

Village of Lena
117 E. Main St., Lena, WI 54139
Village Board Minutes
December 18, 2023, 4:45 p.m.

Meeting called to order.

Roll call: Steve Marquardt, Robert Borchert, Terry Hinds, Judy Patenaude, Craig LeFebre, Nick Heise

Excused: Linda Hinds

Also present: Jodi Marquardt, Char Meier

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Patenaude/Borchert to approve agenda with change of sequence as needed. Motion voted and carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2023. Motion by Patenaude/Lefebvre to approve the public hearing and meeting minutes of the November 15, 2023. Motion voted and carried.

Public Comment: Char Meier present to comment that she is seeking reelection for the County Board. She commended Lena for being active and “always doing something” to improve the community and complimented our programs.

Personnel: 2 candidates have withdrawn from the interview candidate. One interview will be completed tonight.

Finance- Finance Report- Informational, Clerks Bank and investment Report-Informational, Clerks Comp/Overtime Report-Informational

-Resolution 2023-09 Annual Carryover of Funds. Motion by T Hinds/Patenaude to adopt Resolution 2023-09, Annual Carryover of Funds. Roll call vote-Borchert- aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

-Resolution 2023-10 Borrowing for Fire trucks. Discussion regarding the FD Vehicle replacement fund deficit due to the timeline of purchase/delay in fire truck order. With the purchases of 2 new fire trucks, we remain \$190,267 in debt. As a result, borrowing is necessary to cover the deficit. Borrowing rates from area banks were compared, Peshtigo National bank 5.45%, STFL 6.25% and Fortifi Bank 6.35%. Motion by Patenaude/Heise to adopt Resolution 2023-10, Borrowing for Firetrucks, in the amount of \$190,000 from Peshtigo National Bank. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Patenaude/Lefebvre to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) for “considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Street Superintendent Interviews, with the clerk present for closed session at 5:29pm. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Patenaude/LeFebre to reconvene in open session and take action, if any, on matters discussed in closed session at 6:45pm. Motion voted and carried. Motion by Patenaude/LeFebre to offer the Street Superintendent position to Tyler Schmit at a wage of \$28.56/hr with the possibility of increasing to \$29.00 following a 6-month evaluation. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried. Motion by S Marquardt/Patenaude to adjust the Public Works Fulltime position from 28.04 to \$28.56/hr and reevaluate and increase to \$29/hr with a favorable review. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

-Vintage Insurance- Village of Lena 2024 Property and Casualty Insurance was discussed. Motion by S Marquardt/T Hinds to accept the Village of Lena 2024 Property and Casualty Insurance Policies with Vintage Insurance in the amount of \$ 32,904. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

-Vintage Insurance Village of Lena 2024 Work Comp Insurance Schedule was discussed. Motion by Hinds/Patenaude to accept the Village of Lena 2024 Work Comp Insurance Schedule from Vintage Insurance/Glatfelter in the amount of \$9,544. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

-Cyber Insurance. Insurance with Vintage Insurance Policy in 2024 will be a separate policy. Following discussion with Oconto County, as they support our technology services, that the Village needs to be protected with safe/adequate coverage. It is recommended by the Finance Committee to add a \$1,000,000 coverage in the amount of \$3114.72. Motion by T Hinds/Borchert to accept the stand-alone cyber insurance coverage offered by Glatfelter Insurance in the amount of \$3114.72. Roll call vote-Borchert-aye/LeFebre-aye/Heise-aye/Patenaude-aye/T Hinds-aye/S Marquardt-aye. Motion carried.

Public Works: Report -Informational.

-A used snowblower attachment was purchased for the Stiga.

-Ayres report. The Village is #15 on the CWFL priority list, with a principal forgiveness of \$734,255 and financing at 55% of market rate interest for long term financing. A concern was discussed involving the payment ahead of project to Ayres for their services for the planning process of the WWTP. This month, we paid \$75,000, which, if it continues, will impact the sewer financials.

-Land Lease/Sludge Lease- Public Works Committee feels it reasonable to adjust the rates of the land lease to market rate. This will include an increase to \$150/acre from \$50/acre to Jagiello Farms. The land lease in 2025 with Hodkiewicz was agreed to by both parties to increase to \$250/acre.

Public Safety: No meeting in December

Promotions: Village of Lights was very successful with many compliments and positive comments.

Plan Commission: No report

Park and Recs: Informational report. It is estimated approximately \$25,000 will be needed in sod, back stop to complete the Ball Diamonds. They are playable to current completion. Discussion and consideration to netting vs a cyclone fence with further research needed. Grants have been applied for by OCEDC. Discussions are happening to advance the walking trails. The school woods has been approved for improved walking trails as part of the park program.

Recycling: Nothing to report

Library: Report informational. Programs have had high attendance, and many new programs are planned for 2024. The library received a large donation from the Manny Kobes Estate and has opened a separate account for this money through Peshtigo National Bank. The Village is the fiscal agent for the library, but is not included on the account, nor is the Clerks name listed as a signer on the account. This library fund must be reported to and listed on the auditor's balance sheet. There are concerns with the low interest rates the account is receiving, .25% vs the Village of Lena account interest rate, this month at near 5.4%. Due diligence is a concern. There is also concern with bond-fidelity insurance if separately holding accounts. The Village of Lena, per the Joint Library Agreement is not working to "control" the funds, but rather abiding by the agreement in regard to role as Fiscal Agent. Planning and discussions regarding a consolidated library continue. The December meeting was held in Lena and was informative.

Village Complaints and Concerns: Concern presented regarding parking and clearing snow at the end on Harley and 1st St. this has been addressed by the PD.

Presentation of the Bills: Motion by LeFebre/Heise to pay the December bills. Roll call vote: Borchert-Aye, LeFebre-Aye, Heise-Aye, Patenaude-Aye, T Hinds-Aye, S Marquardt-Aye. Motion voted and carried.

Permits/Correspondence/Miscellaneous: Motion by S Marquardt/Heise to approve the 2024/2025 Nomination for Election inspectors as presented. Motion voted and carried. Motion by LeFebre/Borchert to approve Operators permit for Beth Julius and Max Cops. Motion voted and carried. In addressing the concerns for the Building Inspector, the letter to 104 E Main St needs to be reviewed and approved by Public Safety and then sent certified mail.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2023, at 6:00pm

Adjournment: Motion by Patenaude/Borchert to adjourn at 7:46 pm. Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi A. Marquardt
Clerk/Treasurer