

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Oakfield Village Board
Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
Wednesday, September 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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: Renee Schuster, Shane Dennis, Mackenzie Phillips, Kevin Baker, Emily Waisenen, Joe Venhuizen, Bradley Winger, Joe Ciesielczyk and Miriam Thomas.

A moment of silence was taken for the victims of 9/11.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by John Cedar, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August 14, 2024 regular board meeting and approve them as written. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None.

Joe Venhuizen, Envision FDL: Joe, along with Emily Waisenen, the new Workforce Programming Specialist, spoke to the board about some things Envision has been working on. Envision is offering a Public Office Prep course for individuals who might be interested in taking a local role in leading their communities. A career expo is coming up at Moraine Park and a program for entrepreneur start-ups has been started. Information on any of these programs/events can be found by contacting Joe or Emily at Envision Fond du Lac.

Sarah Poquette, School District Administrator: Sarah spoke to the board about the district's approved referendum for the November ballot. The district is requesting to maintain the \$1.1 million operating referendum that is currently in place for another four years. This operating budget covers items such as routine maintenance and employee retention.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Kevin Baker said the board will need to pass a Knox box ordinance to ensure quick entry to buildings in an emergency. He presented a sample ordinance that will hopefully be ready for approval at the October meeting.

Hydrants have been getting flow tested this summer and should conclude by October. Flows have been higher than the previously recorded ratings and anything rated differently than before will have the hydrant cap repainted for accuracy. The Tophats are doing a memorial ride Saturday and will be stopping at several departments in the area, including Oakfield. No roads should need to be blocked for this event.

Public Safety: Chief Schuster said the county is done paying traffic enforcement grants for the year. The starter went out on the squad car but has been repaired. There have been several drug-related issues in town as well as domestic problems. The school needs a new crossing guard and Renee has been filling in since school started until someone is officially hired. The issues with migrant workers at the park are being dealt with as much as is legally possible. The village's attorney confirmed that the board is unable to restrict park usage for seasonal workers and that every community with a similar situation unfortunately deals with similar problems.

A registered sexual offender is being released in the village in mid-October. The law requires door-to-door notification in the immediate neighborhood as part of a safety plan but the board needs to decide whether to do a public notification/meeting. State law requires offenders to be released back to the community in which they lived. Renee will try to get some info on what nearby communities have done, if anything, besides door-to-door notification.

Public Works:

Water: A water main broke this evening in the same area as the previous one on W. Waupun St. A crew is currently digging it up for repair as the water tower was rapidly losing water.

Water meter update: Tony has installed approximately 70 of the new meters. The new technology has helped identify several leaks and property owners were able to address them quickly.

MSA; Wastewater Treatment Facility 90% plans: Shane Dennis and Mackenzie Phillips from MSA went through the plans for the treatment plant. They noted what structures were being reused, what would be new, and how the new process will work for treating the water. Sludge will need to be removed once or twice per year. Phosphorous does not break down and will need to be hauled away. GFL is willing to haul away the remaining solids after treatment weekly. The most recent estimated cost for the plant is \$10.5 million. The electric bill will have roughly an 87% increase due to the additional equipment. Chemical costs are estimated between \$14,000-\$20,000 annually, mainly due to the phosphorous removal requirements. The plan will be submitted to the DNR by the end of September and is scheduled to be bid out mid-October. Bids will be opened in November and the project should be awarded in December or January. Construction will begin in the spring.

Sewer lateral payments status: Miriam provided an update for the entire replacement project including the current balance on the loan as well as total outstanding payments from property owners. A breakdown of the number of repairs

and outstanding installment payments by year was also provided. Ten to fifteen laterals remain unrepaired and will be taken care of during the S. Main Street project.

South Main Street project: No updates. Dan reported he scheduled a meeting with MSA on Friday to discuss the water and sewer design.

Road repair: First Street and Elm Street are scheduled for paving the week of October 7th. The county is finishing another project and will be in town after it is complete.

Public Safety:

Parks: The parks use agreement with the school district is due for renewal. Dan and Gary Collien met with the district administrator to come up with an updated agreement. John mentioned possibly including the cost of wi-fi in the contract but more info is needed before it can be added. An amendment can be done at a later date. Chris Cook thought the annual fee should be higher than the contracted amount.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to approve the Parks Use Agreement with the School District of Oakfield as presented. Motion carried 6-1. A copy of the contract can be viewed at the village office during regular business hours.

New Business:

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

Floodplain ordinance: Miriam has been trying to get ahold of Erin Cox at the DNR for additional info before the public hearing on the ordinance changes is scheduled but hasn't been able to reach her.

Village pond: Chris Cook told the board the Conservation Club has sprayed for weeds annually in May for years but the weeds are getting worse and there have been a lot of people fishing in recent years. Nutrients from the nearby fields wash into the pond causing algae blooms. The Conservation Club is still willing to pay for the initial treatment in May each year but would also like to apply one or two additional sprays to treat the algae. Cost for each additional treatment is between \$500-\$600 and they are proposing to split the cost of the additional sprays in half with the village.

Motion: Dan Redman, seconded by Al Kamenski, to pay for half of the second and, if needed, third spray at the village pond for maintenance purposes. Motion carried 7-0.

Operator's license: Chief Schuster did the background check for Indira Khadka Adhikari which resulted in no issues.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to approve and operator's license for Indira Khadka Adhikari. Motion carried 7-0.

Cole Oil pre-buy: The village has been opting in to a pre-pay plan for the last several years for propane at well #5 and it has been working well. This year the cost per gallon is down. The board would like to get a fuel quote from Cole to compare with Condon oil.

Motion: John Cedar, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to approve a pre-buy contract for 1,200 gallons of propane. Motion carried 7-0.

Veterans Memorial: Dan informed the board that the Condon Oil site by the cemetery won't work for the space needed for the memorial so it will more than likely be going on the corner of South Main Street and Gilson on the bank's lot.

BetterLife: After some discussions the most useful option for the company to serve the community would be to assist with new woodchips at the parks. BetterLife is willing to pay for half a load of woodchips and would like to try to get an athletic or school group to help volunteer. That group would receive \$20/head for assisting with the project. It might be difficult to schedule a fall date for this year but spring would work fine as well. Miriam will coordinate to find a date.

Budget sheets: Sheets were distributed by committee and board members were asked to fill them out before the October meeting.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to adjourn the board meeting at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Thomas, Clerk/Treasurer