

REGULAR MEETING – January 12, 2021

President Hackl called the meeting of the Muscoda Village Board to order at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Kratochwill Memorial Building. The following members were present: Anderson, Bartlett, Blood, and Miller. Also present: Schramm, Wardell, and Johnson.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION:

Motion Anderson, second Blood to accept the Proof of Publication. **Motion carried.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Blood, second Miller to accept the Regular and Special minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- a. Extension of ATC lease of property:* ATC submitted a request for an extension of the lease for the property by landfill that they are using as a material staging area. **Motion** Miller, second Anderson to approve the extension of the ATC lease until December 31, 2021. **Motion carried.**
- b. Additional electric outlet and change outlets to lights in Library:* Wardell explained that he met with Library staff and they believe that two of the outlets by the computer bank were not installed properly, “not up to code”. Wardell was instructed to have Engineer Joe Bailie look at the outlets and the Board still wants to see another quote for adding the one outlet, and changing two outlets to lights.
- c. Truck traffic on side streets:* Trustee Blood said he was contacted by a resident regarding truck traffic on streets, especially Warehouse Street. Administrator Johnson explained that the Ordinance on truck traffic reads that trucks are to use the truck route or the shortest route to their destination. Blood was also concerned with the low wires as trucks get caught on them. The Board suggested sending letters to Mediacom and CenturyLink asking them to check the height of their wires.
- d. Crosswalk at River Road and Wisconsin Avenue:* Trustee Blood asked about a crosswalk at the intersection of River Road and Wisconsin Avenue. This is similar to a crosswalk by the Post Office; if a cross walk was installed going from east to west over Wisconsin Avenue, there is no sidewalk on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue from Grove Street going north. Wardell also stated that there are utilities buried on the west side and sidewalk should not be installed over them.
- e. Status of dog park:* A path has been mowed in the DNR property east of the elementary school for people to walk their dogs. It is not a fenced in area and since it is in the Township the leash law does not apply.
- f. Service window for Police Department:* Chief Schramm submitted a plan to install a service window in the same location as it was before. The window is approximately \$1,600 and this does not include trim and miscellaneous hardware; he will do the work himself. **Motion** Anderson, second Blood to approve up to \$2,000 for a Police Department Service window. **Roll call vote: Yes-**Miller, Anderson, Bartlett, Blood and Hackl. **No-**none. **Motion carried.**
- g. Caller ID service for Village phones:* Johnson explained that with the new phones, there is the option of caller ID at a cost of \$12 per month per line. The Board decided not to do this.
- f. 2021 Authorized Pay Rates:* **Motion** Anderson, second Bartlett to approve the 2021 authorized pay rates as presented. **Roll call vote: Yes-**Miller, Anderson, Bartlett, Blood, and Hackl. **No-**none. **Motion carried.**

LIBRARY BOARD REPORT:

No report, next meeting is scheduled for January 20th

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT: No meeting in December, next meeting is scheduled for January 19th at Village Hall.

MUSCODA JOINT FIRE DISTRICT REPORT: no meeting.

GRANT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Virtual zoom meeting – no one participated.

GRANT COUNTY TOURISM COUNCIL REPORT: Virtual zoom meeting – no one participated.

REPORT ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY BOARD MEMBERS & ACTION ON ATTENDANCE AT VARIOUS MEETINGS:

No meetings.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Schramm submitted his monthly report. He also announced that the Police Department has been awarded a grant of up to \$10,000 for Covid related items. The “Use of Force” policy has been approved by an outside agency. Eligibility list for Officers: only two people applied. Does the Board want to establish a Committee to review or how should we proceed? **Motion** Blood, second Anderson to approve the Police report and post again to obtain an eligibility list for Officers. **Motion carried.**

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Wardell submitted his monthly report. He received a call from another utility that is interested in purchasing the three regulators that we are not using. The Board suggested starting sale price at \$10,000 each. **Motion** Miller, second Blood to approve the Superintendent Report. **Motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATOR CLERK-TREASURER REPORT:

Johnson submitted her monthly report. Johnson explained the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) payment that the General Fund received from the Electric and Water funds. This PILOT payment is made to the General Fund based on the assets of the utility and with the major expansion of the substation, the payment could increase by \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year. The Village has the option to put a limit on how much the PILOT payment is or leave it as actual. By putting a cap in the PILOT payment, it could reduce the electric rate increase. By leaving it as actual, it increases the revenues the Village receives when calculating tax levy. Financial Advisor Carol Wirth can give a more in-depth explanation and a recommendation on how the Village should proceed. Johnson also stated that the Office is receiving inquiries on the Mushroom Festival. Johnson asked about WiFi in the Village Hall; the device is \$156 and it would be a secure WiFi, not for public use. **Motion** Miller, second Anderson to accept the report and to purchase a WiFi device for Village Hall (secured, not for public use). **Motion carried.**

ACTION ON LICENSES:

Motion Miller, second Anderson to accept the following applications and grant licenses for: Operators-Gwendolyn Clark, Christina Lutz and Jennifer McGrath; Mobile Home-Evergreen

Terrace and Rux's Mobile Home Court and Keeping of Chickens to Lowell Ewing. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT OF INVOICES:

Motion Anderson, second Bartlett to approve the invoices as presented. **Roll call vote: Yes-**Blood, Bartlett, Anderson, Miller and Hackl. **No-none. Motion carried.**

CLOSED SESSION MATTERS:

- 2021 Pool Director: Wis. SS 19.85(1)(c)
- 2021 Cemetery Lawn Care: Wis. SS 19.85(1)(c)
- Revolving Loan fund payment updates: Wis. SS 19.85(1)(f)
- Discussion and action on Revolving Loan application #20-02: Wis. SS 19.85(1)(f)
- Negotiating the purchase of property for future development: Wis. SS 19.85(1)(e)

Motion Bartlett, second Anderson to adjourn into closed session for discussion on 2021 Pool Director and Cemetery Lawn Care pursuant to Wis. SS 19.85(1)(c); discussion and action on Revolving Loan applications #20-02 and update on Revolving Loan payments pursuant to SS 19.85(1)(f); and negotiating the purchase of property for future development pursuant to SS 19.85(1)(e). **Roll call vote: Yes-**Miller, Anderson, Bartlett, Blood and Hackl. **No-none. Motion carried.**

Chief Schramm left at this time.

Update on Revolving Loan payments: Johnson reported that KJ Cold Storage remains delinquent, but does make a payment the first part of each month.

Discussion on Revolving Loan application #20-02: Johnson reported that the applicant, Tom Franklin, has asked various times about revisiting his application and how much he could get from the Village. Johnson informed him of meeting dates.

Negotiating the purchase of property for future development: Nothing new to report. A conference call will be scheduled with Wardell and Johnson to discuss: the common facilities agreement, lease of property and use of easement property.

2021 Pool Director: Johnson reported that the wages for 2021 were established in the fall of 2020. The Board informed Johnson to offer the position to Cheryl Miller.

2021 Cemetery Lawn Care: Currently care taker William Phetteplace has shown an interest in keeping this position.

RETURN TO AND RECONVENING IN OPEN SESSION: Motion Bartlett, second Anderson to reconvene into open session. **Roll call vote: Yes-**Blood, Bartlett, Anderson, Miller and Hackl. **No-none. Motion carried.**

ACTION, IF ANY, AND IF REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE TAKEN IN OPEN SESSION ON CLOSED SESSION MATTER:

Motion Miller, second Blood to offer the 2021 Pool Director position to Cheryl Miller at a weekly salary of \$660 and \$16.50 per hour for work performed before and after the pool season. **Motion carried.**

Motion Anderson, second Miller to offer the 2021 Cemetery Lawn Care position to William Phetteplace at \$300 per mowing and \$15.50 per hour for raking/general care. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion** Blood, second Bartlett to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Cinda Johnson

Cinda Johnson, Village Administrator