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FREDONIA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18th, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Fredonia Government Center - Board Room

242 Fredonia Avenue, Fredonia, Wisconsin

1. President Gehrke called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Trustees present: President Gehrke, Trustee Haas, Trustee Abegglen, Trustee Dohrwardt, Trustee Bartz,
Trustees excused: Trustee Meyle (arrived late)
Trustees absent: Trustee Paape
Staff present: Administrator Jenkins, Clerk Johnson, Treasurer Depies, DPW Director Paulus, Foreman Heinen, First Assistant Chief Chris Kunstmann, and Marshal Davel.
3. Public Comments: none were made.
4. **Motion to Approve Minutes of January 4th, 2024 Village Board Meeting, and General Fund, Water and Sewer Invoices Including Additional Items** made by Trustee Haas.
Seconded by Trustee Abegglen.
Passed by unanimous voice vote.
5. Report on Village Committees by:
 - a) **Parks and Recreation:** *Trustee Bartz reported that the Marie Krause Winter Walk has been rescheduled to February 17th, 2024 at 5:00PM and called on trustees to volunteer. The Committee discussed partnering with River Edge to do a clean up of Stoney Creek and portions of the river in Fredonia. President Gehrke added that the second annual Mudonia MudRun was scheduled tentatively for July 27th, 2024.*
6. Report on Operations of Village by:

- a) **Village President:** *President Gehrke thanked the DPW for their efforts during the recent snow events.*
- b) **Village Administrator:** *Administrator Jenkins highlighted a call with WI Economic Division and has been connected with M-7 to help find a buyer for larger parcels in the Industrial Park. He met with Strand Engineering and set bidding deadlines for Innovation Drive and Highland Drive. Bids will be in hand in mid-March. He stated that there would be an aggressive construction timeline, especially for Highland, as it is a main thoroughfare in the Village. He added how important clear communication with affected parties would be, especially with the school district. The bond rating review call was encouraging because the Village has shown a positive fund balance for the first time in five years. The Village has completed the hiring of three full-time paramedics, and now will work to retain them. Trustee Haas asked if the Village was participating in M-7, noting that the county had pulled out of the group earlier in the year. Administrator Jenkins stated that a representative from the county made the introduction. President Gehrke stated it was a good thing to investigate. Trustee Dohrwardt asked if there had been a realization that there had been a high fund balance prior to the intentional spend down over the last five years. Administrator Jenkins responded that even though the spend down had been intentional, it didn't necessarily equate to a positive result for the Village's bond rating. Trustee Dohrwardt stated that there was too much money to allow inflation to ravage, and the spend down was intentional for a good reason.*
- c) **Village Marshal:** *Marshal Davel asked for questions on his monthly report, and then presented his annual report. He highlighted staff changes, hours worked, and training obligations. He stated that the staff is very experienced. He recommended that the Marshal's office retain the 2017 Ford instead of giving it to the DPW and purchasing a new squad. Due to the low mileage on the Ford and the cost of outfitting a new squad, Marshal Davel felt keeping the existing squad is the most cost effective option. He reviewed the citations, and recommended, once the current citation books were used up, raising the cost of parking tickets. The Village currently has the cheapest parking tickets in the county. Trustee Bartz noted that the Marshal is recruiting a new officer and asked if he typically pulled officers from Port Washington or recruited from other agencies. He responded that he had an officer in mind from a different agency and would be onboarding him by mid-March. Marshal Davel reminded the board of his upcoming retirement on March 31st, 2024. He thanked the board for their willingness to invest in the police department and reinforced what an experienced team remains. Trustee Dohrwardt stated that Marshal Davel had built the marshals office into a top-notch police force. He stated that the paramedic program displaced a full time police force, but it is something to continue to consider in the future.*

Trustee Meyle arrived.

- d) **Fire Chief:** *Not present, report on file.*
- e) **Public Works/Wastewater Treatment Plant:** *Director Paulus asked to be involved in the planning of the river cleanup as a way to save money with the DNR. Trustee Bartz invited him to the next Parks and Rec meeting. President Gehrke asked for an overview of equipment. Director Paulus stated that the plow truck had broken down but was now repaired, and that the snow blower quit but had also been repaired. Trustee Dohrwardt asked if the snowblower was more of a toy than the type of equipment the Village needed. Director Paulus stated it was. He shared that he would like to do more work cleaning out catch basins but did not have the right equipment. Foreman Heinen stated the skid loader was great. President Gehrke asked the board to keep in mind that much of the Village's equipment had been repaired over time, sharing that the Village's*

plow had failed right before the largest snow event in five years. Director Paulus stated that more repairs have been happening in-house.

- f) **Clerk:** Clerk Johnson reviewed her filed report. She asked board members to archive instead of deleting emails. She told the board that committee meetings have begun being recorded and posted to YouTube and the website. Clerk Johnson shared the final candidates for the three open trustee seats and the order in which they would appear on the ballot: Richard Abegglen, Natalie M. Eippert, and Jessica Franck. She also welcomed Clara Paulus as a newly trained Chief Inspector, who will be working under Chief Inspector Lenz at the April election, as Jessica Franck is disqualified from working due to her candidacy. She asked the board to complete the county required KnowB4 training.
- g) **Treasurer:** Treasurer Depies said that she is working on the end-of year WRS filings. She stated the audit is coming up and that the 2024 budget has been updated in the accounting software Workhorse.
- h) **Ozaukee County District 2 Supervisor Trustee Haas** shared with the board that he and his wife will be moving from the Village at the end of his term. He stressed how important it is to communicate with the county, and how proud he is that the Village has been the first in the county to hire three full time paramedics.

7. Items for Discussion and/or Action

- a) **Introduction of Ordinance 2024-01 Pertaining to Sets of Election Inspectors:** Clerk Johnson stated that historically, Village election inspectors have worked split shifts on Election Day and wish to continue doing so. State law obligates the Village to adopt an ordinance that allows two sets of election inspectors to work on Election Day. Treasurer Depies asked if this ordinance would prohibit people from working a full day. Clerk Johnson responded that it would not. She stated there was no action step today, and she would take any feedback offered by the board and bring this ordinance back at the next meeting for a vote. Trustee Dohrwardt said this was a housekeeping change, and Clerk Johnson agreed.
- b) **Motion to Approve the State Match 2023 Contribution to Service Award Program for Fire Department Eligible Members** made by Trustee Haas.
 - Seconded by Trustee Abegglen.
 - Assistant Chief Kunstmann gave an overview of the State Award Program. He said the Fire Department had 24 eligible members and that the amount the state would match in 2023 is \$479.20. He explained the number of years and age requirements in order to be vested. He stated that the Village could approve the full requested amount and split it evenly between the eligible members, or approve the full amount, meet the state match, and hold the rest in reserve in case an error was made or to roll over to next year. He stated that if the Village chose not to make a contribution, the Village's account is put on hold and would affect the number of years members would need to work in order to vest. Trustee Haas asked for clarification on when members would vest. Assistant Chief Kunstmann stated ten years for 50%, and the money would stay in Fredonia if the member quits or moves on. Trustee Dohrwardt stated that historically, the Village kept money in reserves for this purpose, so that in lean years there would be enough to meet the state match. President Gehrke gave another perspective: the Village has budgeted more than the state match and could approve the entire amount to be distributed evenly among eligible members. Trustee Abegglen suggested approving the full amount in case there was an error. Administrator Jenkins reminded the Board that the Village utilizes fund-based accounting. The

Fire Fund had unplanned expenses and decreased ambulance revenue. He suggested that remaining funds could offset the deficit.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

- c) Motion to Approve ALS-Paramedic Intercept Agreement Between the Village of Fredonia and Waubeka** made by Trustee Haas.

Seconded by Trustee Meyle.

Administrator Jenkins stated that because Waubeka has their own ambulance service, the Village is unable to invoice for the paramedic-level calls to which the Village responds. This agreement allows Waubeka to invoice the patient, but also allows the Village to invoice Waubeka to offset the costs of time and supplies. The charge is proposed at \$300.00 per call.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

- d) Motion to Approve Purchase of a 2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Pick-Up Truck, Not to Exceed \$45,000** made by Trustee Haas.

Seconded by Trustee Bartz.

Director Paulus shared the specs on the used Chevy truck he'd like to purchase. This truck would replace the squad he currently drives, which has transmission issues. President Gehrke clarified this is a budgeted expense. The proposed truck costs \$37,000 and would need to be outfitted using remaining funds. Trustee Dohrwardt asked if this truck would have a plow attached. Director Paulus stated it would not.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

- e) Motion to Approve Trustee Dohrwardt as the Designated Representative to the Mid-Moraine Municipal Association, to be Reimbursed for Mileage per Employee Handbook** made by Trustee Haas.

Seconded by Trustee Abegglen.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

6. Correspondence: none

7. Items for Future Consideration by Village Board: none

8. Motion to Adjourn made by Trustee Haas.

Seconded by Trustee Dohrwardt.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.