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FREDONIA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 19th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Fredonia Government Center - Board Room
242 Fredonia Avenue, Fredonia, Wisconsin

1. President Gehrke called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Trustees Present: President Gehrke, Trustee Haas, Trustee Abegglen, Trustee Dohrwardt, Trustee Bartz, Trustee Meyle.
Trustees Excused: Trustee Paape
Staff Present: Administrator Jenkins, Chief Weyker, Treasurer Depies, Clerk Johnson, DPW Foreman Heinen, Paramedic Woda.
3. **Public Comments:** Trustee Bartz stated that she feels gratitude to the residents of Fredonia after help finding her lost dog.
4. Consent Agenda:
 - a) **Motion to Approve Minutes of October 5th, 2023 Village Board Meeting with the removal of "Highland Drive" from Public Comment Section and "First-Ever" from Presentations Section, General Fund, Water and Sewer Invoices and Temporary Class "B" Picnic License for Divine Savior Catholic School Fish Fry Event on November 10, 2023** made by Trustee Haas.
Seconded by Trustee Abegglen.
Passed by unanimous vote.
5. Presentations
 - a) Chief Weyker introduced Paramedic Woda and reviewed her professional experience. Clerk Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Paramedic Krystal Woda.
6. Report on Village Committees by:
 - a) **Parks and Recreation:** *Trustee Bartz stated that a resident with helpful feedback that attended the meeting. She said that the committee dug into the funding for the proposed splash pad, which has been broken into two phases. Phase one totals \$153k, with some of the work handled in-house by DPW crews, saving \$35K from the original estimate. Phase two includes add-in water features and totals \$134,672. The Village will need to fundraise \$188k to complete the splash pad. The Friends of Fredonia was created to support fundraising efforts. The Committee reviewed Movie in the Park, Holiday Tree Lighting, and the Winter Walk. President Gehrke said that residents*

already stepping forward to support the splash pad, offering donations of labor and project management skills.

- b) **150th Anniversary Celebration Subcommittee** Trustee Bartz stated the committee has received all estimates for music and have begun the process in booking one or two bands. The Lions Club will sponsor the corn-hole tournament. They discussed reaching out to local schools for time capsule ideas and essays.*

7. Report on Operations of Village by:

- a) **Village President:** President Gehrke felt proud of the Village's adherence to the budget timeline and highlighted how the budgeting process has not been as rushed as in years past.*
- b) **Village Administrator:** Administrator Jenkins shared that he hoped to have an offer to purchase a lot in TID #3 soon, and is continuing to work with engineering on utility easements. He attended a Department of Revenue meeting in Madison regarding Act 12 and innovation grants, and highlighted his own role as a shared employee between the Town and the Village as an example. He said Director Paulus was in talks with two municipalities to take on water testing, and thanked Trustee Paape for his initiative to establish a Ride-Along program for local students with the Marshals Office. Social media and website traffic continues to rise.*
- c) **Village Marshal:** Marshal Davel was not present, report on file. Trustee Dohrwardt asked the Board if the K-9 unit found anything at the school during their sweep. The answer was unknown. Trustee Meyle asked why ticket revenues were down. President Gehrke explained that the revenues came from Mid-Moraine Court and that future revenues are expected.*
- d) **Fire Chief:** Chief Weyker told the Board that the department participated in a special Saturday practice on rural water movement. He has interviewed a paramedic interested in part time hours to cover vacations of full time staff. Chief Weyker is working to schedule an interview with a third full time paramedic. He expressed surprise at the number of volunteer applications and highlighted several applicants. He applied for and won a \$10k grant in partnership with Belgium to purchase a trailer and traffic safety equipment. He has applied for a grant to secure funding for an ATV. President Gehrke mentioned traffic on the advertisement on social media and the number of applicants resulting from the secured EMS funding at the County level. He thanked the Chief and Trustee Haas for their work. Trustee Abegglen commented on the great success of the Fire Department's Open House.*
- e) **Public Works/Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Supervisor Paulus was not present, his report is on file. Foreman Heinen was available for questions, none were had.*
- f) **Clerk:** Clerk Johnson updated the Board on the status of the public records request from Attorney Wirth. She provided trustees that are up for reelection with ballot access documents, and gave another plug for poll workers for the 2024 cycle.*
- g) **Treasurer:** Trustee Bartz asked Treasurer Depies how the training with the County Treasurer went. Treasurer Depies responded that helpful websites were provided.*
- h) **Ozaukee County District 2 Supervisor:** Trustee Haas welcomed Paramedic Woda, and stated he was pleased to see all of the hard work done at the County level start to pay off.*

8. Items for Discussion and/or Action

- a) **Discussion and Possible Action on a Sewer Credit Request by Mr. Robert Peterson of 229 Fredonia Ave.** Treasurer Depies stated that, after investigation by*

the DPW, there was no question that the water was intentionally used by Mr. Peterson to water his lawn, resulting in a higher-than-usual bill. She explained the option of installing a lawn meter, but Mr. Peterson was not interested. President Gehrke reminded the Board there was no precedent to give a resident a sewer credit when water was intentionally used. Treasurer Depies recommended that the Board deny the request. Trustee Dohrwardt stated that none of the decisions made giving utility credits were precedent setting: each case is heard and judged individually.

Motion to Deny a Sewer Credit Request by Mr. Robert Peterson of 229 Fredonia Ave. made by Trustee Haas.
Seconded by Trustee Meyle.
Passed by unanimous vote.

b) Discussion and Potential Direction to the Village Administrator Regarding Preliminary 2024 Budget: *President Gehrke said this was the first time there has been an opportunity to hear public feedback from board members during the budgeting process because staff and trustees had adhered to the budget timeline. Trustee Meyle had several questions:*

- Why was \$60k earmarked for a skid steer? Administrator Jenkins stated to Trustee Meyle that the Board has previously approved the purchase of a skid steer when they approved the CIP. Foreman Heinen added that the Village doesn't currently have a skid steer and explained the uses and benefits of this piece of equipment. President Gehrke said this purchase was sorely needed.*
- Why was \$1.2 million allocated to the reconstruction of Highland Drive? Administrator Jenkins reminded Trustee Meyle of the Transportation Study staff conducted earlier in the summer that resulted in Highland Drive as the top-priority reconstruction project in the Village. He added the caveat that if the Village is awarded grant funds to work on Martin Drive he would ask the Board to pivot to that project instead.*
- Why was \$10k earmarked for welcome signs? Trustee Meyle felt that it seems expensive. Trustee Dohrwardt said that \$10k was cheap for welcome signs. Administrator Jenkins said that it is good publicity to have one sign at each entrance of the Village. He added that staff bid out the signs and the ritzy ones came back at over \$18k. Trustee Dohrwardt said the Village currently has one sign that is about 24 years old and looking shabby.*
- Why was there a 30-40% increase to overall expenses? Administrator Jenkins asked for clarification and it was found that Trustee Meyle was referencing the Fire Department budget. Administrator Jenkins stated that the Paramedic program was the reason for the increase in operating costs.*

Trustee Dohrwardt stated that the new increment of 3.3% nibbled the corner off any increases.

Trustee Haas asked for a reminder on why there was such a marked increase to the sewer budget. Administrator Jenkins responded it was due to Highland Dr. reconstruction.

Trustee Meyle remarked on the substantial increase to property taxes last year and the slight decrease in 2023. He said that after a conversation with Trustee Haas, he felt satisfied with the explanation of budget shortfalls that lead to the increase in taxes. Trustee Meyle went on to say that the Village should look at decreasing taxes again next year and that it is the Village's obligation to the people to keep taxes as low as possible, for the sake of the taxpayers. President Gehrke responded that raising taxes last year was painful for the Board, and quoted Trustee Haas: "We aren't just raising

taxes on you, we are raising taxes on us, too.” At the same time, he felt a tax increase was needed in the Village, and hopefully the Board can continue to decrease taxes again in the future. Trustee Meyle said that was acceptable. Administrator Jenkins told the Board there is still time before the public hearing for trustees to ask questions. Trustee Dohrwardt asked that if a Trustee wished to make an amendment at the time of approval, they prepare their amendment in advance so that the proceedings can be kept orderly. Administrator Jenkins added that changes in one spot can affect multiple funds.

- c) Discussion and Appointment of Two Village Representatives to the Joint Fire/EMS Committee.** *President Gehrke asked who would be interested in serving. Trustee Dohrwardt stated that he and Trustee Haas had served since the Committee’s inception, and he was shocked that a change had been suggested. Trustee Meyle asked who was currently on the Committee. Trustee Dohrwardt pointed out that Trustee Abegglen was an alternate. Trustee Meyle volunteered to be appointed. Clerk Johnson said the next meeting was scheduled for October 30th, 2023 at 6:00PM. Trustee Abegglen volunteered to step away from his appointment as the alternate in order for Trustee Meyle to serve, stating that Trustee Meyle has more public safety experience.*
Motion to Appoint Trustee Haas and Trustee Dohrwardt as the Primary Village Representatives and Trustee Meyle as the Alternate to the Joint Fire/EMS Committee made by Trustee Abegglen.
Seconded by Trustee Bartz.
Passed by unanimous vote.

- d) Motion to Enter into Closed Session Pursuant to State Statute 19.85(1)(c) Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of Any Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body Has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility (Village Administrator Annual Evaluation)** made by Trustee Bartz.
Seconded by Trustee Haas
Passed by 6-0 roll call vote. Trustee Paape not present.
President Gehrke: Aye
Trustee Haas: Aye
Trustee Abegglen: Aye
Trustee Dohrwardt: Aye
Trustee Bartz: Aye
Trustee Meyle: Aye

Motion to Adjourn into Open Session made by Trustee Abegglen.
Seconded by Trustee Haas.
Passed by 6-0 roll call vote. Trustee Paape was not present.
President Gehrke: Aye
Trustee Haas: Aye
Trustee Abegglen: Aye
Trustee Dohrwardt: Aye
Trustee Bartz: Aye
Trustee Meyle: Aye

- e) Motion to Approve 2024 Village Administrator Salary as Discussed in Closed Session with an Amendment to Goals to Have a Permanent Plan in Place for Friday Hours by June 1, 2024** made by Trustee Haas.

Seconded by Trustee Meyle.
Passed by unanimous vote.

- f) **Motion to Adopt Village Administrator's 2024 Goals Amended to Have a Permanent Plan in Place for Friday Hours by June 1, 2024** made by Trustee Dohrwardt.
Seconded by Trustee Haas.
Passed by unanimous vote.

9. Correspondence: None

- 10. Items for Future Consideration by Village Board:** President Gehrke stated that Director Paulus would like to discuss the purchase of a new vac trailer at the next Board meeting.

- 11. Motion to Adjourn** made by Trustee Abegglen.
Seconded by Trustee Dohrwardt.
Passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.