

**VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
February 13, 2024**

The Village of Osceola met for a Regular meeting on February 13, 2024, at Village Hall. Village Trustee Gilliland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: Brad Lutz, Bruce Gilliland, Neil Kline, Van Burch, and Marsha Hovey

Absent: Arvid Maki and Bill Chantelois IV

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

Swanberg stated that it was requested and asked to move Simmon Drive to 6j and if negotiation is needed continue in closed session.

Motion by Kline and seconded by Burch to approve the agenda with change noted.

Ayes-5                  Nays-0                  Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Hovey to approve the consent agenda.

Ayes-5                  Nays-0                  Motion carried

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

Doug Strain at 923 Geiger Street has an issue with the plowing/shoveling sidewalks. Has an issues with the sidewalks behind property being the homeowner’s responsibility. Stated he’s at the meeting on behalf of other residences on Geiger that were not able to attend meeting and informed board some residents are elderly and do not have access to the sidewalk behind their homes and when the sidewalk was installed there was an agreement of some sort that the Village would clear those sidewalks and has been doing that until this winter season. Feels ordinance should be changed to front of homes and if that can be done change it to allow for a 48 hour to clear versus 24 hour to allow Public Works more time to accomplish the task.

Holly Walsh at 405 Ridge Road came to give her concerns regarding Cedar Bend Church buying property on Ridge Road. The Village need taxable properties, and it is not clear on their plans such as how many housing development is being done. Large parking lot, means a large Church and concerned about traffic in that area. What are they using their current space for that is located downtown, causing many questions.

**Reports: Staff reports**

Utilities: Swanberg stated trucks have been ordered and will be available in 3-4 months. Working on lead and copper.

Library: Miller reviewed Library Director memo.

Fire: Elfstrom went through runs for the month of January with 8 runs total last month, 6 in Village of Osceola and 2 in Town of Farmington. Firefighter Ball was last Saturday with a good turn out and nice to be held at the ball.

Building Inspection: Swanberg stated not much has happened in January.

Administration: Swanberg staff has been busy working with MSA on Comp Plan and CIP Plan. Will be looking for a special meeting in late February or early March to discuss items on CIP and scale down because currently we are over the amount we want to be at.

Police: Bach reviewed his memo to the board.

Public Works: Waters reviewed his memo to the board.

Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet: Yager brought the updated report and handed it out at the meeting. He then reviewed and wanted to thank Ruth Sattler for her service as President, with Jessie Kruger taking her place. Received report back from Madison on attendance for Doe on the Go and saw a 118% increase over previous year. Gave a quick update on Skatepark, received a very generous gift that has put them at 75% of their goal amount. Now looking at when, not if, the park will be completed.

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

**St. Croix Ojibwe – Maggie Olson, Conrad St. John & Jason Schlender**

Swanberg began conversations with St. Croix Ojibwe back in early September 2023 to find ways to include pre-1844 history and incorporate into the Village and then introduced Maggie Olson, communications director of St. Croix Ojibwe Natives of WI. Olson introduced Conrad St. John, Elected Council Representative for one of the tribes and Jason Schlender, Executive Administrator of GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission), and stated they are here to start the dialog being good neighbors and on the chieftain statue.

Schlender thanked the board for the opportunity to speak this evening and stated his agency has authority with 11 other tribes involved in treaties with the United States. Here to support St. Croix Ojibwe in their to voice their opposition to the statue in downtown. Asking for the removal of the statue and begin a dialogue that includes them.

St. John stated, after speaking with his council, they feel the statue is very derogatory and stereotypes them especially for their younger generations. They in opposition of having the statue up, however, are willing to educate the local population with their traditional values and viewpoints in whatever setting works for everyone.

Board thanked the members for coming and stated they would like them to be a part of the Osceola Heritage Committee and will keep them updated to when a meeting gets scheduled for them to be involved.

**Permit Overnight Parking**

Waters is bringing overnight parking to the Board for discussion, possible action, due to not having clear instruction on handling. Currently the Village has 6 downtown apartments above business without the ability for off street parking. This originally came about with the issues of vehicles and plowing of snow in the downtown area. Village is up to ten spots for permit parking, 4 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue lot, 4 in the chieftain lot and 2 behind the USPS lot. The number of requests have continued to rise since we implemented it 5 years ago. Feels we need to make a decision on a limited number spaces for designated address in the downtown area. Swanberg shared that currently he has the ability to create spots when needed and start to create code that limits spots. Nothing needs to be decided to today. Discussion took place on options to clear up issue of more cars than spaces. It was decided to see how other municipalities are dealing with this issues and model it after that.

**Approval of airport farmland lease contract (2024 – 2026)**

Swanberg went over current lease with Laurie Neumann and stated the changes of pricing going from \$125/acre to \$100/acre and one property not included due to being sold. The decrease in pricing is being asked for due to type of crops that can be grown there and it was not profitable. Was not put out for proposals because last time she was the one to bid on it. Looking to reup three year lease agreement with motion pending Airport approval. Discussion on why the decrease, mainly due to type of crop.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Lutz to approve farmland lease contracts with Laurie Neumann for four-year lease with Airport approval. Aye-5                  Nay-0                  Motion carried

**Approval of General Teamsters Union Local 662 contract**

Swanberg went over the redline contract, which shows the difference from last contract. New contract is a two-year contract showing starting wages and 5-year wages with a 5% increase each year along with pay for certifications of \$.25 per certification mainly. These are important certifications for our employees because then the Village will have less contracted services. And included admin staff and recommended by Admin & Finance Commission.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to approve the General Teamsters Union Local 662 contract as presented. Ayes-5                  Nays-0                  Motion carried

**Resolution #24-02 Establish Public Participation Procedures for Comprehensive Plan**

Drew Lindh with MSA, stated this resolution needs to be followed due to WI State Statue and states that MSA and staff will follow these rules to engage public with Comp. Plan. Recommended by Planning Commission.

Motion by Lutz seconded by Gilliland to approve Resolution #24-02 as presented. Ayes-5                  Nays-0                  Motion carried

### **FEMA AFG Application 2024**

Lindh is presenting the contact for MSA, Art Bahr, to write the FEMA AFG application for a fire truck. The cost is \$2,500 with up to \$1,500 reimbursable if awarded grant. There is 25% chance of being awarded the grant. Grant just opened in February and closes in the 1<sup>st</sup> week in March, not much time. Friends of Osceola Fire Department is asking for the Village to cover cost and would reimburse Village if award is granted. There is \$324M available this year and if awarded it covers 90-95% of equipment costs. Trucks would be in CIP with grant dependent.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Gilliland to approve agreement with MSA for the FEMA applications.  
Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

### **Conceptual Design for Cascade Falls Park**

Lindh presented contract with MSA for conceptual design for Cascade Falls Park that would be done by David Patten, landscape architect. This design will breakout the 3 phases of the park as well as include a 2D conceptual plan and phased cost estimate. The first phase would be completed before May 1<sup>st</sup> and be included in the stewardship grant application. The DNR really likes this project and would like to see what the overall plan would be. Phase 3 is far into the future. The fee is \$20,950 and reiterated it's important to state clear goals/mission for the park. Didn't want Board to think that the stewardship grant wouldn't be awarded without this included but it will help with that application. Went over the schedule/process for the stewardship grant. The cost estimates will be planned into the CIP. Every phase will have additional costs including engineering service, survey, specifications for equipment, etc. This would just be enhancing our stewardship application but again, it's not required. The whole plan will be completed by August 16<sup>th</sup>. Discussion took place on all phases, timelines and costs. Admin & Finance recommended approval.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to approve contract with MSA for conceptual design for Cascade Falls Park.  
Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

### **Police Squad Car**

Bach is looking for approval to purchase equipment needed for new squad car, expected to ready next week. This request comes because it minimizes down time and the new costs are approx. \$2,000 more than originally expected. Had anticipated that current equipment could be utilized however with the change in design not as much can be used as expected, along with inflation.

Motion by Burch and seconded by Gilliland to approve equipment purchase as presented.  
Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

### **Ordinance Amendment to repeal Chapter A222 and create a Fee Schedule**

Swanberg stated this creates a fee schedule we can adopt at the beginning of each year. Asking Board to review and let us know of any changes/updates before next month. Chapter 59 was questioned on staying in code and Swanberg stated by leaving it in code it remains to have a discussion/dialog and not just changed with other fees. Kline wanted to have language included about if a change occurs it doesn't take effect until after re-elected or next election. This chapter was added to correct the amounts listed in code. Original increase in pay date has not been found, according to payroll looks like it may have been in 2016. No fee changes at this time, will be looking at middle of year for that. This will just be to create a fee schedule. No action needed on this item.

### **Village Bond Rating**

Swanberg was excited to share an increase in the Village's Bond rating to Baa1. This will help our interest rate and borrowing capabilities. Our unreserved cash balance, with the sale of properties and putting the funds into general fund, is a reason for the increase. As well as decreasing the level of debt carrying. Something to keep in mind, the Village will never be in the top of the top of the ratings due to our size.

### **Recognition of Officer Eric Lehman's service to the Village of Osceola**

Lutz read memo Swanberg wrote recognizing Officer Lehman's service to the Village.

### **Simmon Drive**

Lutz gave a brief update on the project. Swanberg gave an overview of working with the Town of Osceola. Angela Popenhagen handed out changes to the original costs and showed the minimum costs to get the road redone. Grant

will still cover 50% of the work. She then went over what has been taken out of the original costs. Grant has to be used by June 2025, meaning needs to get constructed this summer. Village has been awarded up to \$296,587.50. The prior two years, the CIP has budgeted \$200M for this project, meaning items can be added back in if the Village is willing to pay for them. Discussion took place on adding items back into the project.

Motion by Kline and seconded by Burch 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 sale of village parcels of land and Simmon Drive reconstruction and stay in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. This pertains to litigation with St. Croix Scenic Coalition.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Hovey, Gilliland, Lutz, Burch and Kline                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Back in open session 9:33 pm.

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Burch to accept Caleb See offer with conditions discussed in closed session.

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Hovey and seconded by Lutz to not accept the Matt Hayden real estate offer.

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried

Motion by Gilliland and seconded by Kline to accept the offer from the Town of Osceola in the amount of \$64,427.86 for Simmon Drive.

Ayes-5                      Nays-0                      Motion carried.

**Future agenda items and updates**

n/a

Trustee Gilliland adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Carie Krentz, Village Clerk