

Village of Plain

Village Board Proceedings of October 9, 2013

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Plain was held at the Municipal Building on October 9, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Village President Raymond Ring at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Raymond Ring, President; John Dischler; Janet Kraemer; Kevin Kraemer; Melissa Kraemer; and, Merry Lynn Riek, Trustees. Trustee Stephanie Box was absent.

Others present: Al Brey of Johnson Block; Marion Copus of the Home News; Officer Chuck Schreiber; and, Nick Ruhland, Public Works Director.

Notice of this meeting, along with the agenda, was posted at the following locations in the Village of Plain: the Municipal Building; the Plain Post Office; and The Peoples Community Bank on Monday, October 7, 2013. Notice was emailed to the Home News and the Baraboo News Republic on the same date.

Dischler motioned to approve minutes from the September 11, 2013 Regular Board Meeting. Kevin Kraemer seconded. Motion carried.

Janet Kraemer motioned to approve minutes from the September 11, 2013 Public Hearing Meeting. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Guest

Al Brey of Johnson Block discussed the full water rate application for the Public Service Commission. The Village was contacted by the PSC expressing concern about insufficient water rates to cover debt and infrastructure maintenance or improvements. The application Johnson Block put together has not yet been submitted to the PSC. Al is here to get direction from the board in regards to return on investment. Examples were put together ranging from a rate of return of 5.5% down to 3%. The increase with those various rates of return start at 47% and go down to 26%. The projections detail the cash flow to address PSC concerns for debt payments and funds for replacement of the plant, mains and equipment. Depreciation is expensed by the utility and should be covered by rates. Upon submittal of the application the PSC will conduct their review and direct the Village of the rate of return they expect implemented. There will be a public hearing lead by the PSC Director to allow for feedback and consideration by the PSC. Nick stated that there are over six miles of water mains with much of it being very old, as far back as the 1940s and some are still four inch mains which are also a concern of the DNR. Al commented to a question about other municipalities, stating that a number of municipalities are adverse on raising rates because of the impact on customers so when they do the full rate increase it is a big increase. Water revenue does not keep up with expenses. A 5.5% rate of return does not mean it would be a 47% increase on a residential customer and Kevin estimated that it would amount to about \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons of water used. The PSC will analyze and provide an overview of the affect it has on a residential customer. Currently the Village has very little borrowing capacity so if a big project is needed for water, the Village would not be able to borrow for it. Previous boards let the Village go over 20 years without repairing any water mains. Kevin felt that repairs cannot be continued to be pushed off. Further, it was pointed out

that the Public Fire Protection is part on the utility bill and remainder of expense is reflected in the tax levy. With levy limits being held as a result of ACT 10, the levy portion will need to stay the same. Any increase for Public Fire Protection will need to be covered by water rate increases. Low users will not see a huge impact, but there are some big water users that will see a big impact. The board directed AI to use the 4% rate of return which was middle of the scale.

Police Department Report

Officer Schreiber reported that the police department is going to receive a \$4,000 grant to go towards equipment or a new squad.

Public Works Department Report

Nick Ruhland reported that the Village no longer has an outlet for recycling televisions and computers. Public Works took 24 TVs and 3 computers to Gauger's and it cost \$270. We have the option to continue with Gauger's or have Peterson Sanitation pick them up for an extra \$5. If Gauger's is used Public Works collects the items from the curb, stores them and trucks them. It is a great benefit for Village residents to be able to discard items for no charge. Riek stated that it may be cost beneficial to just let Peterson Sanitation take care of it. It would simplify it for the Village if Peterson did it. It is up to Nick how he wants to handle it.

The skimmer, which is the concrete wall, is failing on the south side of the pool. The vertical wall is starting to crumble. This will cost over \$16,000 to repair.

The door at the library got sprung during a recent storm. It will cost \$2,300 to repair. It will be covered by insurance except for the \$500 deductible. Discussions have generated some ideas for prevention.

Melissa Kraemer was welcomed to the board.

Kevin Kraemer motioned to accept the committee recommendations from the Village President. Janet Kraemer seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Ordinance & Parks – Riek

No Ordinance Committee report.

The Parks Committee met on September 26th to discuss the budget. A grant was sent in for tennis court improvements. The grant may be as much as \$6,000. It will cost about \$9,500 to resurface. There is \$1,000 set aside for the tennis court, but Riek plans to get the donor's approval. The committee also discussed long term planning for the park. Turning the parking lot into green space was considered. The Fire Department would like to build a 24X24 building for a chicken barbeque by the fence in left field. Kevin Kraemer believes that is the wrong place for it. It will be an eye sore in that location. The board discussed other locations. Kevin Kraemer would like to see the issue as a separate agenda item and have a plan to review. The Parks Committee would like Mike McDermott to come back next year to do the golf instruction and maybe have someone do an arts program.

Building Committee & Fire District – Dischler

An updated copy of Building Permits was distributed.

The Fire Board will be putting tires on a couple of trucks in November. The next meeting is scheduled for January.

Police & RV Court – Melissa Kraemer

Dischler is working on getting estimates together for the new police squad car.

No RV Court report.

Streets & Utilities – Kevin Kraemer

The Utilities Committee met to discuss upgrades and focused on the budget.

The Streets Committee met to review the budget and an upcoming project for 2015. Street aid was increased by \$10,000 for 2014.

Water Pumpage for September, 2013:

Well No. 1: 537,000

Well No. 2: 2,112,000

Total for September: 2,649,000 gallons, which was 169,000 gallons more than last year.

Two bacteria samples were sent to the State Lab. Both samples tested safe.

Monthly fluoride average: 1.24 p.p.m. Monthly chlorine average: 0.14 p.p.m.

Wastewater Report for September, 2013:

Influent Monthly Average B.O.D.: 195 mg/l

Effluent Monthly Average B.O.D.: 6 Limit: 15 mg/l

Influent Monthly Average T.S.S.: 220 mg/l

Effluent Monthly Average T.S.S.: 8 Limit: 20 mg/l

Monthly Average Nitrogen Ammonia: .1081 mg/l

Limit: 20.0 mg/l Monthly, 29.0 mg/l Daily

Monthly Average Total Phosphorous: Not in yet.

Total gallons treated: 2,036,800

Library & Golf – Janet Kraemer

The Library Board discussed the budget and the door damage caused by winds. They are looking for ideas to prevent the problem. The Pies & Pages fundraiser will be October 18th and 19th. The library is doing story time again. The library would like to thank the Friends for their continued support. There are a lot of tough decisions to make during budget time.

No Golf Course Committee report.

Finance & Pool – Box

Riek reported that the Finance Committee met to do employee evaluations and discussed wages.

No Pool Committee report.

Development/Planning & Green TTEC – Ring

The Green TTEC Board held a meeting to discuss staffing. They will take it to Finance for review with the budget.

No Development & Planning Commission report.

Other Business

The board discussed changing the Village of Plain polling location. A letter was received from the Government Accountability Board in regards to the polling place during the last election. There were many ADA issues, for example pitch on the handicap ramp, pull on the door was too heavy and needs a power assist, signage and parking issues. To do all the work they are asking us to do would be very costly. The Village has two other locations that are available. Using Green TTEC would be in line with the staffing that the Green TTEC Board is working on. The library would also work. With Green TTEC, it would be another way to increase awareness when residents use that site. Riek was concerned about the walking distance to Green TTEC. There are not a lot of people that walk to vote. The Rec Trail is there now for walking access to Green TTEC. Kevin Kraemer mentioned that the library would be easier for people to recognize as a polling location. At the library, voters would be competing with library patrons for parking. Ring motioned to change the Village of Plain's polling location to Green TTEC. Janet Kraemer seconded. Motion carried with Riek voting no.

Kevin Kraemer motioned to set Thursday, October 31, 2013 with hours from 4pm to 7pm for Halloween Trick-or-Treating. Janet Kraemer seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mary Jo Warnke sent a thank you for remembering David with a plant.

Plain is impacted by the government shutdown. The EDA emailed stating that our final payment that was scheduled to be sent in October is on hold until they return to work. They cannot respond to any correspondence. We need to wait until they are back to work before we receive any funds.

Review and Audit of Invoices:

A motion to pay the monthly invoices was made by Kevin Kraemer. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

General Fund	\$20,977.00	Capital Improvements	\$0.00
Library Fund	\$2,424.92	Water Utility	\$3,378.20
Green TTEC	\$1,345.74	Sewer Department	\$7,528.39
TIF #2	\$1,226.32	Golf Course	\$1,344.32
Wage Reimbursements:	\$14,563.87		

Kevin Kraemer motioned to adjourn to closed session at 9:18 p.m. Riek seconded. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Ring - Yes; Dischler - Yes; Janet Kraemer - Yes; Kevin Kraemer - Yes; Melissa Kraemer - Yes; and, Riek - Yes.

Sheila Tafs, Clerk/Treasurer