

Village of Plain

Village Board Proceedings of October 11, 2023

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 11, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Sheila Carver at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Terry Drone; Melissa Marx; Wade Neubauer; Merry Lynn Riek; Steve Whitford, and, Kelly Yanke, Trustees. Village President Ray Ring was excused.

Others present: Mike Stoddard; Greg Kraemer; Angela Merritt; Dena Turner; Kim Rucks; Richard Merritt; Adam Liegel; and, Kyle Opatik.

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 Kraemer Library & Community Center on Monday, October 9, 2023. Notice was emailed to the *Home News*; *Valley Sentinel*; and, the *Baraboo News Republic*.

Carver asked for a motion to elect a Chair for the meeting. Yanke motioned to elect Marx as chair. Riek seconded. Motion carried.

During the moment of silence, Rose Fingerhut was recognized for turning 105 years old.

Riek motioned to approve minutes from the September 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Neubauer seconded. Motion carried. Motion carried with Drone abstaining.

Guests

Angie Merritt asked the board why Dollar General was kept a secret. She questioned if anyone did any investigating as far as the negatives as they run grocery stores out of town. Merritt pointed out that she is not a Village resident, but finds it unfortunate that no one was able to give an opinion.

Kim Rucks asked how we get represented as it feels like we were not represented. Rucks asked if any questions could be answered. Marx explained the process of agenda items that are acted on versus the public comment section which is for just voicing comments. Comments will be taken into consideration. Neubauer explained how a regular monthly meeting works and how a special meeting or agenda line item would be needed. Rucks stated if Dollar General was the Board's vision for Plain it is concerning. She asked how Dollar General going to make our community prosper and grow as her opinion is that all financial gains go back to corporate. She said it is no healthy competition because they can buy in bulk. She would like to see neat little shops. She asked what is Dollar General bringing that we do not already have.

Kyle Opatik is concerned about how much information the board has. You do not see other small towns that have corporate brands. Dollar General comes into small towns because they can run off of slim margins. These stores undercut the competition because they have outside resources so it is not a fair competitive situation. He feels the outlook is not good.

Marx expressed appreciation for the comments.

Committee Reports

Streets & Utilities – Steve Whitford

Both the Streets and Utilities Committees met for their budget meetings.

Pool & Ordinance – Melissa Marx

The Pool Committee had a meeting on September 20th. Lisa will be returning. They did the 2024 budget. Badger Pools will be coming in to replace the caulk to help with the pool leak. Berry Electric replaced a switch in the baby pool pump. The baby pool and its bathroom as well as the bottom of the big pool will be painted by Village staff in 2024. Greg Kraemer looked at the windows in the bathhouse and will estimate the cost. The pool hours in 2024 will most likely be the same as the 2023 hours. They are considering adjusting pool pass fees for 2024.

No Ordinance Committee report.

Fire Emergency District – Merry Lynn Riek

The Fire Emergency District Board will be having a special meeting on October 23, 2023 to discuss the new fire truck. The next regular meeting will be January 8, 2024.

Finance & Golf Course – Terry Drone

The Finance Committee will be meeting on October 25th to review budgets from the other committees. Carver announced the times for each committee to present the budgets which will be in 15-minute increments starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Golf Course Committee met to discuss the 2024 budget. Recent projects on the golf course include: curbing around landscaping, irrigation improvements, aeration and sanding of hole four green, and a cart path. Projects were financed with donations and many people volunteered their time.

Park, Library & RV Court – Kelly Yanke

The Parks Committee met on September 25th to do the 2024 budget. Kraemer Brothers will be donating to the 2024 Rec Program again for supplies and wages. They also discussed possible projects for the upcoming year.

The Library Board met on September 25th. Nick is getting proposals for new landscaping in front of the building. There is a possible donation from Kraemer Brothers for bark or purple quartzite for the area in the front. They finalized the 2024 budget. The Mid-Morning Matinee had a decent turnout. The Friends of the Library will be funding the Mid-Morning Matinee. The next event is October 19th at 11:30 a.m., which includes a meal and a drink. They are collaborating with the Old Franklin Historical Society to schedule speaking events. The next meeting will be October 30th.

The RV Court has not had many hearings. Chief Stoddard commented that a lot of citations are not contested. During the winter months, court is held in Plain at the library.

Police – Wade Neubauer

Chief Stoddard got quotes for a new taser and a handheld laser for the squad. The total is less than \$3,800. The department is under budget in order to cover the cost, but they are waiting until the end of the year to ensure the purchase will not put them over budget. The two new radios were purchased that are paid for by a state grant.

Development/Planning & Personnel – Ray Ring

No Development & Planning Commission report.

No Personnel Committee report.

Public Works Department Report

Water September-23

Pumpage for Well No. 1	877,000	gallons		
Pumpage for Well No. 2	<u>1,175,000</u>	gallons		
Total Pumpage for Month	2,052,000	gallons		
Total Pumpage for the Month Last Year	1,795,000	gallons		
	This is 257,000	gallons	more	than last year.
Monthly chlorine average	0.16	ppm		

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

Wastewater September-23

Influent Monthly Average B.O.D.	157	mg/l
Effluent Monthly Average B.O.D.	4	mg/l
Influent Monthly Average T.S.S.	439	mg/l
Effluent Monthly Average T.S.S.	9	mg/l
Monthly Average Nitrogen Ammonia	0.135	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	0.285	mg/l
Total Gallons Treated	1,704,000	gallons

Police Department Report

Chief Stoddard reported that another part-time officer was hired. He is a retired officer. Officer Ready has returned to work. Officer Ziemke got bit by a dog yesterday here in Plain but is back to work after receiving stitches. With a dog bite, the owner needs to show proof of rabies vaccination. The dog needs to be quarantined for 10 days and have a vet check. A citation was issued for a dog at large. A declaration of viciousness has not been started because there were no previous incidents.

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Report

Carver informed the board that the Sauk County Highway Department will be holding the Local Road Improvement Grant meeting on October 20th that she will be attending so an application can be submitted for the Cedar Street project. Carver was on the deciding committee the last time Plain was an applicant and she plans to volunteer again. Carver submitted the recycling grant application for 2024 funding. Carver attended a seminar where the DOT stated that they are not planning any new grants currently. They are more focused on setting up EV charging stations on all of Wisconsin's interstate highways. Carver has had multiple correspondences from people wanting to talk about Dollar General including a resident who called to say they are very excited about Dollar General coming to Plain and wanted to thank the board for all of their efforts in making it happen. All the comments from people who talked to Carver about Dollar General have been 100% positive. There were no complaints this month.

Other Business

Riek motioned to close Alma Avenue and a portion of Cedar Street for Strassenfest on October 14, 2023, as well as all future Strassenfest events. Drone seconded. Motion carried.

Yanke motioned to approve a temporary liquor license for the Plain Fire District for the Strassenfest event on October 14, 2023. Neubauer seconded. Motion carried.

Riek motioned to set the Budget Hearing for Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Whitford seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

A petition was received in opposition to Dollar General. It was submitted stating that 80 signatures were from Village residents. However, after examination, five residents signed twice, so there were actually only 75 signatures from Village residents.

Review and Audit of Invoices:

Whitford motioned to pay Check #27734 payable to Sabel Mechanical, LLC in the amount of \$20,407.35 from the Sewer Replacement Fund. Neubauer seconded. Motion carried.

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

General Fund	\$39,939.88	Water Utility	\$2,519.89
Library Fund	\$4,709.72	Sewer Department	\$35,747.03
Capital Improvements	\$1,814.95	Golf Course	\$6,279.17
TIF District	\$78.76		

Wage Reimbursements: \$21,538.76

Riek motioned to adjourn to closed session at 7:32 p.m. Whitford seconded. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Drone - Yes; Marx - Yes; Neubauer – Yes; Riek – Yes; Whitford – Yes; and, Yanke - Yes.

Sheila Carver,
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer