

Village Board Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM – Rosendale Municipal Building

Kurt Caramanidis, Village President

Trustees: Larry Crook, Daniel Degner, Jeremy Giebel, Keegan Madigan, Tammy Pflum & Tricia Yeager

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Call Village Board meeting to order – December 18, 2023 meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by President Kurt Caramanidis and the following were present at this meeting:

Trustees: Larry Crook, Dan Degner, Jeremy Giebel, Keegan Madigan, Tammy Pflum & Tricia Yeager

Staff: Emily Wirkus, Clerk-Treasurer, Jeremy Tabbert, Public Works: Alek Schulz, Officer; Tony Liebenow, Chief of Police

Citizens: Leah Johnson, Carrie Maser, Mike Bonlender, Kevin Engel, Jerry Fairbank, Mark Isaac, Torrie Grade, Dale Malson

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Approve minutes of 11-13-23, as circulated – Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Pflum to approve the minutes from the 11-13-23 meeting. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Public Comments – Nothing mentioned.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Discuss Taylor Park Basketball Court – Members of the LYBC (Laconia Youth Basketball Club) were in attendance at the Village Board meeting and spoke of their thoughts and suggestions regarding the basketball courts at Taylor Park. It was mentioned they are in need up updating and it was discussed in the past. They mentioned they have members in the club who are willing to donated time and equipment to help in an upgrade. It was mentioned that the LYBC holds the 3 on 3 basketball tournament during the Rosendale Lions Chicken BBQ and it draws in people from other communities. It was mentioned that the LYBC would like to donate \$20,000 towards the basketball court upgrade and they would also help lead in additional fundraising. It was mentioned that they basketball courts are good for the community and keep kids out of mischief. It was mentioned that concrete would cost approx. \$25,000; labor and removal of material would come from community members. It was mentioned that they would need to find an area to dispose of the material. It was mentioned that Taylor Park is a beautiful place. It was also mentioned possibly including Pickleball with the basketball court upgrade. It was mentioned to maybe have a key available to “check-out” equipment. It was mentioned that maybe the school would take the demo materials when doing their construction project. It was mentioned that about having ideas of making the basketball court used for multiple purpose i.e. pickleball. It was mentioned that the original base is failing. It was mentioned that Corey Nitz is willing to partner with LYBC with this project and donate labor and equipment.

Trustee Madigan says something needs to be done. Trustee Pflum and Yeager both said great idea, but if moving forward they would need to see more final numbers of the project. Trustee Degner thanked everyone for coming and the info. Trustee Giebel said great project and this would bring people to the community. Trustee Crook likes the idea and to include more used, but is worried about the base. Trustee Pflum would like the school to contribute since they do use the court a lot. Kevin Engel stated he would talk to Cody Moon. Kevin Engel asked President Caramanidis what the Village would do. President Caramanidis stated we can put on the next agenda for discussion. Kevin Engel also asked about what other ideas people may have for the basketball courts.

Jeremy Tabbert asked about the finish. It was mentioned that it wouldn't be a smooth finish otherwise it would be slippery. Question was made about the pitch for the water. Kevin Engel stated it's flat now. Leah Johnson stated she has swept and used a leaf blower in the past to help dry up the courts at tournament time. Mike Bonlender questioned about cleaning up the mess with the grass – landscaping, dirt, etc. made by heavy equipment. He was wondering if the Village can handle the landscaping repair. President Caramanidis doesn't think there would be an issue to re-seed.

President Caramanidis said that Pickleball sounds great. Kevin Engel mentioned having nets available. Carrie Maser said she could ask someone who runs pickleball to see what they do in the parks. Mark Isaac stated that \$20,000 is a substantial amount to donate. He mentioned to not push it aside as it may not be an option by the donors two years from now. Example if the donors' kids are no longer in school. Leah Johnson asked if it was feasible for this to happen this year. President Caramanidis said it will be on the agenda in January, but sees it highly possible. Trustee Pflum said if we are planning on using ARPA money, that there is a deadline.

President Caramanidis said thank you to everyone who attended the Board meeting. He asked Kevin Engel to get estimates.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, supplemental meeting rules for the Village Board – The supplemental meeting rules were updated during the November meeting. No changes have been made. It was mentioned that the Board can update the meeting rules at the beginning of each new term as needed. Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Pflum to approve the supplemental meeting rules for the Village Board as circulated. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Appoint Election inspectors for 2-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2025 – Clerk Emily Wirkus mentioned who her Election inspectors have been in the past. She mentioned Barb Hoch as the Chief Inspector and Michelle Tidemann & Tammy Pflum as Election inspectors. Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Yeager to appoint Barb Hoch, Tammy Pflum and Michelle Tidemann as the Election Inspectors for the 2-year term beginning January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, hall rental & Taylor Park pavilion rental fee increase – Clerk Emily Wirkus mentioned what other communities in the area charge for hall rental. Our current rate is \$85. Beginning January 1, 2024, the hall rental fees would go up to \$100 for Village resident and \$150 for non-resident. The fees to rent the shelter at Taylor Park is currently \$25 for Village resident and \$50 for non-resident. Beginning January 1, 2024, the rental fees would go up to \$50 for Village resident and \$75 for non-resident. It was mentioned at when the new pavilion is built, we would re-evaluate the rental fees. Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Giebel to increase the hall and park shelter rental as stated above. Motion is carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, the contract with Tom Meiklejohn to complete final design and bidding documents for new Taylor Park Pavilion and bathroom facilities – Trustee Crook talked about the contract for \$21,000. He mentioned we need to sign contract before moving forward. Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Madigan to approve the contract with Tom Meiklejohn to complete final design and bidding documents for new Taylor Park Pavilion and bathroom facilities. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, contract with Intertek/PSI from Ripon to complete soil borings & Geotechnical engineering services for new Taylor Park Pavilion & bathroom facilities – It was mentioned we approved this at the November board meeting but the quote came in at an extra \$1000 more.

Motion was made by Trustees Yeager/Degner to approve the contract with Intertek/PSI from Ripon to complete soil borings & Geotechnical engineering services for new Taylor Park Pavilion & bathroom facilities. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, upgrading the PD computers and possibly having FDL County as our IT – President Caramanidis introduced our new Police Chief Tony Liebenow. Chief Liebenow introduced himself and mentioned that he has an open-door policy. If there are any questions or concerns about anything, anyone can come to him. Trustee Yeager questioned Chief Liebenow about what his work hours will be. Chief Liebenow stated he is currently bouncing around with his hours as he is currently on vacation from his full-time job, but come January he plans to be here in the evenings Mondays and Wednesdays and possibly Friday or Saturday depending on his schedule. He also mentioned that he would like to have an officer on duty at least an 8-hour shift, 7 days a week. Chief Liebenow explained the computer issues with the squad computers. He mentioned that we pay our officers to patrol and not sit in the office troubleshooting computer issues. He stated he received quote from the Fond du Lac County IT department regarding computers and IT support. Trustee Yeager asked if IT was available all hours. Officer Schultz stated they have normal business hours but also have an “on call” IT person available as needed. Chief Liebenow also had a quote from Baycom as well. It was suggested that in 3 years we should automatically plan to start budgeting for computers. It was mentioned the PD would need 2 squad computers and 1 office computer.

Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Yeager to approve the purchase of the Dell computers thru FDL County along with approving FDL County as the IT support for the police department up to \$10,000. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, updating Personnel Manual to include retirement contribution for part-time Police Chief at the discretion of the Board – It was mentioned that the Personnel Manual does not mention retirement for part-time Police Chief. Discussion was had and a motion was made by Trustees Degner/Yeager to approve updating Personnel Manual to include retirement contribution for part-time Police Chief at the discretion of the Board. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 13 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, WRS may be included for part-time Police Chief – Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Madigan to approve WRS for our part-time Police Chief. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 14 – Approve checks dated November 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023 – Trustees Yeager asked how the dumpster is doing at the compost/brush drop off site. Jeremy Tabbert stated it is doing well and so far, no problems. Jeremy Tabbert said we will see what happens come spring. Jeremy Tabbert also mentioned that the leaf blower may need repair. It was also mentioned that the cameras at the drop-off site are up and running. Motion was made by Trustees Degner/Yeager to approve checks dated November 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023. Motion was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call.

AGENDA ITEM 15 – Next Village Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 – 211 N. Grant St. at 5:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 16 – Correspondence – Nothing mentioned.

AGENDA ITEM 17 – President’s Report – President Caramanidis mentioned a \$50K donation for the pavilion from Jim & Emajean Westphal. This generous donation is greatly appreciated.

AGENDA ITEM 18 – Adjourn the meeting – Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.