life with high repair costs. Tia said the current MDV operation costs will continue to increase and there is potential for catastrophic failure. She said that a new plant would be a better long term option. If that is at the same location, her firm could work with neighbors to get necessary variances to meet setback requirements. The floodplain surrounds the existing plant, but there are options to fill the area to increase potential building space. Her firm would engage their staff and the village board for options and a perspective, develop a cost effective solution to minimize long-term costs. CBS Squared has a strong relationship with the DNR to secure approval for the necessary permits. They would encourage public input with listening sessions. They have experienced internal funding teams at the DNR and Rural Development. Their facility upgrade steps would be to evaluate funding, prepare funding applications and an upgrade design, including plans and specs and a construction plan. Marc Baures asked about the Water Quality Trading program versus building a new system. Tia said the WQTP could be an option, but public outreach would be considered. Courtney Kotlarz asked what would be the benefit per foot of streambank practices versus the current phosphorous removal mitigation. Tia said she will get estimates on miles needed for streambank mitigation. Tia presented different options for lagoon sizes, but she thought it is not the best option for Ettrick, as 5 acres would be needed. The board thanked Tia and Alex for coming and they left the meeting at 7:30;

Marc Baures presented proposals for 2 options for trees at the ballpark. Trees Today would deliver, install and prune trees. They presented 2 options for trees for \$2,063.58 and 967.94. Tree Savvy offered 1 tree for \$700.00, 2 trees for \$625.00 each, and 3 or more trees for \$550.00 each, and include a 5 year warranty. A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Josh Hanson to engage Tree Savvy for the purchase of up to 4 trees to start with a 5 year warranty and a care package that includes soil sampling to determine what trees will be best for the area, and for planting and pruning the trees. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Pete Filla was not present to give an update on Downtown beautification plans;

A possible decision on changing Section 14 C) 29) of the Village of Ettrick Animal Control Ordinance #4-B, concerning the keeping of chickens in the Village was tabled until the overall ordinance updates are complete;

Marc Baures said he will get quotes with a written summary of legal representation services for the village;

Marc Baures said he is still trying to get quotes to paint volleyball and pickleball courts at the Gametime Park Park;

Marc Baures requested that the village purchase audio/visual equipment for board meetings;

The board reviewed the minutes of the meetings held in August. A motion was made by Harold Olson, seconded by Dan Molstad to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of the Whole held on August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The motion carried 6 to 0;

A motion was made by Dan Molstad, seconded by Harold Olson to approve for payment voucher #'s 39237-39275 plus 3 EFT's in the amount of \$34,396.24 from the General Checking Account and voucher #'s 10891 to 10817 plus 1 transfer in the amount of \$15,053.48 from the Water/Sewer Checking Account. The motion carried 6 to 0;

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

The board reviewed correspondence sent to Heather Freehling/Nick Dugard concerning the number of animals on their property and the junk/garbage accumulating in the yard.

A motion was made by Dana Stoner, seconded by Harold Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried 6 to 0;

Jane Jensen  
Village Clerk  
Village of Ettrick