

Village of Washburn

Mayor
Steve Forney

May 11th 2020
Monthly Board Minutes

Board of Trustees
Jessica Damerell
Scott Forney
Alvin Grebner
Ginger Humphrey
Randy Knoblauch
Jessica Youngman

Village Clerk
Becky Ulrich

Village Treasurer
Cheri Woodson

Water/Sewer/Street Department
Matt Strauch

Chief of Police
John Scroggs

Steve called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, all here. (As a side note, Wayne attended via Zoom.) The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Scott made a motion to approve the April minutes, Jess seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

We will come back to bills once they've all been reviewed.

STREETS: Jess said they discussed at the committee meeting a tree that was on contract to be removed.

Matt got an estimate to rent the grinder to prep the streets for paving. The estimate is \$3,250. We'll be renting it from the same place that we did last year. Jessica asked how long we'll have the rental? We don't know but the rental is for the whole period of tie, not 1 day.

Jess made a motion to rent the machine from Altorfer for \$3,250, Jessica seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Jess said we received all the info from the flood study. All the info provided is in paper form and also on a CD as well.

WATER/SEWER: We need to vote to pay off the loan of \$30,053.94. If approved, it would be set to be paid off on May 15th. Al makes a motion to pay off the loan amount as stated, Ginger seconds it. All ayes motion carried. Cheri will make the call tomorrow to get it paid off.

POLICE: Ginger made a motion to transfer \$22,500 from corporate to police. The amount is so high this month because we finally got the bill for the replacement radios. Jess seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Cheri recommends waiting and holding off to make the vehicle transfer due to the current circumstances. Once the money is moved to the savings account we can't transfer it back. These transfers can be made at any given time so she would recommend waiting until we know more about the state funded income. They aren't buying a vehicle this month correct? Ginger said they'd probably wait until fall to make a purchase, so it makes sense to hold off on the transfer until we need it or feel more secure with the income.

Ginger gave the police report. There hasn't been much going on but things should start picking back up here soon.

FINANCE, INSURANCE & TIF: Scott received a letter from Home Field Energy. Do we need to take any action? Danny said no. He said that it will be coming up for auction soon but because of Covid they are holding off for a bit. After reading the letter, apparently they already had the auction, but still no action would need to be taken. It was noted that an individual resident can opt out themselves if they want to.

Scott makes a motion to continue with Home Field Energy, Jessica seconds it. All ayes, motion carried.

Scott talked to Mike about putting insurance on the lights at Halfmoon. For \$40,000 coverage it would be \$114/year. Scott made a motion to add the insurance to the lights, Jess seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: We are working on getting the grant updates as discussed at the committee meeting.

ZONING: Wayne issued for new permits last month.

Scott asked what is happening with Lincoln Street? Danny said we'll talk about it later in the meeting.

LIBRARY: Matt wants to get the sidewalk done in front of the library before the asphalt is done so that way it's there and set up before any truck and stuff come in.

Matt talked to Brett and he'll finish the concrete. No vote is needed, we received the month from Metamora last month already.

PARKS: Jess said she didn't really have anything but starting June 1st we'll be starting practices down there finally. Summer Rec is following the Tri-County planning for safety.

OTHER: Ginger asked if anything came about regarding the unemployment claim? Danny said we just replied. Danny doesn't anticipate any issues with the denial. The claim was from Deb. Ginger also mentioned we are cutting the part time officer hours back to just 20/week right now.

Back to Bills...Ginger made a motion to pay the bills, Jessica seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: We need to rehire employees.

Jess made a motion to rehire Danny as the Village Attorney, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Jessica made a motion to rehire Cheri as the Village Treasurer, Al seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Ginger made a motion to retain Steven Greim & Assoc. as the Village Auditor, Scott seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Jess made a motion to rehire Matt as the Water/Street/Sewer Commissioner, Jessica seconded it All ayes, motion carried.

Randy made a motion to rehire John as the Police Chief, Ginger seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Alvin made a motion to rehire Kurt Downie, Ginger seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

We need to discuss pay adjustments. The cost of living increase in 2019 was 2.8%. Jessica recommends a 3% raise to cover the cost of living. Randy agrees with 3%. He said at one point they talked about doing ore but given the current situation maybe we should just cover the cost of living right now. A bonus could always be given for merit if we feel so inclined to do so later on in the year.

Jess made a motion to give a 3% cost raise to the four full time employees (Matt, Jared, John and Cheri), retro active to May 1st, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Steve sent an email asking if we could possibly move the June meeting to the 15th instead of the 8th? There was a discussion on who could switch dates. Steve feels it's best to stay with the 8th because we know a trustee can not be here on the 15th and Steve thinks its most important for all the trustees to be here if possible.

OLD BUSINESS: Danny did some research on the house on Lincoln St because he knew the topic would come up tonight. We've had no response from the letters we've sent. Danny did some looking into the company who owns the property and gave some background about that. The company is not a very reputable place because they have cases against them already in New York and Wisconsin.

There was a discussion about what our options are. It would cost a couple thousand dollars to lien the property. We should start citing them for ordinance violations and sending them off to them. If we liened, where would the money come from? Corporate. What about TIF? Could we pull it from beautification? Danny said we can start citing them without putting a lien against it.

Danny will check with them to see if they would give us the deed if we released all their fines etc.

Scott is going to check with the TIF attorney about the possibility of using TIF money if need be.

Danny and John will work on citations. John will post on the door as well.

Jessica asked if we could re-visit the change of the June meeting date. She will probably not be able to attend either meeting so does not make sense to keep the original date on her account. We are moving it to June 15th @ 7:00. The committee meeting will stay the same original date.

Ginger made a motion to adjourn, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Washburn Village Clerk

Date