

**VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA
VILLAGE BOARD PROCEEDINGS
January 12, 2021**

The Village of Osceola Board met remotely for a regular meeting on January 12, 2021. Village President Jeromy Buberl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Buberl, Van Burch, Bob Schmidt, Brad Lutz, Deb Rose, Bruce Gilliland, Joel West
Staff present: Benjamin Krumenauer, Frances Duncanson, Todd Waters, Ron Pedrys, Shelby Friendshuh
Others present: Jason Schulte, Lisa Erickson

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

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Lutz to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting on December 8, 2020.

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

Public input and ideas (Limit 5 minutes per speaker) There was no public input.

Reports

Administration-Krumenauer: Commented there have been issues with Village email accounts that are through GoDaddy. The insurance company of the Osceola Medical Center is trying to get restitution from the Village regarding a claim they paid when there was a water main break. The Village insurance company Liberty Mutual is handling it. 2021 will be an exciting year with Simmon Drive design this year and construction in 2022. Tax collections are underway with a little over \$1 million collected to date.

Police-Pedrys: The Dept ticketed a speeder going over 80 mph in a 35-mph zone. Supplemental COVID-19 grant funding was received in December. The Dept. attended the shop with a hero at Wal-Mart, always a good time. They have not hired part-time officer yet, but interviews are set for Friday. The Police Leadership Conference scheduled next month, is still on for now. The Dept. is working on getting our use of force policy accredited. West asked if policies need to come to the Board. Pedrys responded they will be sent to the Police Committee and to the Board if that is the process they want to follow. Schmidt asks how they are reviewed by the Village attorney. Pedrys replies they are driven by the State and case law and developed by a firm.

Public Works-Waters: It has been a light winter with a few snow events and good for the budget. There were no conflicts or breakdowns during snow removal. They are thankful for the chance to get into other projects and dig deeper into equipment maintenance. There are a lot of people visiting the Village and using the trails that are in great shape and good for outdoor activities. There is no ice rink yet as they are waiting for the weather to comply. Village buildings passed the annual fire inspections.

Library-Friendshuh: Reported she graduated with a master's degree in the last month that allows her to apply for official state certifications. They are working on several grants for more professional equipment for online upgrades, like better cameras and mics. Circulation was lower last month due to the holidays after hitting a stride of about 3,000 items per month. The take home crafting kits for kids put together by Rebecca are a big hit. 50 kits were gone by the next morning. Dawn does adult crafting kits as well. They are still closed to the public, and reopening will be discussed at an upcoming Library Board meeting. Things have been going well and comfortable with the drive-up window service. They are weeding out a lot of books. Friendshuh gave a 2020 in review report that included over 48,000 checkouts, with more than 20,000 of them through the drive-up window. There were still 119 new patrons this year, many through online applications for library cards

Fire-Stark: They are taking care of trucks and maintenance. There were eight runs in December, with four of those in the Village and four in Farmington. The Dept. participated in the funeral for Clayton Fire Chief Don Kittleson. They picked up a pump for the old jeep and replaced it partially through DNR grant funding. This year the Fire Fighters Ball will be virtual. Officers will be elected at the end of February.

Building permits-Krumenauer: Presented the 2020 report including the charts giving permits by category, it was a good year with a nice increase.

Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet-Lisa Erickson: The Chamber is seeking members from the industrial park. The Village enjoyed holiday shopping and tourists on main street with some members reporting double holiday sales over last year. Some businesses on main street are doing very well, some not so much. The annual membership meeting is coming up and will be virtual this year. Renewals are coming in slowly. They received a \$14,890 grant for loss of fundraising revenue. The Main Street program awards are coming up and they are applying.

Other business – discussion and possible action re:

Motion by West and seconded by Gilliland to approve the insurance contract with EMC brokered by SF Insurance with a 2021 rate of \$82,872

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

Krumenauer reviewed several plans with SF. After Liberty Mutual rates increased, we shopped around. EMC is 10% less than competitors with some lower deductibles.

Motion by Lutz and seconded by Burch to approve the proposed 2021 employee agreement between Village and Teamsters Local 662

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

This contract is for one year with wage increases of 1.5 % plus a 1% merit increase.

COVID-19: building closures, services, and general update

The Village Hall office is open, but we are encouraging people to use drop box. Krumenauer discussed information from the County and CDC guidelines on vaccinations and is looking for the Board’s thoughts on the building opening, vaccines, and meeting remotely or in person. West asked about any guidelines from the State on meeting in person. Lutz suggested meeting remotely in February and revisiting the issue for March and April. Gilliland suggested evaluating on a month-by-month basis with West and Schmidt in agreement. Rose likes in person when we can, maybe in March, but does like offering the service of remote attendance. Lutz suggests considering using the schools matrix. Krumenauer commented on special events permits for next year incorporate policies related to COVID. Buberl suggests a month-to-month evaluation for now, with all in agreement.

Permits and Licenses

Motion by Burch and seconded by Gilliland to approve Operator licenses for April Nutt-Minit Mart, Jennifer Nelson-Valley Spirits, and Randy Krey-Kwik Trip

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

Motion by West and seconded by Burch to approve Board, Committee, Commission and Agency Reports for:

- a) Public Works dated June 3, 2020
- b) Library Board dated November 12, 2020
- c) Airport Commission dated November 16, 2020

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

Motion by West and seconded by Rose to approval of vouchers payable

Ayes-7 Nays-0 Motion carried.

Discussion of and action on any other appropriate items: Lutz stated he is running for Trustee. Write in vote procedures were discussed.

Buberl adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Frances Duncanson, MMC-WCPC
Village Clerk