

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
2021-2022 REORGANIZATION
APRIL 22, 2023**

The Village Board meeting was set up as a Zoom meeting and a conference call meeting according to Wisconsin Attorney General Release Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Open Meetings. The number to call in: 715-423-6698; 5-digit conference ID: 02067. It was taped via ZOOM.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on the Municipal Building door, the entrance of the Police Department/Marshall Buehler Center, and at Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank in Port Edwards, as well as on the Village website.

Present: President B. Mancl, Trustees T. Grunden, J. Moore, C. McGregor

Absent: L. Radtke, J Zurfluh, E. Saylor

Also Present: Village Administrator R. Bossert, Eric Hummel, Attorney Nick Abts (ZOOM), Jerry Deshane (President of the Wisconsin League of Municipalities)

Call to order: Village Board meeting was called to order by President Zurfluh at 9 a.m.

Approve the Agenda:

President's Guidance: President Mancl conducted introductions of the special guests present.

Village Organization: Reviewed the current Task organization and Village inventory of items/equipment.

Value added to a non-elected citizen to a committee, their expertise could bring forth progression in ways of thinking and how we run things by including them in our meetings.

With aging infrastructure, we have more road pavement, resurfacing, and repairs than Wisconsin Rapids and other surrounding communities.

Training is up to date. 45% of the village budget is payroll. Low turnover.

Robert's Rules & Legal Guidance: Village Attorney Nick Abts discussed major points of Robert's Rules and discussed open meetings, rules & legal obligations.

- FOCUS areas: Stay true to rules. However, they are a guideline in some cases (Home rule)
- We will compile a set of Port Edwards specific procedures to augment Robert's Rules. This will be run thru the PLPIT Committee over the year.
 - Citizen Virtual Involvement
 - Consent Agenda
 - Old and New Business (FREE TEXT)
- Keep the decorum, it assists with the appropriate flow and process of the meeting.

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- Request permission to speak.
 - Only can speak twice on an issue, 10 minutes max.
 - Only one speaker at a time
 - Open meetings have rules and legal ramifications if rules aren't followed
 - Don't discuss village business with one another outside of the meetings either in person, by telephone, emails, etc.
 - Open records - any record is available to the public if created and documented for official use (this does not include personal notes), No citizen can request a special product that has not been created for Village use.

Determine the Village Vision/Mission: A discussion on the Village Vision statement as well as the follow-on Mission statement for the Village staff.

- **Summary** - Fiscally responsible/conservative; educationally and environmentally focused; safe and secure; incomparable village services; family-friendly.
- **Organizational values:**
 - Safe and secure environment
 - Fiscally responsible
 - Educationally and environmentally focused
 - Incomparable village services
 - Family-friendly
- **Goals:**
 - Business district Improvements/expansion
 - Improve housing options
 - NEPCO lake development
 - Mill property development
 - Recreational enhancements
 - Maintain village services

Village Strategic Plan (10-year plan)

Presented the 10-year DRAFT plan for discussion. Use the talking points below as a roadmap to drive discussions in our committee meetings.

- Have set goals to find more grants money and have surpassed them each year
- Considering NEPCO Lake safety center with a possible partnership with other municipalities. Would provide a location over there that would benefit the occupants of that area with services.
- Lumping some money to pay off a loan to be able to obtain a loan for a fire truck the station will soon need as the oldest truck is 30 years old.
- Marketing of Port Edwards from the Wisconsin Rapids Chambers.

DMI - Riverwalk and Bike Trails

Riverwalk will be a connection made through DMI property to our trails, which will include street lighting, kiosks, fencing, benches, and murals placed every 250 ft that represent our

Village and region. DMI had an initiative from the beginning to establish a path in the area the Riverwalk will be placed. Will be tapping into TIF funds to extend our bike trails starting this year. As well as the utilization of the \$500K in legacy funding.

NEPCO Lake Boundary agreement and preparations

ON 31 DEC 2023, The Village will assume control over the properties around NEPCO Lake. In our initial conversations with the County here are the data points we are using in our preparations.

We will resume responsibility for over 470 acres, 151 properties, 45 of which have houses on them. Over 85% of the lake will be the Village of Port Edwards.

They are valued at \$14M in land value and \$9M in improvements, with over \$23M in assessed value added to our tax base. (Expectations were at \$90M+). When the Village does take over, re-assessments will be done in 2024 for those parcels. The Village is being re-assessed this year.

Obviously, values will either increase or decrease over the next year as well as new construction but for now, we are planning to increase our property tax revenue by \$250K starting in 2025. Estimated taxes and values are well below anticipated goals.

We may be responsible for over 3 miles of new road networks, pending HOA Authority. We have been discussing this with our Attorney and internally to present a way ahead. The roads were developed below state standards and thus we would assume responsibility if we assume control without the proper assurances.

Also, our waste removal costs will increase by \$15-25K to include those residents in our existing contracts. This will ensure the same services on the west side of the river will be extended to the east side.

We are still defining our direct responsibility for the actual lake and regular maintenance (shoreline, bulkheads, public docks, weed removal, etc.). With the establishment of a lake District, which we are a part of this should elevate that concern.

We will be planning for a village NEPCO lake safety center for police and fire equipment along Town line Road which would cost approx. \$150K- \$800K in construction built in 2022-2023.

More sensing sessions will be conducted with the residents on that side of the lake with the majority in attendance this summer.

Budget Process

The budget is well-informed, with plenty of time to make decisions with the committees having a lot of input in it. We are open to the village about what we are doing, what the money is used for, why fees are implemented, etc.

Village debt has gone down slightly, 10% of the budget is debt.

Capital Improvements/Loans

When TIF and federal money dries up, it may get to the point in the future (over 5 years from now) that we may have to take out loans to replace/fix infrastructure.

Trustee Discussions

A good session that helps frame the issues in the Village. Making this more of a quarterly session might be more beneficial for attendance and timely input.

Adjournment at 3 p.m. by President Zurfluh.