

## Village of Washburn

**Mayor**  
Steve Forney

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Monthly Board Minutes

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

**Village Clerk**  
Becky Ulrich

**Village Treasurer**  
Heather Hare

**Water/Sewer/Street Department**  
Jared Marshall

**Chief of Police**  
John Scroggs

Steve called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, all here. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

We will come back to the minutes later in the meeting.

Ginger made a motion to approve the bills, Jessica seconded it. All ayes, motion carried

**STREETS:** They discussed the village taking over the Woodford County part of Parkside Drive or keeping it as is for county to maintain. The board doesn't see any advantage to taking it over; we would like to leave as is. Steve will call them tomorrow and let them know we've decided to continue to have them maintain it.

**WATER/SEWER:** Jared said it would cost \$6,834 to put in a shut off and fix the hydrant at the corner of Park and Parkside. It is a lot of money but the other option is to do it ourselves and that would incur a lot of cost plus no idea how many people would be shut off for a day or more, plus then we would have to do a boil order. We have \$13,000 in the hydrant repair account and we haven't spent any of that yet so we should be good.

Jared asked about the credit card status. Randy and Steve need to go to the bank to get that taken care of. They both will get that done.

Jess made a motion to approve the January minutes, Alvin seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

**POLICE:** Ginger said there is no need for a transfer this month. Ginger had already read the police report at the committee meeting last week and there's nothing new to add/report.

Ginger mentioned Debbie has taken a full time position someplace else so she is no longer wanting hours on the weekends or nights. Nick also accepted a full time job elsewhere.

**FINANCE, INSURANCE & TIF:** The Cyber Liability policy came in late. It will cost \$1,565. This is already in with the bills to be paid and Steve has signed off on it already.

Tim Schoon came to the committee meeting to talk about refinancing the sewer bond payment. By refinancing it would save us about \$135,000. The new rate would be 3.5%. The board feels like there's several advantages to go forward with this refinance instead of keeping the USDA loan we have now. We would prefer monthly payments. Danny needs to provide a opinion letter to the bank, he will do this.

Scott made a motion to renew our open line of credit of \$150,000 with Morton Community Bank for a charge of \$100, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried. The bank will need a copy of these minutes, once they've been approved and signed, to provide the loan.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Scott said there's a grant for abandoned properties. Scott is beginning to apply for the grant. He said it's lengthy but he's just getting started on it and will see where it goes.

Scott mentioned he's also looked into applying for a CURES grant, which is a grant that is related to COVID and costs associated with it. Scott made a motion to apply for the CURES Grant for \$45,000, Jess seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

**ZONING:** Nothing.

**LIBRARY:** Nothing.

**PARKS:** Nothing.

**OTHER:** Steve mentioned at the committee meeting they wanted to go into Executive Session at the committee meeting but weren't sure if they could or not. Can you have an Executive Session at a committee meeting or can that only occur during a regular board meeting? Danny said that you can go into Executive Session at a committee meeting as long as it's properly posted.

Back to Economics...Scott said when Casey Peterson was here he asked him about the lights on the ball fields at Half Moon Park and Casey said he'd look into it. Scott also asked him about some items at the sewer plant.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Scott said regarding 108 Lincoln St, that the previous years taxes haven't been paid. Jared has been mowing it and we also have a lien against. Scott would suggest we foreclose on our lien. If we want to do that, we will have to take over the tax liability. Danny said the foreclosure process is highly technical and a lengthy process. Danny estimates the foreclosure cost at \$5,000-\$10,000. There was a small discussion on what our options are and could be. Scott makes a motion to foreclose on our lien on the house 108 Lincoln St, Randy seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Regarding the Tomlinson property across the street, Alvin would like to clean it up and send them a bill. Jess said she agreed we need to do this but we should not put a lien on it because it's in a trust and that's opening a whole new can of worms. Kevin Burdette said he knows someone that would volunteer to clean it up free of charge if he could keep the wood. This guy got ahold of the attorney in charge and the attorney hasn't gotten back with him yet. Danny said he'd give the attorney a call. Dale Beard is the name of the guy that volunteered to clean it up. The board provided the name/number of the attorney in charge to Danny and he'll reach out.

Randy said regarding Charlie Kennell, he never received his letter from Wayne, it came back in the mail to us. Randy talked with Charlie and he said he no longer wants to build a building on it, he just wants to get the site presentable. Randy's done some research about the cost of fill etc. Randy will talk to Charlie and present the costs that would be associated with it. Randy said he would recommend we give Charlie until March 31st to do this; due to the temps you can't currently haul sand etc right now, but Randy said he'll stay on top of it.

Becky said Andy Jay reached out to her and asked about his tile projects he came to the board about last month. Jess said to the best of her knowledge we're not in immediate control of that area, because it's not our road or our culverts. There was a small discussion. We would like to get some more info, maybe something in writing about no additional water liability etc. Randy said he'll give Andy a call and find out exactly what he's wanting and have him get something in writing.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Jess asked if we got final proposal from VoiceSpring? Jessica said we can't get a final quote until we say we are going with them for sure and tell them exactly what we want. Scott said either way it's going to save us a ton of money. Jessica makes a motion to go forward with VoiceSpring for our new phone and alarm system and cancel the contract with Frontier, Scott seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Jess made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personal and to return to regular session at the conclusion of executive session, Ginger seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

Return to open meeting.

Ginger made a motion to accept the proposal from Woodford County for police coverage, Randy seconded it. There were 5 ayes, 1 nay; motion carried.

Randy said if there's any questions, we will be happy to answer them and all questions regarding the police should be directed towards the head of the police committee, which is Ginger.

Ginger made a motion to provide a severance package to John, our Chief of Police, of \$5,000, Randy seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

John asked when will this take effect? The board said this is effective immediately. Randy said we will work with John to set up a time to come back in and meet him to get his personal belongings out of the car/police station. Randy asked for John's keys and told

him if he had any work related belongings at home, he can bring those in with him when he comes back to retrieve his personal belongings.

Kevin Burdette asked what kind of coverage will we have? We will have a police officer on duty in town 80 hours over a 2 week period; basically the same as what we currently have now.

Ed asked what kind of additional cost are we going to incur? Randy said he'd be happy to chat with Ed about it.

Jess made a motion to adjourn, Jessica seconded it. All ayes, motion carried.

---

Washburn Village Clerk

---

Date