

October 11, 2022

**Call to Order:** President Brunkhorst called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

**Members Present:** Brunkhorst, Erickson, Huepfel, Jorgenson, Lukes, O'Connell, Vorlicek

**Members Absent:**

**Staff present:** Clerk Emerson

**Public hearing to consider a RESOLUTION TO VACATE AND DISCONTINUE A PORTION OF TERRACE STREET LYING EASTERLY OF GLADE AVENUE, VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY.**

Discussion between the requesting party and neighbors about a garage and parking area being put up on the property that would be vacated. Due to the steep nature of the parcel to be abandoned and usable portion of Terrace St., neighbors are concerned about erosion, privacy, width of Terrace for passing vehicles, plowing in winter, etc. Requestors said they had no intention of putting up a structure or creating parking. When asked what their motivation was for the vacate request, they said it would add value to their property or possibly they would put up a shed to store things in. There is also a sewer main that runs under that parcel. Since there is no reason to continue the process, the resolution will not move forward for approval. Public hearing adjourned.

**Approval of Minutes: Motion (Erickson/O'Connell)** to approve September 8, 21, 28 Board minutes. Carried.

**Approval of Agenda: Motion (Huepfel/Lukes)** to approve agenda. Carried.

**Appearances:** None

**Library report:** We hired Becky Manley & Deb Lokrantz; \$5,000 donation from Spring Valley Education Foundation; \$3,000 was raised from Dam Days; Free little library was placed outside near the municipal sign- Jacob Woolery Boy Scouts from Hudson; Director asked the board for a \$1000 increase for the 2023 Library Budget.

**Action items:**

- 1) Rhy Conditional Use public hearing will be set with November meeting date.
- 2) **Motion (O'Connell/Erickson)** to approve Albrightson pay ap \$32,207.04 for upgrades to Well #3. Carried.
- 3) Sewer rate increase: 2023 budget was presented with revenue at current rates. Due to increased operating costs of the facility and no increase since the plant was built, the utility would see nearly \$45,000 deficit. If base fees are raised 20%, revenue will cover that deficit and leave roughly \$8,000 surplus in case there are unexpected costs. The current base rate on a 5/8" line is \$96/quarter. This will increase to \$115.20 per quarter, an increase of \$19.20 or 76.80 per year. Larger lines will increase 20% as well. Each year the proposed budget must be presented to USDA. They review revenue and costs and verify the utility will be able to make their loan payment. USDA has been suggesting a rate increase for several years. **Motion (Huepfel/Jorgenson)** to approve sewer base rate increase of 20% effective with 1/1/2023. Vote: Ayes: Brunkhorst, Erickson, Huepfel, Jorgenson, Lukes, O'Connell, Vorlicek. Nays: none. Carried.
- 4) Budget may be reviewed further after closed session. General Fund: DOT numbers for 2023 are in and will be updated for the November meeting. Library is requesting another \$1,000 to what was contributed from the Village last year. Water Fund: looks good, the surplus will be put into Capital Projects for future projects which was built into the 2021 rate increase by the Public Service Commission. Sewer Fund: looks good with the rate increase applied.
- 5) On-call reimbursement for public works will be re-written to include stipend per discussion and put on the November agenda for approval. Personnel recommends approving the remaining updates to the Employee Handbook: Time Clock/Card Procedure, Payment of Wages, Police Hours, PTO conversion, Calendar Holiday terminology, Clothing, Travel Expense. Carried.
- 6) Budget public hearing will be Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. along with Rhy Conditional Use PH.

- 7) Public Works updates: Cedar will be moving on the next step of the Hwy 29 crossing/Van Buren project; Brunkhorst and Vorlicek will be attending the school board meeting on 10/24 to answer questions on the project and funding. Cedar will be looking at other funding opportunities for Glade Ave bridge and other projects. Bottom of Glade/N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street will be reconstructed to fix the pooling water problem. We have worked with Pierce Cty on the drainage to regrade at the abandoned road, brush and grade the ditch so the water can drain. Elevation changes and main culvert replacement. Cost is \$6800. Street lights that went down in the storm are on order and will be installed as soon as they get here. PW is looking at a tractor/brusher since costs to have St Croix County come in and take down brush is costly; if they can find a dump truck and brusher for the original \$100K approved dump truck budget they can go ahead and purchase. PW can then keep up on the ditches and work when it fits their schedule. Vorlicek got funding and donated time from several organizations to clean up the snowmobile/all-purpose trail. It is also part of the loop the Village is working on from Hwy 29/Van Buren and back to downtown. Any remaining revenue at year end will be put to clean the snowmobile/all-purpose trail. Gravel will be put down to prevent wash and the trail bed will be smoothed. County COVID money will be applied for on the safe route to school/Van Buren project.
- 8) SVHRC updates: November 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. at Community Center meeting with SVHRC and Village board to review management company. Census is 24.
- 9) Pay requests and Treasurer's report approved as presented. \$38K approx available for the squad; outlays were moved, the 2021 final audit is not available yet. WCU Spring Valley branch is closing February 28, 2023.
- 10) **November board meeting is Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> immediately following the public hearings.**

**Emergency Services** – 40 incidents were reported for September. Erickson reporting: Dam Days went well, no major incidences, a few things will need to be looked at by Lions Club for next year. Build on the new squad is set for October, Officer Lilly will advise as soon as we have a VIN.

**CDA – November report**

**Finance** – will be covered in closed session

**Personnel** – approved recommendations to the board that were approved tonight.

**Clerk's report** – Population is at 1409 for Pierce County, 11 for St. Croix County. 1 Razing permit issued for a garage on Glade Ave. 2 operators licenses issued as temporary for Dam Days. Brunkhorst and Emerson will be attending a conference put on by Bremer Bank. Trainings for 2023 are being looked at.

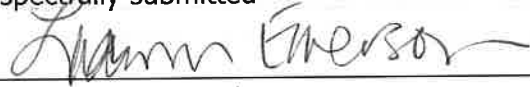
**Motion (Jorgenson/Lukes) 7:59 p.m.** to go into closed session pursuant to WI State Statute **19.85(1)(c)** Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. For the purpose of reviewing specific employee benefits. Closed for conferring with legal counsel was not needed.

**Motion (Lukes/Jorgenson) 8:30 p.m.** to go into open session

Action from closed session – Direct Clerk to get signed form for each employee indicating sick hours to be paid out at year end.

**Motion (Jorgenson/O'Connell) to adjourn 8:33 p.m. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Luann Emerson, Clerk



Marsha Brunkhorst, President