

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS
January 9, 2024

The Village of Osceola met for a Regular meeting on January 9, 2024, at Village Hall. Village Trustee Gilliland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: Bruce Gilliland, Neil Kline, Van Burch, Arvid Maki, Bill Chantelois IV and Marsha Hovey

Absent: Brad Lutz

Staff present: Devin Swanberg, Carie Krentz, Ann Miller, Todd Waters, Rick Caruso, Andrew Bach, Paul Elfstrom and Joey Cutts

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

Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Motion by Burch and seconded by Chantelois to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Public input and ideas (Limit 5 minutes per speaker)

n/a

Reports: Staff reports

Public Works: Waters reviewed his memo.

Utilities: Caruso reviewed his memo.

Library: Miller handed out 2023 At A Glance for the Library and reviewed her memo.

Fire: Elfstrom went through runs for the month of December with 12 runs total last month, 9 in Village of Osceola, and 3 in Town of Farmington. Then reviewed memo to the board. February 10th is the Firefighters Ball at the Fire Department Building.

Building Inspection: Swanberg presented the last four years. Show it was down in 2023 due to cost of materials and interest rates, which is a national trend. Over the course of the year over \$6 million in improvements within the community. Looking to improve in 2024 with current projects already working on. Hoping for new construction because only way for residents to see a tax break in the future. Reviewed the month of December, which was quite with 4 permits issued, however permit was issued for a 12-unit apartment building valued at \$2 million.

Police: Bach reviewed his memo.

Administration: Swanberg reviewed items being addressed: continued talks with the Airport and Viebrock's; possible development on Ridge Road; meeting with the Town of Osceola regarding Simmon Drive and expect options to move forward in February. Office had a Workhorse update to accounts to align with the States accounting. Taxes are coming in, a lot of counter time for staff. Also, working with locale Ojibwe band on the Heritage Committee and to have a date on the calendar soon. CIP looking to be done sometime in April and Comp Plan public survey went out in newsletter and on website.

Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet: Yager from Mainstreet reviewed their memo.

Other business – discussion and possible action re:

Presentation from Terry Hauer of the Polk County Economic Development Corporation

Hauer, executive director of PCEDC, gave a presentation and handout to board. He promotes economic development throughout our county. This past year we had Senator Tammy Baldwin visited our county, stopping at Bending Branches in Osceola and Shafer Manufacturing in Milltown supporting Made in America initiative. The biggest challenge right now is getting housing in place to make this a desirable location for people. Focus for EDC is workforce, housing, and child care, all of which are interrelated. Business expansion is going well in Polk County. Polk County is the only county in Wisconsin, out of 72, to offer an incentive program municipalities can use, at 0% financing, to try to incentivize housing to our area and was just rolled out before the 1st of this year, capped at \$70,000 per municipality with a yearly annual \$200,000 for whole county. Provides a newsletter now to inform what is going on throughout the county. Thank board for their time and the support the village provides the EDC.

Xcel Energy – Site Lighting Plans & Details

Swanberg stated that last week Xcel and Cedar Corp presented the lighting plan to us, along with village engineer who recommended one change on the angle of the northeast corner light and to rotate it slightly to the southeast. Last month the site plan was approved by the Planning Commission pending approval of the lighting plan by the Village Board.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Maki to approve the Site & Lighting Plan with one change recommended by village engineer. Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

MSA contract – Stewardship Grant Application

Drew Lindh from MSA gave an overview of what the Stewardship Grant offers. Federal and State funding depending on projects. Cascade Falls Park is project that has been approved by DNR to apply for funding. Stated a phased approach to this project is in phases, where one is being done in 2025/2026 and then another being in 2029 depending on bridge redo. First phase would be the overlook and stairs and this is what the grant application would be applying for, phase 1. May 1st is the deadline and Village would have access for funding in 2025 & 2026. This is good project for funding because it will allow better access for emergency response staff to access falls area by widening stairs and materials used. The stewardship application costs is not refundable through grant funds.

Swanberg stated we are looking to contract with MSA to write our grant application for Cascade Falls overlook and stairs phase. Reason for this request is that looking to put the stairs in our 2024 CIP and make them accessible for 365 days of the year. Also looking to put the stairs in a different locations so current stairs could be used until project is completed. Preliminary costs for new stairs was \$365,000-\$450,000 depending on material and design. Using MSA would increase our odds of being awarded the grant funding for a total of up to \$225,000 based on preliminary numbers. Discussion took place on when project would be started and completed and working with the DNR if not awarded grant with first attempt.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Chantelois to approve MSA as grant application contract for Cascade Falls overlook and stairs. Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Utility Pickup Replacement

Swanberg stated current trucks are extremely old with currently no plan for replacing them and with this request they will get a on a rotating schedule for replacement and safe utility funds in the future. This rotation schedule needs to be done with all departments and working with Todd in PW. This saves the village money by not wasting on running these vehicles to the ground, where they will have value for sale and safe on all the maintenance expenses to keep these old trucks running. The funding will be cash out of the water fund that was set aside to payoff a loan, however the interest rate on loan is better than any financing for the new trucks. Swanberg stated that Caruso has done a good job getting the utilities fund to be self-supporting since 2019.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Hovey to approve the purchase of 3 trucks for the Utility Department. Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Resolution #24-01 Certified Survey Map, Parcel #165-00582-0000

Swanberg stated survey was approved by the Board in summer of 2023. There needs to be a resolution, included on the certified survey map that needs to be approved by the Board. This is the property up by Kwik Trip on Ridge Road.

Motion by Maki seconded by Hovey to approve Resolution #24-01 as presented. Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Commission/Committee assignments

Swanberg stated that new appointments approving Hovey to designated committees. Krentz stated Hovey was taking vacant openings and there was a change for Kline, taking off Court because he was approved to assigned BID board. The Village President will appoint members to committee after the April election.

Motion by Kline and seconded by Chantelois to approve board commission/committee assignments as presented. Ayes-6 Nays-0 Motion carried

Discuss development of Bridge Closure Preparedness Committee

Swanberg recommends working with Chamber and School in preparing for the bridge closing. To begin the committee could meet quarterly and then as we get closer to closure it will meet monthly or as needed. Going to approach MNDOT to have a representative to provide the updates at the meetings. Looking for discussion of Board for what they want to see from this committee. Committee would be created to share information and feedback to get community ready for the closure. Kline stated that OMC would also like to be included in committee. Kline and Maki would be happy to sit on the committee. Swanberg was looking for feedback from the Board and will work with the Chamber to get moving forward to create this committee. Hoping to get the first meeting set for March or April, 2024.

Future agenda items and updates

Website – employment tab.

Trustee Gilliland adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Carie Krentz, Village Clerk