

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Oakfield Village Board
Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 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, Chris Cook, John Cedar, Julie Franke, Jody Marcoe and Jim Eckberg. Also in attendance: Joe Ciesielczyk, Renee Schuster, Brandon Kaufman, Tony Trudeau, Meg Murphy-Steinke, Dennis Steinke, John Laudolff and Miriam Thomas.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December 13, 2023 regular board meeting and approve them as written. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: Jim and Dan attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the quilt shop last week, for which there was a good turnout.

VFW: John Laudolff stated the VFW received a \$718 water bill in October 2023. A normal bill for the property is between \$174 and \$275. There was a note included with the third quarter bill that there may be a water leak somewhere past the water meter and it should be investigated. Mr. Laudolff explained that they had planted new grass in the summer and it had been watered quite well, which would account for the increased water use. Since that water did not go down the sewer he was asking, on the VFW's behalf, if there was anything the board could do. The policy for sewer credits is only for failed equipment, so no credit could be issued. It was stated that there have been requests in the past for sewer credits for watering lawns but the board has never approved one based on the current policy in place.

Property survey: Dennis and Meg Steinke would like to divide the land south of the Belle Reynolds School to create a new parcel. An individual is interested in developing the area and building multi-family housing. The Steinke's have already had a certified survey map created and ready to be filed with Fond du Lac County.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Chris Cook, to approve the certified survey map as presented. Motion carried 7-0. The area of the property being divided is already zoned residential but needs to be officially designated as R-3 residential to allow for the construction of dwelling units larger than two-family.

Motion: Jody Marcoe, seconded by Julie Franke, to classify the proposed parcel as indicated on the Certified Survey Map as "Lot 1" as R-3 Residential. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Works:

Water: The water system is functioning normally.

Sewer: Dan, Chris, Miriam and representatives from MCO attended a meeting with the DNR before the holidays regarding exceeding the limits of the wastewater permit last year between April and November. Twenty-nine violations were recorded, only one as a result of heavy rain event. The village's limit of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD's) was exceeded on many occasions as well as several low pH level violations. The clarifier and blowers currently in use at the treatment plant can't handle the high levels of BOD's that were entering the plant and low pH doesn't allow the bugs at the plant to properly digest the BOD's that enter the plant for treatment. MCO installed several samplers in November and collected samples for three weeks. Two samplers were installed on the east side of town and one on the west side. The east side of the village had high BOD results and low pH results which the DNR is investigating separately. Dan anticipates a meeting with the DNR to discuss the results within the next week to determine if the samples taken were related to the violations at the plant. At the meeting it was requested the village look at the current sewer ordinances, review for and create a plan for identifying the source of the problem. The village does have the option of charging the user for the extra cost of the upsets once the results are determined.

Fire Department: Chief Kevin Baker reported to the board the department had 162 calls in 2023, 94 of which were EMS calls. This is an increase of 20% over 2022. Fire department elections were held at their January meeting. All officers were re-elected with no changes other than making the 2nd Assistant Chief a temporarily vacant position. The department's member count is low and right now there is a need for more active members on a fire scene versus officers. Membership numbers will be reviewed annually to determine how long the position will remain vacant. The First Responder unit went into production before Christmas and should be ready for inspection in February. Final inspection is expected in June with delivery shortly thereafter.

Chief Baker reminded the board of the benefits of completing the NIMS training level 100 and 700 classes for emergency preparedness. These classes are available online for free.

Motion: John Cedar, seconded by Al Kamenski, to approve all election fire department officers as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Safety: Chief Schuster will be holding office hours in January. Several phone calls have been made regarding ice and snow-covered sidewalks. Winter ordinance parking is being enforced.

Ordinance clarifications: Several vehicles may have to be moved near the end of the month and the board needs to provide guidance on where to tow them and store them if need be. Whealon Towing will charge \$238 per vehicle and a daily storage fee.

New Business:

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

Country Sales Tax: The amount the village will be receiving in 2024 is \$15,793.00. The public works vehicles have been having mechanical problems so the board would like to use the funds towards replacing some of the public works vehicles.

Motion: Jody Marcoe, seconded by Al Kamenski, to designate the county sales tax revenue to replacing public works vehicles. Motion carried 7-0.

Operator's license: An application was received for Michelle Hertel. A background check done by Chief Schuster resulted in the approval of the application.

Motion: Dan Redman, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to approve the operator's license for Michelle Hertel. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Chris Cook, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Thomas, Clerk/Treasurer