

VILLAGE OF SIREN  
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY APRIL 7, 2022  
SIREN VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

The Regular Village Board meeting held on April 7, 2022, was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Village President Dave Alden.

Members Present: Dave Alden, Rick Engstrom, Janet Hunter, Rudy Mothes, Jim Pearson, Sara Reimann-Hill, Steve Young

Others Present: Ann Peterson, Clerk/Treasurer; Chris Sybers, Siren Police Chief; Teresa Anderson, MSA; Cindy Mickelson, Inter County Leader Reporter; Greg Marsten, Burnett County Sentinel; Jim Jaskolka, Public Works Director; Barb Geske & 2 others, Siren Senior Center; Tammy Twedt-Close & Terri Hinze, Open Air Thursday Committee Member; Edwin Johnson;

President Alden called for Public Comments.

A motion was made by Steve Young and seconded by Rudy Mothes to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried without negative vote.

A motion was made by Steve Young and seconded by Rick Engstrom to approve the February 10, 2022 Regular Village Board meeting minutes and the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from March 24, 2022. Motion carried without negative vote.

A motion was made by Rick Engstrom and seconded by Sara Reimann-Hill to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$214,917.06 general vouchers and checks cut since the last regularly scheduled board meeting in the amount of \$31,189.91 for a grand total of \$246,106.97. Motion carried without negative vote.

President Alden had nothing for the President's Report.

Clerk/Treasurer Peterson had nothing for the Clerk's Report.

Chief Sybers gave the March Police Report. March DMV totals were \$689.50. The Department has the body cameras and the cameras for the cars will be installed within the next few weeks. Chris is still working with the radio techs to see if the radios from the County will work. The Department did receive a \$7000 grant of ARPA funds through the State. Chris also met with an individual about placing cameras around the Village.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS & REPORTS

##### Committee of the Whole

A motion was made by Jim Pearson and seconded by Sara Reimann-Hill to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Towns of Oakland and Meenon. Chief Sybers went to the Town of Meenon Special Board Meeting and they have signed their agreement. The Town of Oakland meeting is tonight. Both municipalities need to get their ordinances in place, especially for the controlled intersections. Motion carried without negative vote.

A motion was made by Janet Hunter and seconded by Steve Young to increase the part-time wage for Police Officers to \$21 per hour. Motion carried without negative vote.

Barbara Geske and Ed Smithe from the Siren Senior Center addressed the Board about their request of \$10,000 for some of the ARPA funds allotted to the Village. They discussed the Center's plan for new flooring, lost funds due to the Covid-19 pandemic, repairs that have been needed on air conditioning and refrigerator among other issues affecting the Center. The Center does raise funds through garage sales and rental of the facility. Burnett County, the Village of Siren and the Town of Siren do make yearly donations to the Center. President Alden inquired if the Center has any long-term plans for sustainability and Barb Geske indicated she was not sure what would happen other than continuing with their existing fundraising efforts as well as donations. The Board discussed having the Senior Center get quotes on the flooring as well as the refrigerator and bring those costs to the Village. A motion was made by Dave Alden and seconded by Rudy Mothes to allocate \$5000 to the Center to be spent on specific items brought to the Village for payment. Motion carried without negative vote.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed the wage for the Part-Time Public Works Employee. Al Pena has been budgeted to be paid \$12.50 per hour which is a \$0.50 increase from 2021. Al Pena approached President Alden that he wants \$15.00 per hour. He is willing to work for two days a week at \$12.50 but if he is going to work 40 hours per week he wants \$15.00 per hour. The Board discussed needing to take a serious look at all wages of Village employees to get them in order. A motion was made by Jim Pearson and seconded by Steve Young to have a base minimum wage of \$15 for all part-time workers. Motion carried without negative vote.

Terri Hinze of the Open-Air Committee informed the Board they would like to continue the Open-Air Market but limit it to the Third Thursday of the months of June, July & August. As part of the market there will be enrichment activities in the park on those third Thursdays as well as possibly doing other Thursdays of the month. The Open-Air Market is self-sufficient and they do pay for the pavilions. President Alden requested that the Committee get a budget together to bring to Tourism Commission for help with advertising, etc. A motion was made by Steve Young and seconded by Sara Reimann-Hill to allow the Open-Air Market to use Crooked Lake Park for the summer of 2022. Motion carried without negative vote.

Teresa Anderson from MSA contacted the DOT about connecting the new street in the Industrial Park and they did find old correspondence with past discussions. The DOT needs something official from the Village Board at a public meeting to authorize creating the street. Jan Hunter inquired about the name Molly Engstrom Drive and how that came about. A motion was made by Jim Pearson and seconded by Steve Young to create Molly Engstrom Drive in the Industrial Park and to have the street connect to State Road 70. Motion carried without negative vote.

Teresa Anderson from MSA provided an estimated cost to the Village to construct the road to connect to State Road 70. The Board discussed putting in a gravel road to use for construction until the existing projects are completed. Teresa explained that if the Village does connect to the State Road the existing driveways will need to be eliminated. The estimated cost would be around \$450,000 for the entire road from State Road 70 to the cul-de-sac. The Board discussed not doing the final paving right now. The Village could go out for bids and then not accept those bids if they come in high. The Engineering Contract gets MSA working on the engineering and the Village can discuss design specifics as part of the engineering contract. A motion was made by Jim Pearson and seconded by Steve Young to sign a Contract for Engineering with MSA for the Molly Engstrom Drive Extension. Motion carried without negative vote.

The meeting schedule was set as follows:

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| a. Reorganizational Board meeting:     | April 19 <sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m.      |
| b. Committee of the Whole:             | April 19 <sup>th</sup> following Re-org  |
| c. Plan Commission & Board of Appeals: | To be set if needed.                     |
| d. Tourism:                            | April 20 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.      |
| e. Ball Park Committee:                | August 8 <sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.      |
| f. Board of Review:                    | May 17 <sup>th</sup> ; 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. |

A motion was made by Dave Alden and seconded by Sara Reimann-Hill to adjourn the Village Board Meeting at 2:54 p.m. Motion carried without negative vote.



Submitted by Ann L Peterson, Clerk/Treasurer