**Regular Board Meeting**

**February 12, 2024**

President Kniseley called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Joe Kniseley, Sheryl Narva, Justin Beaman, Bob Hulett, Adam Bush, and Shane Rose. Cathy Rose arrived at 5:08 pm. Julie White arrived at 5:25 pm.

**Absent:** Steve Roseth, Sergeant Mazur

**Visitors:** Max Hart, UW Extension Committee and Ethan Remus.

**Minutes: B Hulett made a motion to approve all the minutes as received, 2nd S Narva, 3 yes votes, motion carried.**

**Visitor Business:** Max Hart presented information on the UniverCity Year program. It is a 3-year program with $75,000 dollars allocated. UW-Madison students get real life experience working on community projects. Max’s particular focus is in revitalizing small towns; getting more storefronts, keeping commercial property from going residential, co-op grocery stores, etc.

J Kniseley mentioned that we would like to keep the businesses we have.

Justin asked what kind of commitment would this entail. Max said that the county has made the financial commitment, the village’s commitment would be time and cooperation with the students.

Max also said that Madison would probably get rolling on this in April/May.

Ethan Remus brought in the completed survey and plans for development for the Lofgren property at 342 Pearl St. for signature. The intention is to build a duplex. **S Narva made a motion to approve the survey, 2nd C Rose, 4 yes votes, motion carried.**

**Officers Report** – Summary of the January Patrol log was included in the board packet and no questions were presented to forward on to Sergeant Mazur.

**Barb Brueggen-Library Director:**

* The library board approved and signed the annual report.
* The library board approved Barb getting someone for summer help.
* The library and Girl Scout Troop 7512 are having a movie night on the 17th, in the gym.
* Jackson County Read is happening now. The book is the first in the Driftless Gold series by Viroqua author, Sue Berg.
* Barb has a list of monthly events she is going to try and do this year.
* On Thursday, March 21st, ELC will be meeting at the library. Meeting time is 5pm.

**Attorney Radcliffe:** Attorney Radcliffe joined the meeting via speakerphone. He stated that before any future sale or improvements to Birch Lane the road must be vacated, and that will happen in March.

There was some board discussion. J Kniseley said that the planning committee could be involved in this. He also asked if the village would truly wish to develop the property, as there is cost involved. B Hulett said he thought that water might have to be extended out there because they would most likely need a hydrant.

**Maintenance Report:** Adam Bush

* Adam said that since they haven’t had much snow to plow, they have been cutting brush, and changing some water meters in addition to their normal duties.
* Adam reported that they did have to tow an ATV which had been abandoned.
* There is an opportunity to upgrade the lawn mower. There is one for sale that had belonged to Sis Waldera. The asking price is $400.00. After discussion, **B Hulett made a motion to purchase the lawn mower for $400.00, 2nd by C Rose, 5 yes votes, motion carried.**
* Adam says that he is going to gather some stumps and burn some brush piles in the near future. He also has to do some cross-connects while changing meters, which he will be doing shortly.
* Joe suggested that some board members might work with Adam to get plants for the highway signs.
* Joe also mentioned that there is a program featuring 90% grant money for street improvement projects. There are several eligible streets in town.

**Park & Rec:** Justin said that there was no pushback on the rental agreement with the BTYSA.

**Clerk’s Report:** Shane Rose reported:

* The new copier is installed and is working out very well.
* Property tax collection has been completed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer’s Report was provided to the board. **C Rose made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented, 2nd S Narva, 5 yes votes, motion carried.**

**Approval of Bills to Pay: General Fund $3,7177.12; Water $308.02; & Sewer $3,343.10. J Beaman made a motion to approve all unpaid bills and all other bills received with a due date before the next scheduled board meeting, 2nd B Hulett, 5 yes votes, motion carried.**

**Unfinished Business:**

Lofgren Properties Re-Survey – See Above.

SEH – Probably will not happen until 2025, but we are a good candidate.

Railroad Crossing Arms – That project is going forward. Everyone within a one block radius will have to be informed that the work could change the flood plain.

**New Business:**

Black River Falls EMS Fees – Funding for the Ambulance Service in Jackson County will possibly be placed on the tax roll for the townships and villages in Jackson County. The proposed charge is $45.00 per capita, which would make the village’s share $21,375.00. This is expected to increase by 4% annually. There will be upcoming informational sessions to discuss.

Members of the board and village staff have heard that the EMS service is doing quite well financially, and had recently made a donation to the Black River Falls Fire Department to purchase a new truck.

J White initiated discussion regarding on how the EMS Service operates and how it has been funded.

AWSC Snowmobile Friendly Community Status – J Kniseley submitted an application with the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs to be considered a Snowmobile Friendly Community. If approved as such, we would be awarded a sign designating Taylor as a Snowmobile Friendly Community in March.

Operator’s License Jennifer Amundson-Taylor General Store – Background check raised no issues. **Motion to approve an Operator’s License for Jennifer Amundson by C Rose, 2nd S Narva, 5 yes votes, motion carried.**

J Kniseley mentioned that the celebration of life for Pauly would be held on May 18th, at the Taylor Rod & Gun Club. He would be presenting Pauly’s plaque to his family at that time.

**J Beaman made a motion to adjourn at 6:01pm, 2nd J White, 5 yes votes, motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Shane Rose

Deputy Clerk

February 13, 2024