

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Oakfield Village Board
Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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, Owen Stoppleworth, Sam Hounsell, Joe Ciesielczyk and Miriam Thomas.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by John Cedar, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 11, 2024 regular board meeting and approve them as written. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None.

ATV/UTV Club: Club President Sam Hounsell is requesting for an ordinance change in the operating times for ATV/UTVs in the village. Currently the ordinance restricts use from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. which is one of the most restrictive in the county. The club is proposing a change to restrictions from 11:59 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. to mirror the surrounding areas and counties. There was no board opposition and a draft will be prepared for the next board meeting.

Public Safety: Chief Schuster relayed that someone was found to be stealing paper towel rolls from the men's bathroom at the park over the last couple months. Restitution was received. The school is having an active shooter drill on Friday at the school. County grants for seatbelts and speeding will be starting again but when is unknown.

The vendor fair on Main Street is scheduled for October 19th. The street will be blocked off as in previous years. There will be an informational presentation on human trafficking with the library on November 6th. All are encouraged to attend.

Sex offender update: Renee will be going door to door to hand out a flyer with information on the upcoming release but only in the immediate neighborhood. The info will be going on the police department page.

Public Safety ordinances/codification: Renee has received one quote for recodification of the village's code book. The last time it was done was 2001. She is waiting to receive another quote from a different company. The topic will be on the next board agenda.

Public Works:

Water rate increase: The village is eligible for a rate increase. The last simple rate increase was in 2018.

Motion: Chris Cook, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to apply for a Simple Rate Increase with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, effective January 1, 2025. Motion carried 7-0. The clerk will perform all statutory requirements for the increase.

MSA; Wastewater Treatment Facility bidding: Shane Dennis from MSA gave the board an overview of the upcoming bidding process. The Request for Bids will be advertised for two weeks and is scheduled to be in the paper starting next Thursday. Opening of the received bids is scheduled for November 21 and is done virtually. Board members will receive a link with an invite for the opening. Once the costs are known Shane suggested having another public informational meeting, tentatively early 2025. More information will be known about sewer rate increase(s) needed and hopefully information from the Clean Water Fund loan application will be known by that time as well.

Sewer rate increase: No change for now until more details are known regarding the treatment plant upgrade.

Human Resources:

Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Resolution 2024-4: Jim presented the resolution to join the state's retirement program. The Village is one of the few municipalities that do not belong to the program. Currently, eligible employees can opt to participate in a 3% employer match in a Simple IRA plan. Joining the WRS carries a higher cost for the village but board members agreed it is a valuable benefit to offer eligible employees. Employees not eligible for WRS will still have the option to participate in the Simple IRA plan.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by John Cedar, to join the Wisconsin Retirement System, effective January 1, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.

Closed session: Dan Redman, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to move into closed session at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried 7-0. Only board members remained in the room.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to resume regular session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion: Jim Eckberg, seconded by Al Kamenski, for 3.5% wage increase for all village employees effective January 1, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

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

Floodplain ordinance: The required public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30th at 5:30 p.m. Miriam will request a current and proposed map for the changes to be available for the hearing.

Veterans Memorial: The memorial will be going on the bank's corner lot on South Main and Gilson Avenue. The committee will be signing a 100-year lease and would like to dig the foundation this fall with the goal of completion by Memorial Day 2025. One half of the funds needed have been raised so far. The bank will not maintain the lawn or perform snow removal once the memorial is in place so the committee is requesting the village help with clearing the sidewalks during substantial snowfalls. There was a lot of discussion regarding liability and a leased property. The question about possibly turning the corner property into a park eventually was posed. The building inspector told Owen there really isn't any permitting needed for a memorial but since the property being leased is actually two parcels it should really be combined into one. Owen isn't sure if the bank would be in favor of doing this but he will be asking if it is possible as part of the lease. The board also questioned whether the village should pursue being the lessee instead of the committee and if the bank would be interested in that option. The consensus was that several questions need answers before the village can commit to any assistance at this point.

BetterLife: The woodchips project will take place on Wednesday, October 23rd. The woodchips are getting delivered on Monday, October 21st to allow village employees to move the piles to the playgrounds so the spreading out won't take as long on Wednesday. Doug Mock is getting a group of high school students to help spread the woodchips. Everyone is encouraged to come help.

Budget: Public hearing for budget and levy limit approval is scheduled for November 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Jim Eckberg, seconded by Al Kamenski, to adjourn the board meeting at 9:55 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Thomas, Clerk/Treasurer