

# **Village of Plain**

## **Village Board Proceedings of October 9, 2019**

---

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Plain was held at the Municipal Office Building, located at 510 Main Street, on October 9, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Village President Ray Ring at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Ray Ring, Village President; Brian Brey; John Dischler; Andrew Kraemer; Melissa Marx; Merry Lynn Riek; and, Steve Whitford, Trustees.

Others present: Marian Copus of the *Home News*; and, John Ruhland, Public Works Director.

Notice of this meeting, along with the agenda, was posted at the following locations in the Village of Plain: Plain Municipal Office Building; Plain Post Office; and The Peoples Community Bank on Monday, October 7, 2019. Notice was emailed to the *Home News* and the *Baraboo News Republic* on the same date.

Marx motioned to approve minutes from the September 11, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Dischler seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Streets & Utilities – Steve Whitford**

The Streets Committee is planning to do seal coating again next year. The streets being planned for are Plainview Road and N. Westbrook Drive. The streets budget was submitted to the Finance Committee. Ruhland has met with Strand Engineering and Delta 3 in regards to the Nachreiner Avenue Project. The engineer proposals are due by November 19<sup>th</sup>. There were three firms invited to bid. We are looking for ideas on how to redesign that street. The street lights are still being addressed.

Carver informed the board that while gathering information for General Engineering and Ehlers for the Clean Water Fund Program, Ehlers alerted her that the Sewer Department needs to cash flow in order to qualify for the program. The Sewer Department has operated in the red for many years. Not including the depreciation expense line item, the deficits with just the cash expenses were: 2016, 8.63%; 2017, 18.45%; and, 2018, 23.09%. To get to a breakeven status a rate increase of 25% is needed. Ehlers stated that our rates are below average. For the average household using 12,000 gallons per quarter this would equate to \$24.96 per quarter or \$8.32 per month. Sewer rate increases is an ordinance change, so we would do the first reading in November and the second reading in December with an effective date of January 1, 2020. Sewer customers would first see the increase on their March 31, 2020 bill. Sewer started operating in the red in 2008, not including the depreciation expense line item. Increases have been very conservative and never enough to cover expenses. Also, one of the requirements of the Clean Water Fund Program is to hold a Public Hearing. The board will host this on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. General Engineering will be in attendance to answer questions. The board would like to see a rate increase of 35% to have the additional 10% applied towards the loan payment increase for next year. This will assist in next year's increase not being quite so much. A 35% increase would be around \$10.00 more per month for the average user.

**Golf** – Andrew Kraemer

The golf course is currently closed due to wet conditions.

**Finance & RV Court** – Brian Brey

The Finance Committee met on September 30<sup>th</sup> to finalize employee reviews. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the committees will present their budgets to the Finance Committee.

No RV Court report.

**Police & Library** – John Dischler

The Police Committee will set up a meeting.

The library has all the chairs in place. They want to change some tables as well that need to be replaced. Ring requested that the library put up holiday lights this year.

**Fire District & Parks** – Merry Lynn Riek

Riek attended the Plain Lions Club meeting to present playground equipment upgrade. They approved a donation of \$10,000 for the project. They want to see what the Village is giving. Riek congratulated them on the Village entry signage they have been working on and expressed appreciation. The Parks Committee met tonight for a Plain A's request for funds. Riek will be contacting Pat Mahoney to inquire on what the Plain A's are doing for fundraising. They asked for all their expenses to be paid, that being \$2,900. The committee agreed to donate 30% of their fundraising. They may do more. There has been no fundraising by the team so far; like the brat stand, 50/50 raffles and concessions. A liquor license was granted to sell beer for fundraising, but they never picked the license up. They even used to pass a hat, which was not done this year.

The Fire Board will meet on January 13, 2020. Ring talked about a listening session Howard Marklein hosted in regards to the ambulance service funding and challenges that they are facing. They discussed the number of hours for EMT licensing that is required. It is difficult to get volunteers when they make the requirements so challenging. There would be no ambulance service if it was not supported by taxpayer dollars.

**Pool & Ordinance** – Melissa Marx

The pool met to discuss the budget and lifeguard evaluations. There will be a few maintenance items that will be done yet this year. In 2018, there were 2,150 patrons versus in 2019, there were 1,870 patrons. June and July were down from last year due to weather. In 2018, there were 50 memberships and in 2019, there were 33 memberships.

The Ordinance Committee will be rescheduling at meeting to continue conversations regarding snow removal and parking issues.

**Development/Planning** – Ray Ring

No Development & Planning Commission report.



**Police Department Report**

No Police Department report.

**Clerk/Treasurer Report**

Carver spent a lot of my time on Strassenfest preparation in the past month, but unfortunately the event was cancelled with much disappointment. She has also been working on budgets and helping General Engineering & Ehlers with the Clean Water Fund Program application.

**Other Business**

Riek motioned to approve the Johnson & Block contract for 2019-2021. Whitford seconded. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

The Education 2020 forum hosted by the River Valley School Board is November 5<sup>th</sup> at Arthurs at 5:30 p.m. They would like a representative from Plain there.

**Review and Audit of Invoices:**

Whitford motioned to pay Check #24714 payable to General Engineering Co. in the amount of \$3,913.65; Check #24724 North Central Laboratories in the amount of \$5,021.30; and, Check #24732 RBC Services in the amount of \$4,862.50 from the Sewer Replacement Fund. Marx seconded. Motion carried.

Riek motioned to pay the bills as presented. Whitford seconded. Motion carried.

General Fund	\$43,890.35	Water Utility	\$8,673.07
Library Fund	\$3,837.95	Sewer Department	\$16,700.25
Capital Improvements	\$1,572.11	Golf Course	\$815.92
TIF District	\$78.76	Green TTEC	\$99.98

Wage Reimbursements: \$19,940.43

Marx motioned to adjourn to closed session at 7:59 p.m. Kraemer seconded. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Ring - Yes; Brey - Yes; Dischler - Yes; Kraemer - Yes; Marx - Yes; Riek - Yes; and, Whitford - Yes.

Sheila Carver,  
Clerk/Treasurer