

November 11, 2014

REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Call to Order/Roll Call – Village President Susan Washa called this Regular Village Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Caleb Buroker, Tom Cody, Sue Colburn, Dennis Richgels, John Kreul and Susan Washa. Zach Washa arrived later. Others present were Jennifer White, Tom Hebgen and Becky Fredericks.

Certification/Compliance – Clerk certified that notice of meeting was posted on November 7, 2014. Tom Cody motioned as to compliance with open meeting law. John Kreul seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Public Hearing

Amendment to 2014 General Budget/Adopt Budget Resolution No. 1-2014 – Dennis Richgels motioned to Adopt Budget Resolution No. 1-2014 for a net change in revenues and expenditures of \$13,968.91. Caleb Buroker seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Caleb Buroker, Tom Cody, Sue Colburn, Dennis Richgels, John Kreul and Susan Washa. Motion carried with Zach Washa absent.

Approve Stray Animal Contract with Iowa County Humane Society – John Kreul motioned to approve the Stray Animal Contract with Iowa County Humane Society with the pay as you go option. Sue Colburn seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Susan Washa, John Kreul, Dennis Richgels, Sue Colburn, Tom Cody and Caleb Buroker. Motion carried with Zach Washa absent.

Approve \$1 Increase for Unused Levy from Previous Year on 2014 Levy Limit Worksheet – Caleb Buroker motioned to approve the \$1 increase for Unused Levy from Previous Year on 2014 Levy Limit Worksheet. Tom Cody seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: John Kreul, Sue Colburn, Caleb Buroker, Susan Washa, Dennis Richgels and Tom Cody. Motion carried with Zach Washa absent.

Review 2014 General Budget – Adopt Tax Levy and Budget Resolution – Tom Cody motioned to set the 2014 Village of Highland Tax Levy at \$140,979.57. Caleb Buroker seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Sue Colburn, John Kreul, Caleb Buroker, Dennis Richgels, Susan Washa and Tom Cody. Motion carried. Tom Cody motioned to adopt the 2015 General Budget with total revenues and expenditures of \$548,939.40. Dennis Richgels seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Tom Cody, John Kreul, Caleb Buroker, Sue Colburn, Susan Washa and Dennis Richgels. Motion carried with Zach Washa absent.

New Business:

Village President asked if anyone had any objections to move to agenda item 5 (a), with hearing no objections board moved to agenda item 5 (a).

Discuss parking at Village apartments – take action, if necessary – Jennifer White was here to address the board on her concerns with the parking at the Village apartments. She informed the board that in the past she had issues also and the public property committee met and assigned parking spots to the tenants. She is having issues with a new tenant parking in the spot that was assigned to her. John Kreul, current Public Property Committee Chair, informed her that no spots were officially assigned due to the issue being mutually agreed upon by the tenants. Concerns of the board are on how to monitor and enforce. It is not in the lease agreement as to how many or where to park. Parking by the handicap accessible apartment is vacant because the tenant does not have a vehicle anymore so can that spot be addressed? After some discussion it was asked should some extra spots be made by putting in some gravel and should letters be sent to the tenants letting them know there are a certain number of spots and it is a first come, first serve basis. Susan Washa motioned to approve installation of extra gravel parking and to set the parking as first come, first serve with letters to be hand delivered to all tenants by John Kreul. John Kreul seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Susan Washa, John Kreul, Dennis Richgels, Sue Colburn, Tom Cody and Caleb Buroker. Motion carried with Zach Washa absent.

Discuss Highland Meat Market – take action, if necessary – Village President, Susan Washa, met with Mike Eppley of Highland Meat Market. Mike informed Susan that he would like to apply for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant which the Village would need to be involved. He is looking to use this grant money to finish with the processing plant of Midwest Poultry and Ratite Processors LLC. He is also looking to start processing venison.

Zach Washa arrived at 6:49 p.m.

Concerns with the project after some discussion is currently the business does not have a conditional use permit to process venison – permit it for poultry process with the exclusion of cattle, swine and venison. Also concern of what happens when the byproduct of processing venison goes into the wastewater treatment plant. Possibility the BOD levels will increase causing problems for the WWTP. Locker plants in the surrounding municipalities have holding tanks for the byproduct waste. How will this be monitored? Is some of the grant money going to be for installing a holding tank or something of that nature? There are too many questions to take action on deciding to help with the grant. After some discussion it was decided that Susan Washa will draw up a letter to address the concerns to Mike Eppley about his change of plan to for processing poultry to start processing venison which was excluded from the conditional use permit and will be informed that he will not be allowed to process venison. Also in the letter it will be addressed that a more definite business plan needs to be presented to the Village board before they will even consider being involved with the grant. Susan will go and personally talk to Mike and also send a letter touching on everything that she talked to him about. Item will be placed on the December agenda for further information.

Discuss Progressive Way Subdivision Parcel 136-0212.003 – take action, if necessary – Board Member Dennis Richgels informed the board that John Brown is interested in this parcel and was wondering if the Village would negotiate on a price on the parcel. He is looking to expand Highland Machine for his sons and currently they are running out of room for storage area for the business and is interested in the land to purchase with the intent to build this spring a possible 2-3,000 square foot building for storage area for the business with the hopes that in the future the business will expand to the building. Price of the lot is currently \$50,000 but he feels that price is way too high and would like to negotiate a price and wants to know if the Village would consider negotiating with the potential of the business expanding in the future. After some discussion the Village decided that it would be willing to negotiate but would like to know what will be the projected building plans. Dennis Richgels will take this information to John Brown and bring back more information to the December board meeting.

Discuss cleaning of personal sidewalks – take action, if necessary – Tom Hebgen informed the board that he has had two interested individuals, Rick Wienkes of Fox's Lawn Mowing & Lawn Care & Bob Michek, wanting to shovel the sidewalks of the vacant homes for this winter season. Susan Washa motioned to approve Rick Wienkes of Fox's Lawn Mowing & Lawn Care to shovel the private sidewalks. Zach Washa seconded. Motion carried.

Discuss part-time maintenance work – take action, if necessary – Tom Hebgen informed the board that Darrell Kreul had contacted Tom to say that he will not be able to work the rest of the year. Tom is wondering what the board would like him to do with this. Susan Washa motioned to give Tom Hebgen the permission to hire seasonal workers for winter maintenance and summer help at the current part-time employee wage rate. Tom Cody seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Discuss street light on E Circle Dr. – take action, if necessary – Tom Hebgen contacted Chris Wilhelm of Alliant Energy to get a quote for installing a street light or two on E Circle Dr. The quote came in at \$2,125.00. After some discussion it was decided that this is out of the budget and a little more than expected so no action will be taken at this time.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings – Tom Cody motioned to approve the October 7, 2014 Board Meeting minutes. Caleb Buroker seconded. Motion carried.

Authorize Payment of Bills – Tom Cody motioned to approve payment of bills as presented: General Account \$16,907.80, Sewer Account \$2,105.96, Water Account \$654.30 and TID #2 Account \$4,612.00. Zach Washa seconded. Roll call vote "Aye": Zach Washa, John Kreul, Caleb Buroker, Tom Cody, Sue Colburn and Susan Washa. Motion carried with Dennis Richgels abstaining.

Committee Reports:

Water – Tom Hebgen informed the board that he has Mike Shemak lined up to dig up a valve on Barnard St; it is bad and needs to be replaced.

Sewer – Nothing new to report

Streets – Nothing new to report

Park – Nothing new to report

Public Property – Nothing new to report – item was addressed early in the meeting.

Law Enforcement – Report submitted

Economic Development – Nothing new to report

Fire District – Nothing new to report

Operator Licenses:

Susan Washa motioned to approve an Operator's License for Jessica McCollough. Zach Washa seconded. Roll call vote "Aye": Susan Washa, Sue Colburn, Tom Cody, Dennis Richgels, Caleb Buroker, John Kreul and Zach Washa. Motion carried.

Zoning Permits – Fillback Ford

Forthcoming Events – Village Clerk share an invitation with the board for a Client Appreciation Event from Delta 3 Engineering, RSVP requested by November 20, 2014.

Correspondence Received – Thank you letter from the Class of 2004 with a \$50 donation for the use of the park shelter.

Set December Board Meeting – Board Meeting will be Tuesday, December 2, 2014 immediately following the Planning Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment – Caleb Buroker motioned to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Zach Washa seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Fredericks, Clerk-Treasurer