

# Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village President, Dennis Klatt.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **Present:**

Dennis Klatt

Mark Miller

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Sean Holland

Carl Spath

Todd Greenburg – Attorney

Robin Morrow – Clerk

#### **Absent:**

Jake Simons

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from December 20th meeting. The second was made by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved.

## **Bills:**

Jane stated there is a bill from TKS for part of the MFT Sidewalk Project. Rodger Sprague has turned in his bill for the remainder of the 2023 MFT Consultation. American Legal is ready to proceed with the Supplement 2 publishing to the website this Friday. She is not exactly sure when we will be able to see it.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. The second was made by Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

## **Department Reports:**

### **STREETS: Jane Buraglio**

Some sand has been removed at the main break area from December 10th on S Locust and replaced with CA-6. Caution tape and barricades are still in place to prevent people from driving over the valves. They will remain in place until we are able to rebuild the road at that corner.

Screaming Eagle came and installed the new garage door opener for bay 4.

The mowers and other equipment have been winterized and put into cold storage. We are making use of the west cold storage area to help free up some space in the east cold storage room. The plows are in the heated shop. The men have been working on the equipment and the shop

organization. The red dump truck now has working strobe lights. They had to take down the old light bar and covers. They had to trace down all the wires and wired in the new lights. Installed (2) 3-amp fuse blocks. Everything is hooked up to the rocker switches inside the truck and it all is working properly.

Nelson Thorp trimmed up two storm damaged trees in the park and the men assisted in removing the debris. When the weather allows and Nelson is available, the Christmas wreaths will be taken down. Jane investigated replacing some of them, but the price of \$515 a piece means we might have to wait another season to plan for that project.

Dennis asked about the treatment to the streets and causing some driving issues. Possible clean-up.

**HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland**

Nothing to report.

**WATER: Carl Spath (with Jane Buraglio)**

Jane received a text from Steve Westerfield at 7 am on Monday asking if the men could thaw out the discharge pipe into the backwash pit. No water could run through it preventing him from doing the backwash. She let Paul know before he came to work, and he brought in his grass burner. Jane thinks they worked a good five hours trying to get the pipe thawed. It was frozen about five feet under the building.

While they were working on this, Jane took a call from 312 S Oak. They had a burst pipe flooding a room and needed the water shut off. She found their plumber on N Oak looking for the house and escorted him to the right house. He later found two more leaks.

Jane returned a call to 302 Cherry who said they had no water Tuesday. Turned out he had a frozen pipe in the crawlspace, and he got his water working again.

Paul got a call yesterday to turn off the water at 510 S Third. Pipes are frozen and the owner wanted the water left off until pipes are repaired, and it was rented again.

Disturbed Water:

Carl stated there were comments made on FB about water that was concerning but being addressed. Dennis had also contacted Jane and Carl on Sunday about people having issues in town with brown water. He didn't have names but was told they were complaining on Facebook.

Jane was contacted directly by a few people and told Steve Westerfield about the complaints. He said the three times we shut off the water to multiple blocks on the south end due to the main break and the flushing of the far east hydrant on Division had stirred up the water. There is not much we can do about the color of water at this time. We can't flush hydrants in this weather.

He said all the tests that week had come back clear, and the water is safe. Steve is going to stop at some resident's houses to take more samples if needed. Clyde has been riding around seeing if

he can spot any leaks. Nothing so far. We are told right away if there is a main break once the water makes it to the surface.

Steve ran some extra tests on Sunday at the plant and Monday morning to make sure the water was still okay leaving the plant. He said the iron was low - .17 and the chlorine was good at 1, which is right where both should be. He also said we weren't really using much more water than normal. It is up some since people are letting the water run to keep their pipes from freezing.

**ZONING: Mark Miller**

Nothing to report.

**FINANCE: Jane/Pat**

**Account Balances as of December 31, 2023**

General Fund Checking	\$113,466.36
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,476.08
Water Fund Checking	\$ 22,670.72
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 94,716.99
Water Project Fund	\$111,352.56
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 8,443.31
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 36,640.22
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Total:	\$461,410.96

**FEMA Report**

Jane stated our FEMA claim has moved on up to the next level. She's been working with Madeleine Russell, who helped her compile the management costs that involved her time worked. She finalized the submission of our project on January 8th. Jane expects she will be having another meeting if there are any questions or need for clarification on the submitted documents.

**ARPA Funds:** Jamie Wilkey has made some progress with the USA Treasury portal. She has issued a request to the Treasury to reopen 2023 Project and Expenditure Report to allow for adjustments. The IT at the Treasury responded and asked for the Village EIN, which we gave. Then they asked if Dennis was having trouble accessing the portal. It appears they didn't even read Jamie's email specifically saying they were working on behalf of the Village. She is still trying to work with them. She got a response that said they could send a request to the program team to have them reopen the 2023 report. Someone will reach out once they have made their decision. That was the last Jane heard at 3:30 pm.

**WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield**

Nothing to report.

**CLERK: Robin Morrow**

Nothing to report.

**FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow**

Nothing to Report

**WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio**

All updated. No issues

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:**

Dale Karr: 1) Sidewalk has still not been replaced. They need to put gravel or something in it. 2) Sections poured for sidewalk by Smith also needs filled. 3) Safety regarding residents and their sump pump lines just leaving them over the sidewalks. 4) Concerned about raises at 3%. Feels like we keep giving more money and get less work out of them.

John Goergen: Asked about Jake Simons. Dennis stated that he has resigned, however, we have not yet received his resignation letter.

**NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:**

1. Audit Discussion – Neal Kuester – Audit ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Neal Kuester introduced himself and stated that he had 3 letters to go over with the Board. He reviewed and gave the Board a copy of the Letter of Communication and explained the purpose. Neal also provided a letter to the Board for the Findings and Weaknesses found during the audit. The final letter was the Management Letter that he also explained to the Board.

Neal provided everyone with a copy of the Annual Financial Report. He covered some of the highlights. Locis versus QuickBooks, Water Deposits, regular monthly reporting, water fund to general fund, ARPA, etc. Neal stated that overall things are good.

2. Roger Sprague – MFT 2023

Roger was not in attendance. Nothing to sign. Will move to next month.

3. Discussion and possible approval of purchasing equipment per Steve Evans request.

Steve Evans has requested the purchase of specific equipment in order to continue to maintain the park. There was supposed to be a comprise compare that was supposed to take place a couple months ago. Jane stated that she thought we had some of this equipment available that he can come and see if it is anything he needs. Sean is comfortable with accepting Steve's request. Steve has obviously done his homework on this. This is not necessarily New Business. Mark suggested tabling until the inventory on hand can be evaluated. Carl suggested putting on meeting for next month. Gives time to review for Spring. Carl Spath made motion to approve purchase of additional equipment needed (after review of inventory already at the shed) for Steve

Evans up to/not to exceed the amount of \$1300. Second made by John Goergen. All approved. Motion approved.

4. Discussion and possible approval of Ordinance Violation prosecution.

Currently two violations. Todd mentioned the ordinance violations that have been issued. Next court date for Division St. is February 7. Suggests that this be dismissed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one letter was returned from post office. Should possibly run the stickers on the vehicles. These have been sent to Steve Mart.

Motion to adjourn made by John Goergen. Second by Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:52pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk