

# VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA REGULAR BOARD PROCEEDINGS

April 12, 2022

The Village of Osceola Board met for a regular meeting on April 12, 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, Paul Elfstrom

Others present: Neeley Corcoran, Justin Fischer, Brian Ruechel, Trudy Lorenz, Wilfred J Chantelois IV, Brooke Kulzer, Joey Cutts, Jen Lutz

Motion by Lutz and seconded by Walsh to approve the agenda

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Walsh and seconded by Rose to approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting dated March 8, 2022

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Public input and ideas (Limit 5 minutes per speaker) There were none

## Reports:

### Staff reports

Public Works-Caruso for Waters: The Dept. is jetting storm sewers, along with both snow removal and sweeping salt off. They are starting the slow changeover in equipment to get ready for Spring. They have procured seventeen tons of asphalt for potholes and road repairs. They are pruning trees and getting rid of invasive species in Village parks.

Utilities-Caruso: The have received the GNSS receiver and are using the WisCors system to get the mapping project off the ground with the assistance of MSA. A fire hydrant was repaired after being hit by a forklift. Walsh asked about the ultraviolet disinfection system that disinfects the treated effluent before it is discharged to the St. Croix River.

Library-Friendshuh: March was remarkably busy with more foot traffic, averaging 70-100 visitors a day. There were more materials checked out than the past two years, but not higher than pre-pandemic numbers. There were 4,500 circulations, six hundred more than they have been seeing and ninety-two computer uses. They received 211 new items in March. They have returned to standard hours and are having monthly staff meetings.

Fire-Elfstrom: March had thirteen runs, with ten in the Village, two in Farmington, one mutual aid. Ice water rescue training was held in March on Horse Lake. Hangar inspections are underway, with 40 of 95 done. There were several memorial donations for a flagpole at the Fire Hall.

Building Inspection-Krumenauer: There were eight new permits in March with an estimated value of \$756,000. Year to date new construction is valued at \$5.7 million. There are two eight-unit structures going up in Gateway next month.

Administration-Krumenauer: The Admin & Finance Committee discussed how to fund the growing staffing needs of our community. The employee handbook is being worked on. Verizon wants to put a new tower in that would exceed our airport height limits. The current water tower cannot handle additional antennae. Other options are being explored. Village leadership has been working with the property owner of 101 No Cascade to get the building removed so we can open the Falls stairs. Attempts to stabilize the building are problematic. They cannot give an exact time, hopefully sometime this year, probably fall at the earliest. We are looking for better locations to get down to the falls such as widening paths, working with the State to do additional signage on Hwy 243, barricades, and signals for pedestrians. The Trailhead is only about fifteen feet from the building, and halfway down the stairs there is a bend under the building. If the building collapses, potentially someone

could be hurt or injured. We have consulted with our attorney to minimize liability risk. Krumenauer stated with an alternative route would require some approvals to put something there.

Police-Pedrys: Led discussion on a spreadsheet of the costs incurred due to a recent homicide investigation. Pedrys stated it was a group effort, thanks to our staff and all who helped on the case from other agencies. The Dept. also had other business including sixteen arrests, eighty-two traffic stops with sixty-five citations issued.

Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet- Board member Jen Lutz reported ambassadors have been out in the community. There will be Chamber Chat at the Discovery Center featuring the new leadership. The Chamber Newsletter is going bi-weekly instead of monthly.

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

Motion by Rose and seconded by Walsh to approve the Arbor Day 2022 Proclamation

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Lutz and seconded by Burch to approve Resolution #22-02 Tax increment district #2 (TID) affordable housing extension as recommended by the Administration & Finance Committee.

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Rose and seconded by Lutz to approve Resolution #22-03 Resolution Providing for the Sale of Approximately \$1,295,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Ordinance #22-02 Compensation for board and commission members (first read) no action. Duncanson reviewed the draft ordinance that would discontinue Village compensation to Library Board and Housing Authority Board members. It would also provide compensation for the Board appointee attending one regular Chamber of Commerce meeting a month and increase the per meeting rate from \$15 to \$20 per meeting.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Rose to approve purchase of new Dell server & battery backup for Village Hall (\$28,808.66) from unrestricted fund reserves.

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Pedrys addressed staffing issues for part time officers. There used to be many interested candidates, but they are now harder to come by. Many complete the four hundred hours of training and then go to work elsewhere. The Public Safety Committee recommended increase the wage to \$24 an hour to attract more applications. The budget impact is projected to be \$5,720. It takes about three-four weeks to advertise, thirty days to hire someone, and training of two-four months, making it about 4-5 months before an officer can work on their own. This will be revisited at budget time.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Rose to approve hourly training wage increase for part-time police officer to from \$11.00 per hour to \$24.00 per hour for the remainder of the current 2022 budget cycle.

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Continuation of video conferencing options for Board meetings

Rose stated we went to GoTo Meeting because of the pandemic. We are now meeting in person again and live streaming to YouTube. The Agenda has a link to join with video, we can insert a “click on here” to go to YouTube to make it easier for the public. Options are to have YouTube for the public, with staff, board or consultants who need to participate through GoTo meeting if needed. There are workload considerations and costs associated with continuing to offer all options. Buberl would like to see in person participation and is not considering discontinuing public comment. Walsh wants to keep both options. Burch wants to offer the public any way possible to attend meetings. Buberl would like to see us get to one platform. Walsh wants to table the matter to public comment next month and decide based on public input.

Motion by Buberl and seconded by Lutz to go with YouTube only, keep GoTo meeting as needed and adhere to the Village ordinance permitting remote attendance when appropriate.

Ayes-2                      Nays-3                      Motion fails

**Permits and Licenses:**

Motion by Rose and seconded by Burch to approve a Cigarette License for Edward's Oil Inc – Osceola Lucky Seven General Store

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Burch and seconded by Lutz to approve a Class A Liquor Class A Beer license for Edward's Oil Inc – Osceola Lucky Seven General Store

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Rose and seconded by Walsh to approve Operator's License for Paisley Johnson – Tippy Canoes and Leah McLafferty – Tippy Canoes

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

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

- |                       |                   |                                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a) Plan Commission    | February 1, 2022  | (Commission approved April 6, 2022)  |
| b) Library Board      | February 10, 2022 | (L. Board approved March 10, 2022)   |
| c) Airport Commission | February 21, 2022 | (Commission approved March 21, 2022) |
| d) Police & Fire      | February 24, 2022 | (Committee approved April 7, 2022)   |
| e) Admin & Finance    | March 4, 2022     | (Committee approved April 1, 2022)   |

Motion by Lutz and seconded by Burch to approve vouchers payable

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

**Any other business as permitted by law**

President Buberl adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Frances Duncanson, MMC-WCPC  
Village Clerk