

**February 2, 2015**

**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: Zach Washa, Sue Colburn, Dennis Richgels, John Kreul and Susan Washa. Others present were Tom Hebgen, Daniel Swinehart and Becky Fredericks. Tom Cody arrived at 6:11 p.m.

**Certification/Compliance** – Clerk certified that notice of meeting was posted on January 30, 2015. Dennis Richgels motioned as to compliance with open meeting law. Sue Colburn seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Input – not for action – None**

**Discuss Midwest Poultry & Ratite Processors LLC grant request** – Village President Susan Washa informed the board that due to the fact that Mike Eppley had just emailed the grant information on Friday, January 30, 2015 there wasn't sufficient time to look it over before the board meeting. She also stated that since Mike was not in attendance at the meeting that she would like to table this agenda item to a future meeting to gather more information. She also stated that she would like to meet with the person that will be writing the grant. With no objection, agenda item will be tabled to a future meeting.

**Our Town Discussion** – Tom Hebgen asked the board if it was mandatory for Village employees to be at the Our Town Celebration. Susan Washa said that it is not mandatory. With that being said, Tom Hebgen informed the board that he might be on a family vacation that would not allow him to be at the Celebration. Village Clerk, Becky Fredericks, also informed the board that she will not be able to be at the Celebration on Saturday.

**Discuss email from Marie Stewart, DNR Waste Management Specialist & Recycling Coordinator pertaining to wood burning site – take action, if necessary** – Tom Hebgen shared with the board that someone had turned in the Village for burning brush and leaves in bags to the DNR so now we are not allowed to burn anything except for wood 6 inches or bigger at the wood burning site. He also informed the board that he has been in contact with Marie Stewart discussing this and he has an email out to her asking if we can file for a waiver to be able to burn brush also. This matter will be tabled until March board meeting so Tom can get the information from Marie.

**Discuss possible purchase of brush chipper – take action, if necessary** – Tom informed the board that if we are not granted the waiver we might have to look into purchasing a chipper to handle the brush that Steve McGuire normally picks up throughout the village. He has contacted a couple dealers to get an estimate. This matter will also be tabled until the March board meeting, if needed.

**Discuss Iowa County Farmland Preservation Plan/Village of Highland Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance – take action, if necessary** – Village Clerk, Becky Fredericks, informed the board that Scott Godfrey of Iowa County Planning & Development is working on the Iowa County Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) and needs a response from the Village of Highland on the proposed lands within the Village to be included in the County’s FPP as Farmland Preservation Areas. Village Clerk will contact Scott Godfrey to inform him there are no changes to the current areas and there are no plans for any changes in the near future.

**Discuss Highland Rodeo Club Contract – take action, if necessary** – The Village Clerk informed the board that the contract will expire on April 30, 2016. Tom Hebgen informed the board that we were just granted out WPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the 10 year plan has some changes that might affect the rodeo grounds. So the Village board will need to start discussing if we will renew the contract and if we do, what will be the terms and conditions. After some discussion the board decided to have the Village clerk send a letter to the Rodeo Club to inform them of the expiration date and the possibility that if we will renew it will more than likely be only a one year term. More discussion will take place at a future board meeting.

**Discuss/Approve Law Enforcement Policy** – Village President, Susan Washa, informed the board that she had requested that Daniel Swinehart draw up a policy on how the Village would handle the situation of a Sex Offender moving in the Village of Highland. After looking over the policy and some discussion, the Village board made some suggestions for some changes and asked that Daniel make the necessary changes and bring back for approval at the March board meeting.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings** – Dennis Richgels motioned to approve the January 13, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. John Kreul seconded. Motion carried.

**Authorize Payment of Bills** – Tom Cody motioned to approve payment of bills as presented: General Account \$14,694.52, Sewer Account \$1,459.24, Water Account \$1,492.03 and TID #2 Account \$4,612.00. Zach Washa seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Zach Washa, Tom Cody, Sue Colburn, Dennis Richgels, John Kreul and Susan Washa. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Economic Development** – Tom Hebgen informed the board that he did locate the lot stakes for Brown & Brown Properties and found that there is still a good lot there that has road access that they might want to look at developing for sale. Susan Washa informed the board the she signed the papers at the closing to finalize the sale of the lot to Brown & Brown Properties.

**Law Enforcement** – Report submitted

**Water** – Nothing new to report

**Sewer** – Nothing new to report

**Streets** – The Village board gave compliments to the guys for a great job on getting the streets cleared up after the big snow.

**Parks** – Susan Washa informed the board that the park grill will be used to grill burgers for the girl's basketball tournament on February 14 and for the EMS Valentine breakfast on February 14.

**Public Property** – Nothing new to report

**Fire District** – Nothing new to report

**Operator Licenses** – None

**Zoning Permits** – Fillback Ford, Jamie Link, Craig Blabaum and Emily Kreul

**Forthcoming Events** – Nothing

**Correspondence Received** – Nothing

**Set March Board Meeting** – March 2, 2015

**Adjournment** – Zach Washa motioned to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Sue Colburn seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky Fredericks, Clerk-Treasurer