

Village Board Public Hearing and Regular Meeting – ZOOM MEETING
Village Hall, 110 Oak Street E,
Monday, June 8, 2020

President: Becky Amundson; Trustees: Brett Daeffler, Patty Swenson, Jackie Peterson, Allan Lahti, Brad Harlander, Doug Gustafson.

1. Call to Order by President Becky Amundson at 7:03 pm. At the Village Hall.

Roll Call: Becky Present Brad Present Brett Present Patty Present Jackie Present Allan Present Doug Absent

2. Public Hearing:

Motion to convene public hearing by B Daeffler 2nd A Lahti Vote: Carried

3. Sewer Rate Increase Public Discussion No Public Present

4. Adjourn Public Hearing

Motion to adjourn by P Swenson 2nd B Harlander Vote: Carried

5. Agenda Approval

Motion to approve agenda by J Peterson 2nd A Lahti Vote: Carried

6. Correction and Approval of May 11th, 2020 Minutes:

Motion to approve May 11th minutes by B Harlander 2nd B Daeffler Vote: Carried

7. Public Comments (Open to any citizen who wishes to address the board. Each person, or topic, will be allotted 3 minutes. Please note there may be limited discussion on the information received, however, no action can be taken until specific notice of the proposed action is given. Please state your name and place of residence.)

William Johnson announced that the Information Center in St Croix Falls is now open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They have sold a lot of trail passes this year. James Tinman was present to voice his opinion on the lack of disclosure from North Land Ambulance and he feels that moving the ambulance from Frederic is a huge concern for the community.

***** NOTE: OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY AGENDA ITEM *****

8. Sewer Rate Increase Recommendation

A Lahti reviewed the Public Works Committee meeting and their discussion. The recommendation is to raise the sewer usage rate by 45% to \$9.60 per 1,000 gallons. B Struck stated that the rate has not been raised for 9 years which is why the jump was so high. It is suggested that the rate be raised every three years. Both the village auditor and a financial consultant said this increase is necessary.

Motion to accept recommendation by B Harlander 2nd A Lahti Vote: Carried

9. Family Days 2020

Zac Benson, Chamber President, was present and discussed his thoughts for a revised Family Days 2020. Date would be postponed to July 25th and other events, besides the Lumberjack Show, are welcome. B Harlander stated he appreciated Zac's enthusiasm but he is against holding a large group event at this time. Zac stated he projected there may be 1,000 people in attendance, his safety precaution would be to tell people to come at their own risk. Brad stated that large group events are considered high risk by the CDC. A. Lahti thanked Zac for his enthusiasm and stated he was in support of the plan. J Peterson stated susceptible people wouldn't attend. Suggested taking Family Days out of the title and just have a Lumberjack Show. P Swenson stated she was concerned about the news from the Siren Ballpark regarding three positive tests after a tournament and she would hate for that to be Frederic. Both P Swenson and B Daeffler agreed that perhaps Family Days should just be removed from the title. B Harlander discussed contact tracing and stated that people wouldn't have to be at the show to be infected. Ryan Shelton, owner of Skol Bar, stated that he and the owner of the Pioneer Bar agreed that it is not a good idea to have a large group event this year but also stated that if it happens they would want to be involved somehow. Z Benson asked for approval to plan while monitoring Covid 19 situation.

Motion to approve continuing to plan with extreme caution and a final decision be made at the end of June by J Peterson 2nd A Lahti Vote: Carried

10. License Renewals for the period of July 1st 2020 through June 30th 2021

B Amundson suggested leaving the Mobile Food Vendor permit fee the same for this year. A Lahti and B Harlander stated they would like to see the fee raised in the future.

Motion to approve all licenses and to revisit Mobile Food Vendor fee in the future by A Lahti 2nd P Swenson Vote: Carried

11. North Land Ambulance

B Amundson stated she attended the May North Land Ambulance meeting and was surprised that changes to the agreement were on the agenda. The changes were voted down but will be on the agenda again in July. Her biggest issue is that the plan is to pull the truck from Frederic. A Lahti stated that in ambulance talks three years ago the community thought it was very important to have a truck in Frederic. B Harlander, also on the board at the time, agreed. Rick Heltemes, past board member and resident stated that he was upset that as a community member he hadn't heard of this. B Harlander mentioned response time and the need for a truck in Frederic. He suggested looking at other options if the truck is pulled from Frederic. James Tinman, community member and EMT, stated that the truck in Frederic is important and that he is concerned that a merger will happen between North Land Ambulance and Amery Ambulance. Amery Ambulance has a debt issue that local communities should not have to take on.

Motion to vote to keep a truck in Frederic at the July North Land Ambulance meeting 2nd B Harlander Vote: Carried

12. Right of Way Permit

B Struck explained the need for a Right of Way permit. This permit will hold entities that work in the right of way accountable to repair any damage caused by their work.

Motion to approve Right of Way Permit B Harlander 2nd A Lahti Vote: Carried

13. Committee and Department Head Reports

a) Public Works – Bill Struck: Working with MSA on 2020/2021 upgrades. Leak detection service was in town and found two leaks that will be repaired this summer. Monarch started work on Maple and Linden. CCM Line Painting will be in town this week. A Lahti asked about a hole at the intersection of Lake and Oak and B Struck stated he will check it out.

b) Park Board – Rebecca Harlander: Village will provide Caretaker utilities but no salary this season. Volunteers have been working hard in the gardens and they look really good. Trail signage is being put up to show route and also to mark trailhead at the end of Woodlawn Ave. Replanting trees along the Gandy Dancer Trail this week. Thanked Public Works for their help in the park and stated they have gone above and beyond.

c) Library – Kris Surbaugh: Robotics club has made ear savers to make masks more comfortable with the 3D printer. Library is opening by appointment only and curb side pickup. Hours have been shortened to facilitate cleaning. They require masks to come into the library. Online summer reading program will kick off on June 22nd. They are working to set up a story walk at Coon Lake Park.

d) Law Enforcement – Tamara Larson: 63 calls for service in May. Officers are taking more time to monitor the parks after complaints of littering, etc. Lexipol is creating more training on the use of force. Chief Larson stated that she feels all violence is wrong and she will work to protect the community. Canine school is almost done and Taser will take his test on the 27th. Truck squad is running great and is getting equipped for service.

e) Treasurer - Jennifer Phernetton: Reviewed the 2019 budget summary that was included in the packet, this was suggested by the financial consultant. Starting on the 2021 budget calendar and plans to start meeting the end of July.

f) Ambulance Report – Discussed the majority of meeting topics earlier. There is a planned per capita increase in 2021 and the next ambulance meeting is scheduled for July.

g) Public Works – Allan Lahti: Discussed the majority of meeting topics earlier. Sweeper repair was invoiced for more than the quoted price. Invoice was returned with a check for the quoted price only. There was a request for a sewer credit and a reimbursement request and both were denied.

14. Approval of Check Register:

Motion to approve Check Register as presented by B Harlander 2nd P Swenson Vote: Carried

15. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm by B Harlander 2nd A Lahti Vote: Carried