

Committee of the Whole
October 28, 2024
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brian Peight, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos. Not present: N/A. Also present: Wayne Gift, Lindsay Buss, Brian Nott, Robin Walton, Louise Workinger, Kory Polhill

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of October 28, 2024 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Public Participation

2) There was no public participation at this time.

Approval of Minutes – September 23, 2024

3) On a motion by Peight second by Keeffer to approve the meeting minutes from September 23, 2024. ALL AYE.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2024

4) On a motion by Smith second by Peight to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2024. ALL AYE.

Discuss Lena Christmas Money for Employees

5) Callos wanted to clarify that employees who have worked over 500 hours for the year are eligible for \$150 in Lena Christmas Money; under 500 hours worked will be eligible for \$75.

Discuss Water Main Replacement Under School Property

6) The following discussion was held: Buss explained some Village Board members went to the school board meeting last week regarding an easement that was filed in 1978 that reads that it is the responsibility of the property owner to take care of the water main. Engineering plans were approved last week. Nott explained the engineer on the project will bring the set of plans to the Village for review/approval and the water main will be relocated with a new dedicated utility easement. A no conflict-of-interest form will be filled out for Fehr Graham. Polhill stated he would like a title search done verifying easements of property owned by other entities within Village limits.

Discuss Street Improvements

7) Nott stated that weather permitting, road work will continue for 2024. Discussion was held on different goal dates for work to be completed. Buss reached out to the County and will be discussing 2025/2026 construction plans. Milfred Street sewer laterals will need to be assessed and Nott will let all departments know when JULIE is scheduled. Curb/gutter and storm sewer is set to be done on Milfred Street.

Discuss CD Renewals

8) The Board reviewed CDs with Community, Citizens and Lena State Banks. Callos explained Community Bank has the General Funds accounts. It was decided to leave all existing funds where they are to renew and add \$500K for the sewer fund CD at Citizens State Bank. Callos will be verifying penalties, if there are any. 2) Nott stated that the plan was to advertise for sewer bids November 28, mid January for bid opening, recommendation at January COW, for February Board approval, construction beginning in March. 3) Buss and Callos met with congressman Darin LaHood last week. Samples of infrastructure grants are to be sent to the Village. Eric Sorenson is South side of Lena, and Darin LaHood is North.

Discuss Village Website and Email Provider

9) Callos explained that there have been issues with the current email system with sending and receiving emails, with minimal support. They reviewed some information on Microsoft 365 Gov.

Discuss Street Light Electrical Contract Bids

10) The Board reviewed bids provided by Rock River Energy Services. It was noted that the existing supplier, Constellation, was the best pricing. Peight offered that his experience has been that with all the fees that can be included, the total can end up being higher and should be reviewed closely. Buss explained the Village has a separate account for street lights. The Board was leaning toward approving 48 months locked in with Constellation.

Welfare of the Village

*Stevens asked that the Village allow the FFA to use the barricades for their fundraiser over the weekend.

*Callos gave an overview of tenant concern over wiring and heating at the Railroad Apartments.

Adjournment

11) On a motion by Keeffer second by Rood to adjourn the October 28, 2024 Meeting at 7:00pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk