

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Oakfield Village Board
Oakfield Community Center
130 N. Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 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: Shane Dennis, Coty Weathersby, Renee Schuster and Miriam Thomas.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Julie Franke, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 8, 2025, regular board meeting and approve them as written. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments: None.

Public Works:

Water: Nothing to report.

Sewer: Dan and Jim gave an overview of information from Ehlers regarding the necessary sewer rate increase for the treatment plant upgrade. General Obligation debt is not desirable as the Clean Water Fund loan will be a thirty-year loan and is not pre-payable. This would restrict the village from borrowing money in the future if a substantial amount of the debt margin were used for this loan. The money that will be available from the tax increments may be better spent on a smaller loan like what will be needed for the South Main Street project in 2026. Federal funds like the village had been seeking from Senator Baldwin's office come from the same pot of money that the Clean Water Fund does, and Ehlers stated that the Wisconsin DNR may reduce principal forgiveness on the village's loan if it had received any of those funds. Funds directly from the federal government come with more administrative requirements as well so it could have very well been a wash financially and with more administrative needs.

Shane would like to pick a couple of days as options for having a public informational hearing and make sure Ehlers and a representative from the DNR are able to attend. The two possible days are March 4th and 5th. Shane will coordinate with Miriam on which date will work. Once a date is chosen, letters will be mailed to all village residents about the public meeting.

Rate increases need to be in place by the time the loan closes. Ehlers is recommending a 73% increase in early spring 2025 and another 73% increase in 2026 before the loan closes. Ehlers calculated a sewer revenue deficit at 163% above 2023 sewer sales which requires substantial rate increases to reach a recommended revenue of 110% above annual operating and maintenance expenses.

Shane provided a timeline for the next few months and told the board MSA should start receiving drawings from the contractor this month for the project. These verify that they are ordering and installing equipment according to specifications in the bid. Rates should be finalized ideally by April 1st and implemented around the same time. The contractor will mobilize in April. The next steps are for the board to approve a Construction Related Services (CRS) contract and a Clean Water Fund (CWF) Administration and Labor Standards Reporting contract. The CRS contract is for the time MSA will be onsite overseeing the project and making sure things are installed correctly and staying onsite after construction is over and assist in getting the plant online. Coty Weathersby will be the onsite project manager and introduced herself to the board. The estimated cost for the CRS contract is \$929,900.00.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to approve the Construction Related Services contract with MSA. Motion carried. 7-0. A copy of the contract can be viewed at the village office during regular business hours.

The CWF Administration contract is for MSA to prepare all the required paperwork and reports/wage submittals/etc. that is outlined in the loan. The estimated cost for this contract is \$47,000.00.

Motion: John Cedar, seconded by Jody Marcoe, to approve the CWF Administration contract. Motion carried 7-0. A copy of the contract can be viewed at the village office during regular business hours.

Village Equipment: At the last public works meeting there was discussion about replacing the John Deere tractors this year. Since it was budgeted for 2025 several quotes from different dealers were obtained and a Kubota 2680 tractor was purchased with a broom, snowblower and bucket attachment. A zero-turn mower has also been ordered. The Village received special pricing through Kubota's government purchase program. The tractor is already at the shop and Jeremy is cleaning up the John Deere tractors. They are being sold to an individual for \$16,000.00.

Public Safety: Chief Schuster reported that the school has been having problems with disorderly conduct and lack of respect. The county is switching to a digital trunking system and it will be mandatory to change over by September 2026. The village's police radios can be reprogrammed to comply for a fee of \$145.00 . A pet microchip reader was recently received from Wisconsin Lost Dogs & Pets at no charge. Chief Schuster will post on social media to promote it.

New Business:

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

Extra dog licensing: Tim and Mary Gallitz have asked for permission to license their son's dog, which would put their household at four dogs, one above the ordinance limit. Their son is finishing school and is unsure whether he will return and take his dog or be deployed with the army. They want to make sure the dog is licensed if it is in the village but ordinance requires board approval to do so.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Julie Franke, to approve licensing one extra dog to Tim and Mary Gallitz for the year.

Motion: Al Kamenski, seconded by Jim Eckberg, to adjourn the board meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Thomas, Clerk/Treasure