

**Committee of the Whole**  
**February 27, 2023**  
**MINUTES**  
**6:00pm**

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Les Nielsen, Chelsea White(6:08), Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos.

Also present: Brian Nott, Lindsay Buss, Ashley Heilman, Kory Polhill, Dan Stevens, Jared Liles, Nick Bergman, Louise Workinger

**Call to Order**

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of February 27, 2023 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

**Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2023**

2) On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2023. ALL AYE.

**Public Participation**

3) There was no one for public participation at this time.

**Approve Fehr-Graham Shippee Road Proposal**

4) Nott explained the preliminary estimate. Buss stated that MFT funds had been used to do repairs on Shippee in the past, and would be good to use again. Peight wanted to clarify that since the work is to be done in two phases, it will not effect golf course entry. Nott explained that this bid is for the engineering aspect from start to finish and the amounts earmarked were on the high side and may be lower in the end. On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to approve the Fehr-Graham Shippee Road Proposal.

**Discuss News Letter**

5) Stevens is planning to have the Village News Letters out by April 3, 2023. Stevens is getting the cost for two pages rather than one to be sent out every month.

**Discuss Brush Definitions**

6) Stevens addressed the fact that there is no definition of brush in the ordinance book. She suggested definitions to be listed in the newsletter and ordinance book. White suggested to add as a reminder that vegetation and shrubbery trimmings must be taken to the Village dump and are not eligible for brush pickup. Brush means loose branches and twigs generated by trimming or storm damage of trees, not to exceed 4 inches in diameter or 4 feet in length nor may it exceed the amount of a 44 gallon garbage can.

**Discuss Employee Health Insurance Contributions**

7) Buss explained that it was time to compare employee health insurance copay amounts to other municipalities. Right now the Village is 100% and 60/40 for family. The plans themselves are reviewed every year.

**Discuss Audit Draft**

8) Callos explained the audit report from Benning Group LLC from year ending April 30, 2022. Benning Group will not be doing a presentation to the Board, but the audit has been explained and reviewed by Treasurer Callos.

**Discuss Putting Reserves into CDs**

9) The Village's current CDs are going to mature at the end of April. Callos has been checking on rates.

**Discuss Budget; Sidewalk Program, Water/Sewer Salaries**

10) White inquired about the CURES Grant that is being checked into. This was used for Police Department vehicles and salaries. Buss explained that this should be evened out. 2) Buss explained the sidewalk program is still available and would like for the information to be in the newsletter again this year. The Board agreed the amount for reimbursement should be raised to \$20,000 a year. Les Nielsen is the contact for sidewalk replacement. Buss addressed that there should be an amendment to the ordinance with conditions for how the concrete needs to be poured. 3) Smith was wanting to separate water and sewer accounts. Smith wants to allocate funds to allow for employee wage to be paid out of the general fund and not have to raise rates for water bills. Buss explained that when the water tower was done in 2011, there were no water bill increases. If there had been a \$3 increase, the water tower would be paid off in 2024. The Board wants to be sure there will be money for payments, and also for maintenance for the new water tower. Peight noted that the water tower needs to be cleaned/painted every 3-5 years.

**Discuss UTV/ATV Prorating Fees**

11) Keeffer suggested prorating UTV fees from the \$50 to a minimum of \$25 in off seasons, starting in August. UTV fees go toward street development. Keeffer is creating a document to show this breakdown to the Board.

**Discuss Community Garden**

12) It was brought to the Board's attention that there is some community support for a community garden. Keeffer is following up with other municipalities that have established gardens to get ideas. She is speaking with the FFA to see if there would be interest from

volunteers. The concerns included location of the garden, who would be taking care of it, if it was neglected what would the next steps be.

**Adjournment**

13) On a motion by Smith second by Keeffer to adjourn the February 27, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:55pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk