

**Committee of the Whole  
January 22, 2024  
MINUTES  
6:00pm**

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos. Also present: Brian Nott, Bridgette Stocks, Lindsay Buss, Louise Workinger

**Call to Order**

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of January 22, 2024 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

**Approval of Minutes – November 27, 2023**

2) On a motion by Keeffer second by Peight to approve the meeting minutes from November 27, 2023. ALL AYE.

**Approval of Bills Payable**

3) No Bills Payable at this time.

**Public Participation**

4) There was no public participation at this time.

**Discuss Village Project Grant Opportunities**

5) Bridgette Stocks presented a memo of funding projects that are in line currently. The official planning approval has come through from the IEPA loan projects for sewer lining and wastewater treatment plant improvements. Storm water improvements are estimated to be approved before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Every year the Village could apply for 5 million from IEPA. Village was approved for ITEP loans previously for sidewalk improvements, and will be applying again. The Village will be looking back to see who wrote letters of support for new sidewalks in the past and ask residents to send them in again to be submitted with the application for ITEP. Blighted and vacant homes are on the list of improvements but are harder to find a grant for considering median household income within the Village. Lake Le-Aqua-Na improvements would require all involved parties to discuss projects. USDOT has a new program called Reconnecting Communities and is an option for a trail to Le-Aqua-Na State Park. The Village is also looking at adding to their emergency siren system. ComEd has a grant available around the holidays for \$2500, max of \$5000, the Village could also apply for.

**Discuss Audit**

6) Benning Group will be presenting the audit at the February Board meeting.

**Discuss Budget**

7) Callos gave the Board an excel spread sheet for the budget. Board members are to review and make entries before the next meeting in February.

**Discuss Board Member Salaries**

8) Buss stated adjusted last in 2012, and would need to be adjusted 180 days before the April election. Madi Becke gathered comparisons from other municipalities and the results were varied.

**Discuss Collective Bargaining Committee**

9) Keeffer is organizing a committee for the Police Department with Chief Wayne Gift and Officer Cameron Reuter and taking volunteers. The contract expires May 1, 2024 and is renewed every 3 years.

**Discuss Ordinance on Migrant Arrivals and Executive Order**

10) Buss explained this was not approved at County level at this time. The Village Board will be gathering more information on what this entails.

**Discuss Winter Snow Emergency Parking**

11) Keeffer stated it has been suggested to have no overnight parking on the street within the downtown district from 10pm to 6am. This will not be enforced while the businesses are open. The current ordinance states no parking from November to April for specific streets on odd/even days, and during a snow emergency (more than 2 inches of snow) from 1:30am to 6am; it was discussed that it would be simpler to not allow parking downtown all year. New streets that are to be widened will not apply considering it will be residents responsibility for snow removal. Keeffer will be helping to put together an ordinance to change the current ordinance.

**Discuss Building Codes**

12) Rood stated his goal was to have building guidelines and helpful information available for when someone applies for a permit.

**Adjournment**

13) On a motion by Smith second by Peight to adjourn the January 22, 2024 Meeting at 7:13pm. ALL AYE.  
Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk