

Village of Plain

Village Board Proceedings of October 9, 2024

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Village of Plain Board of Trustees was held at the Municipal Office Building, 510 Main Street, on October 9, 2024. Village President Ray Ring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Ray Ring, Village President; Terry Drone; John T. Feiner; Melissa Marx; Wade Neubauer; Steve Whitford; and, Kelly Yanke, Trustees.

Others present: Rachel Liegel; Darrin Esser; Petra Schoplocher; Mike Stoddard, Police Chief; 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 Kraemer Library & Community Center on Monday, October 7, 2024. Notice was emailed to the *Home News*; *Valley Sentinel*; and, the *Baraboo News Republic*.

Marx motioned to approve minutes from the September 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Neubauer seconded. Motion carried.

Guest

Petra Schoplocher, from Waldmünchen, Germany, Plain's sister city, addressed the Board. They are planning for 40 individuals to visit Plain from Germany in May. A few years ago, she enjoyed visiting Plain and seeing all the German names. This is her fourth visit to Plain. Waldmünchen and Plain together accommodate visitors traveling back and forth. Petra presented a book and a small Waldmünchen flag to the Village of Plain.

Drone motioned to approve the petition from Rachel Liegel for a variance from the residential size requirements, location, setbacks and a metal roof for the purpose of a storage shed at 1115 Oak Street. Whitford seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Streets & Utilities – Steve Whitford

The area on Cedar Street that had been milled off has been repaved. The company responsible for the new grass on Cedar Street has filled in some settled areas. Residents are not supposed to do anything with it for the remainder of the year. Since the crew is in town, they are doing a little stretch of paving on Clover Street by the entrance to Meise Construction. A double seal will be placed on the rest of that stretch. The Streets and Utilities Committees will be meeting next week to discuss the budget.

Library, Ordinance & RV Court – Melissa Marx

No Ordinance Committee report.

No RV Court report.

The Library Board met on September 30th. Some of the Friends attended to discuss working together to fund events and projects. The Library Board is still working on a landscaping plan to hopefully be done in 2025. They approved the proposed 2025 library budget. The Dollar General manager stopped by and donated 100 books. The Mid-Morning Matinee will be on October 17th. The Pies, Pages and Puzzles event is October 18th and 19th. Storytime is on Tuesdays. The next Tech Help session will be on October 24th. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28th.

Finance – Terry Drone

The Finance Committee is getting ready to compile the budget from each committee. Those budgets are due October 16th and then meet with committees on the 23rd.

Golf Course – John T. Feiner

Feiner reported the drainage project on hole number nine was completed. The grass is coming in, and it drained properly with that big rain a few weeks ago. The new cart path on hole number five tee box is formed up is getting poured on Friday. The budget revenue is at 111% and expenses are at 78%. There are still bills to come in. The budget meeting will be October 14th.

Parks & Pool – Kelly Yanke

Yanke reported that Parks and Pool met on Monday, and both budgets were completed. Sue Bindl donated the concession stand profit of \$970 to the Village. There are still many comments about how nice the park is. The pool caulking will be completed soon.

Police & Fire Emergency District – Wade Neubauer

The Fire Emergency District Board will meet on January 13th.

The Police Department met last night to prepare the budget and is ready to present it to the Finance Committee. The department is ahead in hours compared to last year. They are looking forward to the new officer working some hours in Plain.

Development/Planning & Personnel – Ray Ring

Ring reported on Strassenfest. Even though the bad storm ended it abruptly, an estimated 700 people came through. There were lots of compliments on the bands, car rally, bouncy house, and pumpkin decorating. The rain created additional clean-up work. The committee convened to discuss the pros and cons and may make future simplifications. The committee will meet again in the spring.

The Personnel Commission has completed the employee reviews. The Board will go into closed session tonight to discuss with the Board.

Carver had contract negotiations with TKC Real Estate Holdings and our insurance limits exceeded what they requested for placing a Village dumpster on their property. The November presidential election will be on November 5th. Carver has sent out 38 absentee ballots to date. In November of 2020, there were 216 absentee voters due to the scare of COVID still looming. In November of 2022, which was just a gubernatorial race, there were 44 absentee voters. The November 2020 election was our highest voter turnout ever at 492 voters. Carver reviewed the numbers for the proposed loan for the budget shortfalls for the Cedar Street and Highway 23 projects. The Highway 23 project was not supposed to be billed until 2025, but it looks like it will come in at about \$75,000. The engineering and inspection services from Strand for Cedar Street should finish at an estimated \$115,000. Both projects have a total 2024 shortfall of \$190,000. This should be the amount the loan should cover. The Village would take funds on November 14th after approving the resolution at the November 13th board meeting. It will be an 8-year loan at 5.65% with biannual payments totaling \$29,465.40. The levy limit is being reduced by a little over \$30,000 due to increased shared revenue to cover the elimination of personal property tax, so the final levy will be slightly less than last year's.

Other Business

Ring motioned to permanently schedule the annual budget hearing for the first Wednesday of December at 7:00 p.m., until there is a reason to change. Marx seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Carver was visited by a retired golf course superintendent who commended the exceptional quality and maintenance of Westbrook Hills Golf Course, stating it was the best and most well-kept little course he had ever played.

Review and Audit of Invoices:

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

General Fund	\$41,472.68	Water Utility	\$3,458.23
Library Fund	\$4,717.22	Sewer Department	\$17,906.96
Capital Improvements	\$1,663.48	Golf Course	\$3,642.59
TIF District	\$78.76		

Wage Reimbursements: \$21,548.23

Ring motioned to adjourn to closed session at 7:46 p.m. Feiner seconded. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Drone - Yes; Feiner – Yes; Marx - Yes; Neubauer – Yes; Ring – Yes; Whitford – Yes; and, Yanke - Yes.

Sheila Carver,
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer