

## **Village of Plain**

### **Village Board Proceedings of December 11, 2019**

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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 December 11, 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: Kevin Lins, Sauk County Supervisor; Marian Copus of the *Home News*; Mike Stoddard, SGPD Chief of Police; Officer Andrew Kurek; 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, December 9, 2019. Notice was emailed to the *Home News* and the *Baraboo News Republic* on the same date.

Riek motioned to approve minutes from the November 13, 2019 Public Hearing. Dischler seconded. Motion carried.

Marx motioned to approve minutes from the November 13, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Brey motioned to approve minutes from the December 4, 2019 Budget Hearing/Special Meeting. Kraemer seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Guest**

Kevin Lins, Sauk County Supervisor, addressed the board regarding an ordinance for Tri County Regional Airport Lins was appointed as a Commission member for the airport and later elected Chairman. The County budget is complete. There was a contentious issue with the Finance Committee wanting to remove \$500,000 from the jail budget which evolved into shutting down the Huber Center abruptly. The County Board reversed the decision shortly thereafter. They also added \$200,000 to the budget for dredging of Lake Redstone. The Sauk County Humane Society Center is over-crowded and they would like it upgraded. The county approved \$30,000 for a design study that Lins made the motion for. Also, \$50,000 was removed from the budget for six charging stations for electric cars. Lins visited multiple charging stations in Sauk County and noted that they basically do not get used. Anyone can bring items to Sauk County to consider for the budget. Stoddard wants to know why municipalities cannot use the County's IT personnel or any of the services at the municipal level. Lins will investigate.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Streets Committee reviewed proposals for Nachreiner Avenue engineering. They will meet next week to make a decision.

No Utilities Committee report.

### **Golf** – Andrew Kraemer

No Golf Course report.

### **Finance & RV Court** – Brian Brey

No Finance Committee report.

Brey attended the first RV Court conducted in Plain at the Kraemer Library & Community Center on November 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a trial that lasted about an hour.

### **Police & Library** – John Dischler

No Police Committee report.

The library is going to get some undercarriages to repair the tables.

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

The Parks Committee met with Pat Mahoney in regards to Plain A's funding and they decided to allot \$2,500 for 2020. The committee highly suggested fundraising by the team as well. At a latter meeting, parents of small children attended for input on the playground equipment. They will give feedback after reviewing the catalogs. The committee will be meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> to review ideas. They are in the designing phase.

The Fire Board will meet on January 13, 2020.

### **Pool & Ordinance** – Melissa Marx

No Pool Committee report.

The Ordinance Committee met on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Snow and ice removal fees will be changed. Sidewalks need to be cleared promptly. They reviewed the lawn ordinance. There are concerns regarding fire pits. They are looking into tightening up what can be burnt because of substances that can be toxic. They ask everyone to be respectful of their neighbors. There was a discussion on the definition of a shed. They will be meeting again in January or February.



## **Police Department Report**

Officer Kurek started with reports on updates of equipment. They are updating the computer system for reports. They are looking into getting a mobile modem for the squad car that is better than the current hotspot. It will cost approximately \$1,600. There are multiple benefits for the upgrade. They are also looking at a Taser upgrade that is budgeted for in 2020. The rifle is also out of date and needs to be upgraded. The board was OK with this purchase with trade-in. Stoddard also brought up the new record management system. There will be a planned strategy so Plain and Spring Green can use the same system to minimize costs.

## **Clerk/Treasurer Report**

After last week's budget hearing, Carver filed the many required reports and documents to the county and state. Once the residents receive their tax bills, they are all going to be asking questions to all of us. We all know that the Village's mill rate decreased. However, the Department of Revenue increased the Village's Equalized Value so significantly that the overall mill rate increases taxes by \$240.00 per \$100,000 of value. Our assessment ratio went from 109% down to 94%. Equalized Value equates 100% across the board for the entire state of Wisconsin, so the Village went from being 9% above to being 6% below. Carver called the DOR to verify their findings. There were multiple factors. Last year they had to make up a \$2 million error in personal property, so that's back to normal now. Plus, we had general increases in personal property tax. They also did a field study this year which increased our commercial valuation. Also, increased home sales are being sold above assessment. They see no error on their part. We all know that when taxing jurisdictions increase their levy, then taxes increase. With this considerable fluctuation in our Equalized Value, that also makes the Village of Plain's percentage portion in the pool of River Valley; Madison College; and Sauk County that much larger. Also, the Fire Emergency District payment is calculated based on Equalized Value. Our payment to them increased by almost 17%, which left less funds for Village departments. With our percentage in the collective being significantly higher, the Village of Plain is taking quite a hit with an increase in taxes. On the tax bill, the Village of Plain's tax is the only line item that actually shows a decrease, but we focused on keeping things level and we are our own pool. We can only control what we do, so it is unfortunate that other factors are making this significant of a difference.

## **Other Business**

Marx motioned to set the 2020 Caucus at January 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Marx motioned to appoint the Election Officials for the term 2020-2021 as presented. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Riek read the second reading of Ordinance 202-19; to increase sewer rates by 35% for 2020. Brey motioned to adopt Ordinance 202-19. Whitford seconded. Motion carried.

Marx read the first reading of Ordinance 203-19; to increase snow/ice removal fees for properties in violation.

Ryan Liegel would like to clear the wetlands out by Green TTEC. He has received DNR approval to do so. It would be an extension of their current land lease. We would not charge them any more in lease fees since the intention is to improve the area. Riek motioned to approve Ryan Liegel clearing the wetlands as long as there is proper documentation from the DNR to do so. Brey seconded. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

Ring received correspondence regarding new tenants in the newly remodeled apartment building. The Ordinance Committee will review.

**Review and Audit of Invoices:**

Whitford motioned to pay Check #24846 payable to Crane Engineering in the amount of \$2,747.23; and, Check #24883 L.W. Allen, Inc. in the amount of \$748.65 from the Sewer Replacement Fund. Brey seconded. Motion carried.

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

General Fund	\$27,902.17	Water Utility	\$1,482.43
Library Fund	\$3,918.79	Sewer Department	\$20,784.18
Capital Improvements	\$9,124.11	Golf Course	\$1,515.02
		Green TTEC	\$463.92

Wage Reimbursements: \$16,087.37

Marx motioned to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. Riek seconded. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Ring - Yes; Brey - Yes; Dischler - Yes; Kraemer - Yes; Marx - Yes; Riek - Yes; and, Whitford - Yes.

The board returned to Open Session at 8:25 p.m. Signed documents have not yet been received. No discussion nor action will be taken on agenda line items 21, 22 and 23 until documents are ready to execute. A special meeting may be called to do so.

Marx motioned to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Sheila Carver,  
Clerk/Treasurer