

# VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA BOARD PROCEEDINGS

## March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Village of Osceola met for a Regular meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Village Hall. Village President Jeromy Buberl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Buberl, Van Burch, Bruce Gilliland, Brad Lutz, Deb Rose, Holly Walsh

Staff present: Benjamin Krumenauer, Frances Duncanson, Ron Pedrys, Shelby Friendshuh, Rick Caruso, Todd Waters, Paul Elfstrom

Others present: Ruth Sattler, Jesse Krueger, Brooke Kulzer, Mark Luebker, Lynette Edwards, Bruce Hughes, Neeley Corcoran.

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

Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Rose to approval the minutes of the Regular meeting dated February 8, 2022.

Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

**Public input and ideas (Limit 5 minutes per speaker)** No one wished to speak.

### **Presentation from the Osceola School District regarding the upcoming referendum**

Lynette Edwards from the Osceola School District spoke on the operational referendum. They are attending meetings at all seven taxing entities. The operational referendum passed two years ago and will expire at the end of the year. Costs have risen and the School did not receive any increased funding from the State. The same revenue limits formula has been in place since 1993 and tells the school how much money they can bring in between state aid and taxes. Enrollment is key is a key factor, and COVID made an impact. 49 districts in WI asking for referendum this April. The School Board wanted to maintain the levy two years ago and have held to that using COVID funds to balance the budget. The referendum is to maintain what they have and due to projected growth, they expect the mill rate to drop. They have upcoming informational sessions for the public.

### **Reports: Staff reports**

Police-Pedrys: There is a new “Handle with Care” program with the schools. This is a method to notify the school to check in and see if a child is OK after police contact with them at the scene of an incident. This is something they have already been doing. The City of Wyoming toured our new building as they are in the planning stages of a new building for themselves. Chief Elfstrom and Chief Pedrys met with the caretakers of The Acreage to review the new building names and logistics in case of emergency. The Committee Coffee sessions are well attended and going great. Todd Waters of Public Works will in the March session for questions on his department.

Public Works-Waters: The Dept. has been busy with winter weather related events with snow, ice, and freezing and refreezing. Melting water causes lots of flooding and they are keeping up with thawing out storm sewers and curb lines. In parks they were busy removing trees that had blown down blocking trails. The airport lounge had a furnace issue they repaired. The ice-skating rink is open. They are doing a lot of planning with procurement and estimating projects. They are laying the groundwork for the forest grant received.

Utilities-Caruso: The heater ordered for well #4 has a 12 week wait time. We can keep it going using temporary heaters. Digester air blower service was performed. The ultraviolet disinfection system air leak was repaired and is back online. Water meter reading equipment relocated to utility clerk office so it is all in one place.

Library-Friendshuh: In February they promoted the romance collection. Circulation is just under last month. They are trying new things to spark people’s interest. The annual report is complete and submitted. Programs

held were book club and crafting club. Winners of the Community Reading Challenge were declared and prizes awarded. The summer reading program theme is Oceans of Possibilities. Storytime will return in late spring or early summer.

Fire-Elfstrom: There were seven runs last month, six in the Village and one in Farmington. Dept. officer elections were in February with no changes. They took training on Haz Mat awareness. It's time to send letters out for hangar inspections. There is upcoming DNR training with mutual aid and support in case of large fire in our region. A new pump was built so the Village could pump out of a lake if needed.

Building Inspection-Krumenauer: It was quiet in February with permits for two new homes valued at about \$402,000.

Administration-Krumenauer: The Finance Committee met Friday and talked about the IT contract for this building. We are expecting a considerable cost increase and the Committee thinks it is time to seek bids for the service. We anticipate next month Baird will give a presentation for the proposed 2022-23 borrow measure for various projects. We are working on syncing employee handbooks with the Library.

**Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet:** Jesse Krueger who is new to the Chamber board gave the report. The ambassador group met to discuss social media. They held a ribbon cutting at the Secret Closet. The newsletter will now be bi-weekly. They are making short videos to introduce Board members. BID District meetings are underway. They are working on new fee structure for members.

#### **Other business – discussion and possible action re:**

#### **Procedure for filling vacant Trustee seat**

Duncanson reviewed statutory procedures of filling the Trustee seat vacant due to the resignation of Joel West. The Board can leave the seat vacant, appoint someone to fill the remainder of the term, or hold a special election. With the Spring election just weeks away, the seat would be filled at that time by write in candidate or if they turn the seat down, the Board could appoint someone.

Motion by Rose and seconded by Buberl to leave the vacant Trustee seat unfilled until the Spring Election.  
Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

#### **Update on Absentee Ballot Procedures**

Due to a recent court decision there are changes to procedures for absentee ballots. Voters must return the ballots themselves, either through the mail or across the counter to Clerk staff. They may not use the drop box on the side of the building or have a spouse, friend, or neighbor drop off a ballot for them. The Clerk will have an insert in with the absentee ballots when they are mailed out.

Motion by Lutz and seconded by Rose to reaffirm Ordinance #22-01 Electrical Code Update.  
Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Rose and seconded by Burch to approve the extension of the sewer cleaning contract with Great Lakes TV Seal.

Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Burch and seconded by Gilliland to adopt the updated Police Department Strategies and Action Plan.  
Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

#### **Permits and Licenses:**

Motion by Rose and seconded by Walsh to approve the Operator's License for Jacqueline Sumner at Valley Spirits.

Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Rose and seconded by Gilliland to approve Board, Committee, Commission and Agency

Reports as listed:

a) Police & Fire	June 24, 2021	(Committee approved February 24, 2022)
b) Water & Sewer	August 31, 2021	(Committee approved March 1, 2022)
c) Historical Preservation	November 18, 2021	(Commission approved February 28, 2022)
d) Osceola Ind. Dev. Corp	January 13, 2022	(Corp approved February 24, 2022)
e) Library Board	January 13, 2022	(L. Board approved February 10, 2022)
f) Airport Commission	January 17, 2022	(Commission approved February 21, 2022)
	Ayes-6	Nays-0
		Motion carried

Motion by Burch and seconded by Lutz to approve vouchers payable.

Ayes-6                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

**Any other business as permitted by law**

Walsh asked if there have been any discussions about increasing from part time to full time a police officer position. Chief Pedrys responded the financial impact is the main consideration and they would still need some part timers for special events, time off, etc. Rose commented on it being International Woman's Day and expressed her appreciation for local women who have stepped up to leadership positions. Buberl commented on how much he enjoyed lunch at the Sr. Center. The Mill Pond group has ordered the individual room signs. Buberl also stated he hoped someone would run as a write in candidate for Village Board so the community would pick the Trustee rather than the Board appointing.

President Buberl adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.