

Village of Plain

Village Board Proceedings of February 12, 2020

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 February 12, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Village President Ray Ring at 7:00 p.m.

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

Others present: Simon Liegel, Driftless Extracts; Kevin Lins, Sauk County Supervisor; 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, February 10, 2020. Notice was emailed to the *Home News* and the *Baraboo News Republic* on the same date.

Marx motioned to approve minutes from the January 8, 2020 Public Hearing. Kraemer seconded. Motion carried.

Riek motioned to approve minutes from the January 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Marx seconded. Motion carried.

Guest

Kevin Lins, Sauk County Supervisor, addressed the board regarding county incentives for local municipalities that Stoddard inquired about at Lins' previous visit. Lins listed the departments of Sauk County which tax payer dollars go towards. The County Board is taking up additional ATV/UTV routes. Sauk County Budget Planning Sessions are being scheduled for the public. There is turmoil on the Sauk County Board. The Corporation Counsel filed criminal misconduct complaints to the District Attorney. There are County Supervisors under investigation for felonies. The Corporation Counsel and the Assistant are on administrative leave. Since then the County Administrative Coordinator has resigned and will be done at the end of February. There is a lot of sensitive information that should not be discussed.

Simon Liegel of Driftless Extracts addressed the board regarding an excise tax exemption for ethanol. They need the proposed plan with the Village as a Plan B incase Plan A does not work out. Excise tax is a Federal tax designed around the spirits industry. The Federal government has not yet allowed exemptions for the production of hemp or cannabis. Ethanol is currently \$8.80 per gallon. Excise tax is \$23.50 per gallon. They will be running 400 gallons per hour. A municipality is automatically tax exempt on excise tax. Driftless would be asking the Village to be a tolling body. The Village would purchase the ethanol, but Driftless would pre-pay a tolling agreement. The Village would have to lease the equipment from Driftless and pay them a contracting fee to run it. Driftless would pay the Village more than \$8.80. A percentage would be negotiated. Driftless will pay all legal fees associated with the transaction. There would be tolling and lease agreements as well as a contract for labor. Regardless, the Village would be in the black in the end. A company in Fresno, CA is also doing this. Simon will be in touch.

Committee Reports

Streets & Utilities – Steve Whitford

The Streets Committee is looking to add street lights on American Legion Drive and Oakwood Circle.

The Utilities Committee is proposing discontinuing sewer averaging as recommended by the Auditor. He was surprised that Plain still used this old-school billing method. Very few municipalities do this. The updated wording mimics Spring Green's ordinance. A "Deduct Meter" would be offered to any customer that desires one. It would be installed for the line feeding outside water sources. John Ruhland reviewed the 9/30/2019 billing. Of 366 bills, he found 147 that had over 1,000 gallons difference, which is 40%. Break-even is estimated to be 2,200 gallons for the customer. On the 9/30/2019 billing, 108 customers were over the 2,200-gallon difference, or 30%. With school age kids and college students home all summer as well as snowbirds, this was 58 of those 108. That leaves 50 (or 14%) that did not have a circumstance for the fluctuation. However, studies show that people use more water in the summer. They drink more water, causing more bathroom breaks. People shower more in the summer from excess sweating, which also creates more laundry. This is besides the children being at home instead of at school. If all 50 households request an Outside Water Meter, that cost to the Village would be \$12,000. The plumbing cost is the responsibility of the homeowner. A 5/8" meter costs \$240 (50 x \$240 = \$12,000). The Wastewater Treatment Plant would then be billing for all gallons treated, receiving revenue duly earned. It is also believed that by discontinuing sewer averaging, this will significantly reduce the sewer rate increase needed for January 1, 2021 in order to cover the plant upgrade loan payment, if not cover the difference for the loan payment entirely. This Ordinance would be enacted on March 11, 2020 if the board approves.

Golf – Andrew Kraemer

Drainage improvements on the golf course has halted due to frost issues. There is a plan to cut down some dead trees. Drainage work will continue when weather is more favorable.

Finance & RV Court – Brian Brey

No Finance Committee report.

No RV Court report.

Police & Library – John Dischler

No Police Committee report.

No Library Board report.

Fire District & Parks – Merry Lynn Riek

The Parks Committee met earlier this evening. They have a preliminary design of the new playground equipment. There will be a few changes. John Ruhland will be in touch with the company to discuss the base. They will meet again and ask Kevin Kraemer and Mark Alt to attend for input. Donations are coming in. A letter to the editor was sent in to thank donors. They are applying for a grant through Sauk County for the Placemaking. There are red buckets around town for donations for the playground equipment. Marissa Anderson is returning as the Rec Director for 2020.

The Fire Board met in January 13th. They approved replacement of overhead garage doors. The fascia painting is complete. The entry doors have been replaced. The board approved an annual contract for furnace maintenance. There is a wish list item upgrade to LED lighting. The Fire Department is receiving a DNR grant in the amount of \$14,350. It will go towards coveralls, skid units for UTV, hand tools and pagers. They added two more fire fighters, Chris Hackl and Austin Warner. There was a change in officers. There were 44 fire calls in 2019. They will be purchasing turnout gear. They are looking at nonresident billing for car accidents. They are purchasing a new UTV. The ambulance was taken in for repairs. There were 160 EMS calls in 2019. They approved for EMS the IamResponding app which is a page comes through their cell phone.

Pool & Ordinance – Melissa Marx

The Pool Committee received four lifeguard applications; three 15-years-olds and one 16-year-old. All but one of last year's lifeguards are returning. There are four 18-year-olds available to work with the 15-year-olds. Pool Manager, Lisa Ladsten, will be will meet in the spring to discuss opening date and hours. Swim Reedsburg will continue to do swim lessons.

Marx updated the board on Ordinance 204-20: Amending the Code of the Village of Plain to Create Zoning and Other Regulations for Restricting Designated Offenders. The ordinance was passed pending attorney review. The attorney made general changes. The map was updated. The golf course and rec trail were removed and the footage was reduced from 1,250 to 1,000 to open up more areas. The attorney wants the board to read multiple case reviews to become well aware of potential risk. The board needs to understand the ordinance that is being enacted. The attorney has made changes to reflect case studies. It is strongly recommended that board members read the case studies so an educated vote can be made. The updated ordinance will be presented at the March Board meeting.

Development/Planning – Ray Ring

No Development & Planning Commission report.

Police Department Report

Officer Kurek presented the 2019 annual review. Joe Crook moved to Nashville to work at their Police Department. A total of 1,556.5 hours was worked in 2019. The squad was driven 8,600 miles for a year end mileage of 8,600. There were 110 complaints made to the Plain Police Department: 54 ordinance/traffic violations, 11 assists to another agency, 17 miscellaneous, 8 traffic related non-ticket complaints, 3 thefts, 4 disturbances, 4 reportable accidents, 4 animal complaints, 3 fraud cases and 2 alarms.

Public Works Department Report

John Ruhland reported that he met with General Engineering for finalizing the treatment plant upgrade. It's currently being advertised for a bid opening scheduled for February 27th at 11:00 a.m. The water audit was completed. The PSC needed additional information. The DNR is looking deeper into lead and copper. Ruhland needs to inspect lead and copper in designated homes. They are doing snow plowing. The RBC wheel had bearing issues that were taken care of. Last year there were frost issues that broke tile at the plant. That replacement project is now complete. Public Works will cut trees on the golf course soon.

Water January-20

Pumpage for Well No. 1	1,084,000	gallons		
Pumpage for Well No. 2	<u>654,000</u>	gallons		
Total Pumpage for Month	1,738,000	gallons		
Total Pumpage for the Month Last Year	1,826,000	gallons		
	This is 88,000	gallons	less	than last year.
Monthly fluoride average	0.65	ppm		
Monthly chlorine average	0.15	ppm		

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

Wastewater January-20

Influent Monthly Average B.O.D.	134	mg/l		
Effluent Monthly Average B.O.D.	8	mg/l	Limit: 15 mg/l	
Influent Monthly Average T.S.S.	156	mg/l		
Effluent Monthly Average T.S.S.	20	mg/l	Limit: 20 mg/l	
Monthly Average Nitrogen Ammonia	0.582	mg/l		
Limit: 4.3 mg/l Monthly: October-April				
8.0 mg/l Monthly: May-September				
20.0 mg/l Daily				
Monthly Average Total Phosphorous	0.917	mg/l	Limit: 1.2 mg/l	
Total Gallons Treated	2,577,000	gallons		

Clerk/Treasurer Report

Carver collected \$1,282,326.06 in taxes. She completed the annual report for the U.S. Census Bureau for the number of new housing units for the year 2019. After 12 years of no new houses, we finally added one. The Spring Primary will be held on February 18th. There is one race on the ballot for State Supreme Court Justice. There are three judges that have to be narrowed down to two for the April 7th ballot. Carver will be out of the office from Wednesday, February 19th through Friday, February 28th. She will be in for a few hours on the 19th to complete Election Day paperwork.

Other Business

Whitford motioned to approve the installation of light poles on American Legion Drive and another on Oakwood Circle. Brey seconded. Motion carried.

Whitford motioned to approve the engineering design agreement with Strand Associates for the Nachreiner Avenue Project. Marx seconded. Motion carried.

Marx motioned to adopt Resolution 2020-01, a resolution supporting EMS State Senate Bills. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Carver read the first reading of Ordinance 205-20, an ordinance discontinuing sewer seasonal averaging.

Correspondence

The Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce annual dinner is March 5, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Wisconsin Riverside Resort.

Review and Audit of Invoices:

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

General Fund	\$811,912.37	Water Utility	\$34,108.69
Library Fund	\$16,114.27	Sewer Department	\$14,512.22
Capital Improvements	\$1,556.83	Golf Course	\$2,663.33
TIF District	\$76,876.16	Green TTEC	\$7,699.25
Debt Services	\$130,517.17		

Wage Reimbursements: \$18,048.84

Marx motioned to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

Sheila Carver,
Clerk/Treasurer