

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 13, 2023
MINUTES
6:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER

- 1) The Regular Board Meeting on February 13, 2023 was called to order by President Steve Buss at 6:00pm.

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Les Nielsen, Brian Peight, Chelsea White (6:09), Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens and Nicole Callos. Also Present: Brian Nott, Tom Green, Marty Haas, Nick Bergman, Louise Workinger, Kory Polhill, Lindsay Buss, Bob Peters, Christy Peters, Jake Andrews, Judy Buchenau

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 13, 2023**

On a motion by Peight second by Smith to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023 Board Meeting. ALL AYE.

- 3) **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE REPORT**

On a motion by Stevens second by Smith to approve Bills Payable Report. 1) Peight inquired about the general matters for the hours spent on the attorney bill that the Village has an itemized billing breakdown of. 2) Stevens inquired about a bill for Heilman mowing from October for properties that now have liens on them. 3) Peight asked about the ComEd bill considering the Village switched to LEDs. Buss explained this is for outages and there was not a decrease in rate after switching to LEDs. Callos agreed to give ComEd a call. ALL AYE.

- 4) **TREASURER'S REPORT ACCEPTANCE**

Callos presented the Treasurer's report for the month of February. On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. ALL AYE.

- 5) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Marty Haas and Jake Andrews gave a presentation on accomplishments made by the Cemetery Board. Haas explained this includes locating and restoring headstones to their previous condition while uploading GPS location for all 5000 graves. They are looking to add an office onto an existing structure to meet with families while they conduct business for burials. The passion they have for the Lena Burial Park is an asset to this community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ATTORNEY'S REPORT, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, ZONING & PLANNING- NO REPORT

- (A) **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Stevens reported the following: Rick Heinrich has announced his resignation as an independent outside accounting consultant to the Village of Lena after 45 years. 2) Newsletter items are to be in by the March Committee of the Whole. 3) Budget reports will need to be gone over at the March Committee of the Whole meeting and will be approved at the April Regular Meeting. 4) Buss explained that budget lines that are over the amounts budgeted will be paid out of the general account and then reimbursed by the sales tax that the Village will begin receiving in August 2023. The option was also addressed to use the interest off of the CDs or bonds.

- (A) **VILLAGE ENGINEER**

Nott reported the following: 1) the storm water study is still in process and is predicted to have a report by the April Board Meeting. 2) The TIF work is being evaluated and prioritized and cost estimates are being revised for Leet, School and Williams street. 3) Shippee road work is being reviewed by IDOT, then the project can go out to bid. 4) ITEP project will be reviewed in April 2023 to be used in 2024.

- (A) **TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS**

Keeffer gave an update on the Village clean-up after the most recent ice storm. Residents assisted the streets department over 6 days; taking care of 82 loads of brush with the chipper. 2) The street department is undergoing weed spraying training and water main continued education. 3) Streets Dept is working hard to keep up with road repairs.

- (A) **WATER & SEWER**

Brandon Smith has applications for EPA forgivable loans to do projects for sewer aligning and to begin upgrades in the Waste Treatment Plant. The EPA forms let the dollar amount for the desired project be known to build a budget and is not a commitment being made by the Village for this fiscal year. Buss said he would like to see the a presentation be done at the Community Center when the time arrives to explain work to be done and money spent.

NEW BUSINESS

- 6) **DISCUSS FEHR-GRAHAM PROPOSALS**
The Village will be sending these in by the end of April to earmark funds from the EPA loans.
- 7) **DISCUSS/APPROVE FEHR-GRAHAM STREET MAINTENANCE RESOLUTION #23-239**
On a motion by Smith second by Stevens to approve Resolution #23-329. Peight addressed that the preliminary fee is based off of the original quoted amount. White, Smith, Stevens, Keeffer, Nielsen – AYE. Peight – NAY.
- 8) **DISCUSS ENGINEERING**
Peight wanted to go through the engineering fees that have been charged throughout the years. The Village allocates a small amount of money to engineering to be paid without requiring Board approval. The reason the Village goes through Fehr-Graham rather than having their own engineer is because Fehr-Graham has access to every aspect of engineering under one roof.
- 9) **DISCUSS/APPROVE VILLAGE AUDIT**
On a motion by Stevens second by Keeffer to approve the Village Audit as presented. ALL AYE.
- 10) **APPROVE SUMMER EMPLOYEES**
On a motion by Smith second by Peight to approve hiring college students over the summer. ALL AYE
- 11) **APPROVE BRUSH DEFINITION**
The ordinance amendment will be drafted for the regular meeting. ALL AYE
- 12) **DISCUSS/APPROVE NEWSLETTER**
Stevens listed what is currently being added to the Newsletter: Information on ACH Payments for water bills, brush pick up, sidewalk proposals, lists of road maintenance projects, sales tax July 1st 2023 info, flood damage specs, and fire hydrant flushing times. The Board is to have all topics they would like included to Cathy Stevens.
- 13) **DISCUSS/APPROVE RAILSIDE PUB & GAMING LIQUOR LICENSE RECLASSIFICATION**
Buss explained that when this license was approved originally, the ordinance was being redone. On a motion by second by Peight to approve the reclassification of Railside Pub & Gaming Liquor License.
- 14) **DISCUSS SUMP PUMP ON VIRGINIA AVE**
To be revisited.
- 15) **DISCUSS COMMUNITY GARDEN**
Keeffer gave an update that there is an interest in having a community garden, but it comes with lots of contingencies. Adkins used to have community gardens and people did not use them and the project ceased. To be revisited.

WELFARE OF THE VILLAGE

The Village Board has protection for their accounts with local banks.

ADJOURNMENT

- 16) On a motion by Keeffer second by Peight to adjourn the February 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting at 7:40pm.
ALL AYE.

CLAUDIA SIMPSON
VILLAGE CLERK

STEVE BUSS
VILLAGE PRESIDENT