

**VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS**  
**January 10, 2023**

The Village of Osceola met for a Regular meeting on January 10, 2023, at Village Hall. Village President Jeromy Buberl called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Present: Jeromy Buberl, Bill Chantelois IV, Bruce Gilliland, Brad Lutz, Deb Rose, Van Burch, and Holly Walsh (arrived at 6:02 pm).

Absent: n/a

Staff present: Devin Swanberg, Carie Krentz, Paul Elfstrom, Ron Pedrys, Todd Waters, Rick Caruso, and Shelby Friendshuh

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Rose to approve the agenda.

Ayes-6            Nays-0            Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Lutz to approve the minutes of the Regular meetings dated December 13, 2022, and Referendum Special meetings dated January 4, 2023.

Ayes-6            Nays-0            Motion carried

**Public input and ideas (Limit 5 minutes per speaker)**

No one wished to speak.

**Reports: Staff reports**

Library-Friendshuh: 2022 was a successful yet challenging year for the Library. Quick rundown of year: 361 new patrons, 2,276 new items, 1,229 in computer uses and 62,814 in total circulation, which is 13,000 more than in 2021 – library is coming back! 601 donation items in 2022, for a value of \$9,513, this is a significant addition to the Library. 890+ participants throughout programs in 2022. The Library staff thanked the board for their support and are looking forward to 2023 and to continue to make progress. Circulation is how they view how they are doing and getting closer to their best year, which was 2019 with circulation at 73,792.

December was slow month and had cancellations in programming – primarily due to weather. However, all are looking forward to January activities. Friendshuh shared, from the whole staff, their appreciation for the Boards hard work, advocacy, and friendships they have received through the years.

Fire-Elfstrom: 18 runs total – busy month! 12 in Village of Osceola, 5 in Town of Farmington and 1, with mutual aid, in Somerset. In January, meeting and training for exposure control and HIPPA policies will take place. The switchover from CenturyLink to Lakeland is completed. Planning for the firefighters ball is under way and all Board is invited to attend on 02-11-2023. Elfstrom ended by stating Fire chief applications review and interviews will take up the rest of this month. They have two applicants.

Building Inspection: 3 building permits were issued in December with a total value of \$40,726. 90 total building permits issued for the year so far, with a total value of \$7,171,743.75.

Administration: Swanberg stated staff would be meeting at the end of this month with the auditors to get it wrapped up. He and Caruso will be meeting with dresser to go over wastewater treatment agreement. He's also working on plan for stairs to the falls. Working with HPC on developers Certificate of Appropriateness. Other items that staff are working on are the Referendum and tax collections. Swanberg is also talking with other developers for the Village but at the very beginning stages, nothing else to report at this time.

Police-Pedrys: Calls for service month was what we like to see in the month of December. OPD received a donation of a fire suppression tool from the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation-Star Prairie Chapter. Pedrys gave a quick rundown on how it's used and glad to have one for the department. The tool is a one and done use. On December 15, 2022, the Shop with a Cop event was held and he feels it is the best event to participate in. Kids start out shy but by the end they are energetic and happy to be the event. OPD also had its annual night shoot required training and on December 17, 2022 had Stuff the Squad event – a big thank to everyone that showed up and donated. Were able to stuff one and half squads.

Public Works-Waters: Major concentration was snow removal this last month. 2 of the 4 weeks only had 2 staff members working at a time. Waters is very proud of the crew! Guys did a tremendous job with everything they had going on while being short staffed. There has been no down time this month, if not plowing/removing snow they are working on maintenance on all equipment. Waters wanted to mention the ice-skating rink – the ground is not frozen at this time and 3 to 4 feet of frost is needed to lay the water. This may not happen this year, we can look at other options if Board wants to go that way but that a future discussion.

Utilities-Caruso: Water dept. is happy the ground is not frozen yet. As they are helping clear the fire hydrants when able. W/S is working hard to get all water mains and sewer mains in mapping system. Board had a few questions; (1) What was taking place on Hwy 35? It was a private sewer replacement, not much for W/S to do since it is a state highway. (2) Noticed water consumption is down a little to 4.921 gallons – why would this be? Due to weather because of school closures and more people going to work and not staying at home as much (like in covid days). (3) How is it getting meters to install? This is coming around, just got a shipment this last month and should continue to improve.

Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet: Sattler stated they just election new board officers for 2023: Ruth Sattler as President, Ed Vater as Vice President, Pamela Talmage as Treasurer and Patrick Nickel as Secretary. Chamber has several new members and are working at hiring a Main Street Director. Chambers annual meeting is on January 23, 2023 at OMC’s conference room from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. They will be going through a tutorial on new website. Lastly, Jesse Kruger is part of St. Croix Valley Business Leader Legislative Day at the Capital on February 14, 2023 to bring issues from our area down there to find out what is available to tackle these issues. If Board as any ideas for Kruger to bring with her to address please let her know.

**Other business – discussion and possible action re:  
2023 Budget amendment – OPD administrative position to full time**

Swanberg stated that Admin & Finance Committee made the recommendation to increase OPD administrative assistant to full time, going from 37 hours to 40 hours per week.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to approve the budget amendment as presented.

Ayes-7                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

**Resolution #23-01 – Authorizing Referendum**

Buberl asked if entire Resolution needed to be read and Swanberg stated no but read the question that would be on the ballot, which is stated below (complete copy of resolution is on file):

**Referendum Question**

“Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Village of Osceola for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2024, is limited to 1.81%, which results in a levy of \$1,581,485. Shall the Village of Osceola be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2024, for the purpose of hiring and retaining additional sworn police officers and public works personnel, by a total of 47.9%, which results in a levy of \$2,298,584, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$745,243 for each fiscal year going forward?”

No further discussion was had.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to approve Resolution #23-01 on referendum as presented.

Lutz tabled Motion due to a question wanting to be asked, Gilliland seconded table.

Questions: Do we have to include the 47.9% in referendum question? Swanberg stated yes, the question needs to be listed as is, legally can not change wording of question.

Lutz un-tabled motion, seconded by Gilliland.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to approve Resolution #23-01 on referendum as presented.

Ayes- 6                      Nays-1                      Motion carried

**Annexation of School Land – Petition**

Swanberg stated Osceola School District is asking to annex two parcels of land into the Village. There is no tax lost or revenue gained to annex these parcels. The school district is a non-tax entity. They are asking for the annex for possible future development. Board asked if development goes out there who covers that cost and Swanberg stated that a future discussion would need to take place on that issue.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Walsh to approve annexation the school as presented.  
Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried

**Permits and Licenses:**

Motion by Rose and seconded by Chantelois to approve Operator Licenses for Christina Pearl Vanda, Dick’s Fresh Market and Diane Lynn Byland, Osceola Lanes.  
Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried

Motion by Burch and seconded by Chantelois to approve a Special Event Permit for Osceola Firefighters Ball – Friends of Osceola Fire & Rescue as presented.  
Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried

Motion by Rose and seconded by Lutz to approve Board, Committee, Commission and Agency Reports:

- a) Admin & Finance November 22, 2022 (Committee approved December 16, 2022)
  - b) Admin & Finance December 9, 2022 (Committee approved December 16, 2022)
  - c) Admin & Finance December 12, 2022 (Committee approved December 16, 2022)
  - d) Airport Commission November 21, 2022 (Committee approved December 19, 2022)
  - e) Library Board November 10, 2022 (Commission approved December 15, 2022)
  - f) Historic Preservation Commission August 8, 2022 (Commission approved December 27, 2022)
  - g) Historic Preservation Commission August 25, 2022 (Commission approved December 27, 2022)
  - h) Planning Commission September 6, 2022 (Commission approved January 3, 2023)
  - i) Planning Commission September 20, 2022 (Commission approved January 3, 2023)
- Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried

Motion by Rose and seconded by Burch to approve vouchers payable.  
Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried

Motion by Lutz and seconded by Gilliland to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or to conduct other specified public business, for competitive or bargaining reasons. This pertains to village parcel of land.  
Roll call vote: Ayes: Buberl, Burch, Chantelois, Gilliland, Lutz, Rose, Walsh Nays-0 Motion carried

Chantelois has recused himself from discussion and left meeting, due to owning the land being discussed.

Motion by Rose and seconded by Walsh to come out of closed session proceedings.  
Roll call vote: Ayes: Buberl, Burch, Gilliland, Lutz, Rose, Walsh Nays-0 Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to approve transfer of parcel to Bill’s Ace Hardware with Bill’s Ace Hardware to pay all fees associated with transfer.  
Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Chantelois returned to meeting. Stated he can now get pricing of construction with the approval.

**Milk house update**

Swanberg is working with engineering to collect bids. Look for a motion to continue with this because actual quotes will have to be created, formalized.

Motion by Burch seconded by Lutz to obtaining BID quotes for Milk house demolition.  
Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion Carried.

**Future agenda items and updates**

Lutz asked about the status of sale about a year ago to Care Bear on Ridge Road. Swanberg stated he just started looking into this and will have more information at next meeting.

Rose wanted it known that in The Municipality magazine, that every board member receives, there are very good articles on why we are where we are and why referendums are needed. Also, wanted to mention two passings of people very involved and important to our community (1) Dorothy Lindholm and (2) Larry Schmidt who was also a village employee, served on the fire department and a big part of the Veterans Memorial.

Burch wanted it brought up before Spring begins, the property next to art barn that is declining (has been discussed at planning commission) and make sure Board and staff are aware.

President Buberl adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Carie Krentz  
Village Clerk