

March 2, 2015

REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Call to Order/Roll Call – Village President Susan Washa called this Regular Village Board meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Zach Washa, Tom Cody, Sue Colburn, Dennis Richgels and Susan Washa. Caleb Buroker and John Kreul excused. Others present were Brad Laufenberg, Pat Benish, Tom Hebgen, Daniel Swinehart and Becky Fredericks.

Certification/Compliance – Clerk certified that notice of meeting was posted on February 27, 2015. Zach Washa motioned as to compliance with open meeting law. Tom Cody seconded. Motion carried.

Public Input – not for action – None

Discuss Upland Hills Health-Village of Highland Easement/Right-of-Way/Land – take action, if necessary – Tabled for future meeting once more information is available – Upland Hills Health needs to finalize purchase of lot and check on placement of building to know for sure where an easement or right-of-way will work.

Upland Hills Health Certified Survey Map – take action, if necessary – Village of Highland Planning Commission met and made a recommendation to the Village Board to approve the Upland Hills Health Certified Survey Map. After some discussion Tom Cody motioned to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the Certified Survey Map as submitted. Zach Washa seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Zach Washa, Tom Cody, Sue Colburn, Dennis Richgels and Susan Washa. Motion carried.

Discuss Midwest Poultry and Ratite Processors LLC – take action, if necessary – No further information on the grants was submitted or address by Mike Eppley. Village President Susan Washa said that due to his lack of follow-up we will not take action and will wait for Mike to supply more information on what he would like from the Village and what grant(s) that he is looking at.

Discuss wood burning site – take action, if necessary – Tom Hebgen informed the board that the Village of Highland has received a waiver to be able to burn all brush again but will need to do a compost pile for all the leaves and yard waste. Per the contact at the DNR the gate to the site will need to be locked at all times. The Village board will need to figure out how the site can be available for Village residents while being supervised. After some discussion it was decided to have the site open 8:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays, weather permitting starting April 11th and plan to do this two Saturdays a month to see how it works with other times by appointment only.

Discuss Highland Rodeo Club Contract – take action, if necessary – The Village Board looked at possible ideas for the upcoming new contract. They wondered if they should look at charging rent for the property because it has been brought to the attention that they are baling the hay and selling it. Currently Roum Farms is paying \$125/acre rent for Village land for crops so the board wondered should we charge the rode club for rent to use Village land for their facility. After some more discussion, Susan Washa made a motion to charge the Highland Rodeo Club \$1,500/year for a 1 year term with the approval of the new agreement in 2016. Tom Cody seconded. Roll call vote “Aye”: Dennis Richgels, Sue Colburn, Tom Cody, Zach Washa and Susan Washa. Motion carried.

Our Town Discussion – take action, if necessary – Susan Washa informed the board that she will work on the work schedule and if needed, will get help from the board after the May board meeting.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings – Dennis Richgels motioned to approve the February 2, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. Zach Washa seconded. Motion carried.

Authorize Payment of Bills – Zach Washa motioned to approve payment of bills as presented: General Account \$41,476.10, Sewer Account \$10,324.74, Water Account \$9,574.07 and TID #2 Account \$4,724.00. Tom Cody. Roll call vote “Aye”: Sue Colburn, Zach Washa, Susan Washa, Tom Cody and Dennis Richgels. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Fire District – Fire Chief Tom Michek was present to inform the board that grant monies from the DNR Forest Fire Protection Grant was originally \$19,000, however they did take off the radios to bring it down to \$12-13,000 but that they are now looking into available items to purchase and found some items that will be beneficial to the fire district and since they can get them at the 50/50 match it would be a good idea. After adding in these items the total amount would be around \$16,000, which \$8,000 will be the responsibility of the Fire District. However, the Fire District needs to pay for the full amount first and will get reimbursed the 50% share in 6-8 weeks after purchase of the items. So they will need to get approval from the Village of Highland and Town of Highland to spend the total amount of around \$16,000. This will be placed on the April board meeting. Tom Michek also informed the board that he has bid requests out for replacement of the meeting room and kitchen windows and the two commercial metal doors with bids due by March 21st at Noon.

Economic Development – Susan Washa informed the board that Curt James contacted her about possibly purchasing part of the remaining 4 acre parcel that is remaining in the Industrial Park. She told the board that he will contact Tom Hebgen to look at the lot and determine what he would like to possibly consider purchasing.

Law Enforcement – Report submitted

Water – Tom Hebgen informed the board that he and Steve have been checking the water temps and are doing alright.

Sewer – Tom Hebgen informed the board that he and Steve will be attending a Phosphorus meeting in Lancaster on Thursday, March 5th.

Streets – Tom Hebgen informed the board that Craig Hardy had contacted the Becky Fredericks on if the Village had budgeted this year to sealcoat the Village portion of Cty Rd I/Main St and are currently waiting to hear back from Craig on what the Village share of the cost will be. Becky Fredericks informed the board that Pat Bruner stopped in to talk about the street by his house and snow plowing. The street is all broken up and is usually only temporarily fixed and is wondering if it can be permanently fixed. Tom Hebgen informed the board that it is a bad spot but to do a patch job will cost way more than it being fixed as part of the street project so suggests that cold patch be used to fix it for now. Pat also discussed the snow plowing saying that it gets pushed back in his yard and wanted to know if the snow can be hauled away as opposed to being pushed into the yard. Tom Hebgen informed the board that the majority of the snow from the cul-de-sac is pushed towards Roger Nondorf's and not pushed back into Pat's yard. After some discussion by the board it was decided that the street is a future project but not in the budget this year and there is no definite plan as to when it will be done and the Village will plan to cold patch the spot this year. They also stated that snow plowing will remain the same.

Parks – Nothing new to report

Public Property – A village resident informed the Village clerk that they believe Jennifer White has a dog and a cat. The board decided to check on this by sending a letter about this. Also a concerned apartment resident asked the Village clerk if Cory Rundell could be informed that he can't park his vehicle on Apartment St because it is posted No Parking and is a thru street that people can't drive thru when he is parked there. Daniel Swinehart will get in contact with Cory on this matter.

Operator Licenses – None

Zoning Permits – None

Forthcoming Events – Village Clerk informed the board that she received an email about a Free Safe Room Workshop on March 18th at the Health & Human Services Building at either 1-4:30 or 6:00-9:30.

Correspondence Received – Village Clerk shared a letter from Gardiner Appraisal Service about the County Wide Assessment System proposed by Governor Walker's 2015-2017 State Budget.

Set April Board Meeting – April 6, 2015

Adjournment – Zach Washa motioned to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Sue Colburn seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Fredericks, Clerk-Treasurer