

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Oakfield Village Board
Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Dan Redman.

Roll call found the following trustees present: Al Kamenski, John Cedar, Chris Cook, Julie Franke, Jody Marcoe and Jim Eckberg. Also in attendance: Miriam Thomas, Joshua Thieme, Joe Ciesielczyk, Tim Wiese, Cassie Kurzer, Kahlea Walters, Koreen Dykas, Gary Zillmer, Sam Kaufman, Bradley Winger, Richard Murphy, Bill Ledger and Renee Schuster.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the February 8, 2023 regular board meeting and approve them as written. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None.

Sam Kaufman: Sam reported to the board that a wage study had been done for the first time in 23 years. Fond du Lac County has many jobs available and he is trying to promote the county to encourage more people to move and work here. More affordable housing is needed to attract people as well. He has been pushing for an increase in social media to help promote events. Sam hopes the state will be increasing shared revenue in the budget as they have been talking about doing or more of the county's budget will have to be cut. The radio changeover for law enforcement and fire/EMS will have a patch available for five years to give municipalities more time to budget for the cost of new radios.

Joshua Thieme: Resident Josh Thieme presented an ordinance request to allow having chickens within village limits to encourage self-reliance in the current economy. His request included myths about urban chickens. After discussion the board said the topic would be on the next board meeting agenda on April 10th.

Fire Department: The roof over the fire garage is leaking badly and will need to be repaired in the near future.

Public Works:

Water: Nothing to report.

Sewer: Dan asked the board if they should consider repairing the Main Street laterals this year ahead of the road project in order to offer the current pricing to those residents. The board agreed that as long as M&E is still honoring prices from last year's bid it should be offered to everyone with the understanding that if property owners opt to wait they will be accepting whatever the bid price for the project is at the time of the road project.

WWTP funding: The opportunity to apply for funding through Senator Baldwin's office has come up again and Miriam will be working with MSA to submit another request. MSA will also be attempting to arrange a meeting with someone in the Senator's office to talk about the project.

Roads projects: After researching the requirements for the current federal grants available for road projects, the cost for the effort and preparation needed to apply for one outweighs the potential grant to be received. The estimate from Fond du Lac County should be able to be financed easily using funds already available. The topic will be on the April agenda again.

Ordinance 2023-1; Right-of-way permit/application discussion: The ordinance and application forms were updated after last month's discussion.

Motion: Jody Marcoe, seconded by Chris Cook, to approve Ordinance 2023-1. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion: Jody Marcoe, seconded by Al Kamenski, to approve the right-of-way permit application as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Safety: Chief Schuster informed the board she would be hosting a talk about drugs at the school in the near future to try to address some of the increasing issues in the village. She confirmed the bike rodeo will be happening in May but a date has not been set yet. She also introduced retired Fond du Lac police officer Bill Ledger as a candidate for a part time officer.

Parks Update: Julie provided an update to board on projects happening at the park. Katy Flury has given a verbal commitment to running the concessions stand. She has been working with the office to get the building inspected and approved by the county. A used fryer hood has been purchased which will be installed in the next couple weeks. Lakeview Electric will be helping with the install as well. The cooler in the stand will need to be inspected to make sure it is functioning correctly and the committee is considering putting new epoxy floors in the stand and cooler. New stovetops and a flat top grill are being considered as part of the upgrades as well. The sinks in the stand may need new gaskets. The outside grill is in bad shape and options are being looked at /weighed for its possible replacement. Also under consideration is a remodel of the serving windows but no details or costs are known.

The scoreboard on the east diamond should be installing this spring. The Rec Department is replacing the outfield netting with a system that will be easier to mow around.

Asphalt Specialists will be out sometime in the spring to repair the tennis court cracks.

The school has set two poles by the pony diamond for installing netting to protect the greenhouse.

Some capital projects still looking for funding are replacing some of the bleachers and picnic tables, paving the gravel parking lot and resealing the blacktop.

Community Center: Jim has met with two contractors about replacing the carpeting and is working with the library to come up with the best plan as far as timing and coordination goes. The fire and police offices may not need to be recarpeted.

New Business:

Monthly check approval: The monthly approval sheet was passed around and signed.

Ordinance 2023-3; Natural Lawns: No changes were made after last month's discussion.

Motion: Chris Cook, seconded by Julie Franke, to approve Ordinance 2023-2. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Julie Franke, to approve the permit application for Natural Lawns. Motion carried 7-0.

Telephone provider change: After speaking with Spectrum about getting service to the water tower and treatment plant, the construction cost of running new cable to the treatment plant is too great to justify the change. Spectrum is able to part of the construction cost so the water tower will be upgraded for an approximate cost of \$225.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by John Cedar, to change the phone service at the water tower to Spectrum. Motion carried 7-0.

ARPA funds: There is still around \$80,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds left to be spent. Last year the auditors encouraged the village to spend the funds on things other than water and sewer infrastructure projects since both funds have been self-sufficient for several years. Many smaller communities have been using funds for improvements or upgrades on "government services" which is intended to be broad but does carry restrictions. Some of the suggestions for the village's funds were for stormwater upgrades, upgrading billing software, a GPS unit and parks improvements.

Operator's license: Matthew Gross has applied for an operator's license.

Motion: Jody Marcoe, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to approve the operator's license for Matthew Gross. Motion carried 6-0 with 1 abstention.

Motion: Jim Eckberg, seconded by Al Kamenski, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Thomas, Clerk/Treasurer