

VILLAGE OF FALL RIVER
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM
MINUTES

President Slotten called the meeting to order.

Trustees present: Ninmann, Robbins, Gould, Birr, Dykstra and Pawlisch.

Village representatives: Marie Abegglen (C-T) and Ron Spurbeck (PD).

Guests: Brent Van Gysel and Todd Toman

Approve Agenda – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Dykstra and seconded by Trustee Ninmann to approve the agenda. All Members – aye – motion carried.

ENGINEERING/ATTORNEY/FINANCIAL ADVISOR

PUBLIC INPUT – Todd Toman asked why the Village stopped contributing to the Lazy Lake Management District. They used to donate \$1,000 every year. That funding has stopped. They are struggling to make ends meet. Would it be considered again in the future? President Slotten explained that the Village shares the costs of repairs with the Town of Fountain Prairie. The Village is responsible for the operation of the dam with our staff, which is a considerable cost to the Village. The Village has also paid for the paving of the parking lot. The Lake District is trying to find ways to support the increasing costs in ways other than the backs of those paying taxes.

PUBLIC WORKS

Designate Julius Weisensel as Director of Public Works – Julius is willing to take on this role. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Ninmann and seconded by Trustee Pawlisch to designate Julius Weisensel as the Public Works Director. All Members – aye – motion carried.

DPW Fulltime Position – Jeff Schultz, Wage & Benefits – The Judiciary Committee is recommending Jeff Schultz for the full-time DPW position. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Ninmann and seconded by Trustee Gould to hire Jeff Schultz as recommended for the full-time position. All Members – aye – motion carried.

Clarify On Call Pay Coverage Hours – The three employees should work out the schedule as they see fit. The weekend pay should be split between Water/Sewer/General accounts. A new cell phone should be purchased and set up for on-call. Then whoever that person is can use that phone.

Columbia County Highway Aid Program – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Ninmann and seconded by Trustee Dykstra to apply for the Aid Program to do a section of Swarthout Rd. All Members – aye – motion carried.

WRWA Annual Membership Loaner Equipment Fund Donation – This has been a helpful program for us in the past. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Robbins and seconded by Trustee Gould to donate \$200 to the Loaner Equipment Fund. All Members – aye – motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Spurbeck provided his report by email. The department has been doing lots of training. The DARE program has started. Ron has had to step in for Officer Witthun while he is on vacation. Lexipol is going well. Still looking for options for a new squad.

OLD BUSINESS

Brent Van Gysel 337 Prairie Street Request for a Well Permit – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Gould and seconded by Trustee Robbins to approve the well permit for Brent Van Gysel at 337 Prairie Street. President Slotten explained that our Ordinances has dedicated three sections to residential customers hooking up to the Village Utility to protect our well-head district. The Board should be doing everything they can to protect and provide good, clean water for our residents. Additional wells may be a direct conduit to our drinking water source. Our staff works diligently to be sure our water is of great quality. The Board should not dismiss the seriousness of this request. There is not a necessity to have this well. We have provided water and sewer utilities to this residence. Maybe this well will not be a possible contaminant to our water supply but is this the risk that all citizens of Fall River should have to take. This is setting a precedent that may be hard to deny in the future. Roll call vote was taken with: Ninmann, Robbins, Gould, Dykstra and Pawlisch – yes. Birr and Slotten – no. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

EK Fiber Optic Agreement – EK Machine is running fiber optic from the South Main Street location to their EK Way and Quality Court location. Atty. Spankowski does not believe that there is a need for an agreement. If there is a cost from our engineer, they would be expected to pay those.

Wage Increase for Recycle Monitor and Village Hall Cleaning Person – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Ninmann and seconded by Trustee Dykstra to increase the hourly wage for these two positions to \$18.00/hour. All Members – aye – motion carried.

MINUTES, BILLS, FINANCIAL REPORT

Minutes from 03/13/24 – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Robbins and seconded by Trustee Birr to approve the minutes of 03/14/24. All Members – aye – motion carried.

Mitel Software Assurance Renewal – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Pawlisch and seconded by Trustee Birr to deny the renewal of the Mitel agreement. All Members – aye – motion carried.

Bills for Payment – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Ninmann and seconded by Trustee Gould to approve the bills as presented. All Members – aye – motion carried. Trustee Robbins commented that she has never seen so many bills as there has been lately. We need to start watching closely, especially with the raises and now spending.

Financial Report from March – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Birr and seconded by Trustee Ninmann to approve the March Financial Report. All Members – aye – motion carried.

CDARs for Renewal – Sewer Equipment Replacement \$226,187.76 Capital Improvement \$318,340.31

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Ninmann and seconded by Trustee Pawlisch to renew both CDAR accounts for 13 weeks @ 5.25%. All Members – aye – motion carried.

GO 2022 and GO 2023 Payments – The GO 2022 is paid by Water, Sewer and General accounts. The GO 2023 is for the TID. There are funds in the TID account. We also have unspent funds from the borrowing which can be used for debt service. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Birr and seconded by Trustee Dykstra to use funds from the unspent GO 2023 for those debt service payments this year. All Members – aye – motion carried. The GO 2023 Investment account will be renamed 2023 Debt Service.

Financial Strategies for Ehlers Investments – Set Date for Finance Committee - The committee will meet either Wednesday the 24th or Thursday the 25th. Marie will contact Tami form Ehlers to see which day works best for her.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jason Watters is doing a fantastic job. Julius got him going and involved right away. Julius is on vacation right now and he and Jason have been in touch.

Nest month President Slotten will bring the Committee appointments for approval. If anyone is interested in being on a committee, they should let him know. The Brayton Scholarship applications are here to be reviewed. Trustees Robbins, Ninmann and Dykstra have volunteered to review them and make their choices by the 24th of April.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Planting Donation – The Lions Club has donated \$250 again this year. We are looking at planting in the fall this year. They won't need as much watering in the fall as they do when planted in the spring.

President Slotten thanked Trustee Tom Pawlisch for serving on the Board. This is his last meeting as he has decided not to run for office again this term. Tom said he has learned a lot. There is so much that goes on that people don't know about.

ADJOURNMENT – A MOTION WAS MADE BY Trustee Pawlisch and seconded by Trustee Gould to adjourn . All Members – aye – motion carried.

Marie Abegglen
Clerk-Treasurer