
The Public Hearing and Village Board meeting were held at the Marshall Buehler Center and also set up as a conference call meeting and Zoom meeting.

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.

The Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget was called to order by President Mancl at 7:00 p.m. at the Marshall Buehler Center.

Present: President Mancl, Trustees Grunden, McGregor, Moore, Radtke, Saylor & Zurfluh

Absent: None

Also Present: S. Stewart, J. Worden, S. Drew, D. Gau and D. Tremmel

Citizens: Cary Smith, Joe Terry, Eric Hummel

Interim Administrator Gau presented a summary of the proposed 2024 budget.

Joe Terry had concerns regarding the lack of investment into the heavy equipment and street maintenance funds. In the past, the Village was investing the same amount each year into these funds in order to buy equipment and maintain streets according to a 10-year plan. Per the budget, the Village plans to borrow money to purchase an end loader. He asked that the Board seriously consider returning back to the fund program for capital outlay purchases.

The Village has been using TIF funds to maintain streets. Mr. Terry is concerned that once the TIF funds can no longer be used, how is the Village going to come up with \$350,000 to \$450,000 annually to maintain the infrastructure. He hopes the Board can take a close look at ramifications of not funding these programs for several years.

Mr. Terry expressed his concern with the loan the Village took out a few years ago to supplement the wastewater's operating expenses. He stated that once the wastewater treatment plant loan is paid off in 2024, perhaps the utility could begin paying on that loan.

Lastly, Mr. Terry has concerns regarding the fourth full-time police officer. He believes the ratio of students to SRO officer is significantly lower in the Port Edwards Schools as compared to Wisconsin Rapids Schools. He asked that the Board consider adjusting priorities. If we have an officer in the school and they get a call, they should be able to leave the school to answer the call unless they are dealing with an emergency matter.

He stated that the Village needs to be responsible and provide a level of service to help the community thrive.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

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.

The Village Board meeting was called to order by President Mancl at 7:20 p.m.

Present: President Mancl, Trustees Grunden, McGregor, Moore, Radtke, Saylor & Zurfluh

Absent: None

Also Present: S. Stewart, J. Worden, S. Drew, D. Gau, D. Tremmel

Citizens: Cary Smith, Eric Hummel

Motion (Radtke/Grunden) to approve the Consent Agenda (meeting minutes from November 14, 2023 Board Meeting and to approve monthly bills and the journal entries for the previous month). Motion carried. All ayes.

Public Comment: Cary Smith asked if the Airport Commission received a grant. Trustee Zurfluh informed him that the Airport Commission has a meeting this Thursday.

President's Report: President Mancl thanked everyone for their work on the budget. She also reminded everyone about the tree lighting ceremony scheduled for December 10th at 3:00 p.m. There will be food, music and activities, and Santa will light the tree at 5:00 p.m.

Airport Commission: No meeting.

Police and Fire Commission: No meeting. Scott Stewart stated that the Commission is comparing the Village and the State qualification requirements for officers of the Fire Department. They may make a recommendation to change the Village requirements if they are higher than the State requirements.

Nepco Lake District Update: Eric Hummel stated they have a follow-up ZOOM meeting on Thursday regarding the aquatic study. The next monthly meeting will be in January.

Public Works: No meeting.

Public Safety: Review of minutes.

Parks & Recreation: No meeting.

Planning, Legislative, Property & Information Technology: No meeting.

Finance & Human Resources: Review of minutes.

Motion (Radtke/Zurfluh) to approve a 3% wage increase for staff. Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion (Grunden/McGregor) to approve a 2% wage adjustment for the full-time police officers.

Motion (Radtke/Saylor) to amend the motion to give the two full-time police officers an adjustment of 40 cents per hour.

Motion failed 2-5 (Grunden-no; McGregor-no; Moore-no; Zurfluh-no; Mancl-no).

A vote was taken on the original motion. Motion carried 5-2 (Radtke-no; Saylor-no).

Motion (Radtke/Grunden) to approve the 2024 Water Utility budget as presented. Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion (Grunden/McGregor) to approve the 2024 Wastewater budget as presented. Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion (Moore/Grunden) to approve the 2024 Village budget as presented and set the levy as recommended. Motion carried 4-3. Roll call vote (Grunden-yes; McGregor-yes; Moore-yes; Radtke-no; Saylor-no; Zurfluh-no; Mancl-yes).

There were concerns expressed about taking out more loans and about funding a position with grant money.

Motion (Saylor/Zurfluh) to approve Ordinance 2023-12-5 "*Ordinance Approving Change in Village Boundary Pursuant to Boundary Agreement Between Town of Saratoga and Village of Port Edwards.*" Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion (Grunden/Moore) to enter into an Agreement with Port Edwards School District to create a Community Resource Officer position. Motion failed 3-4. Roll call vote (Grunden-yes; McGregor-yes; Moore-yes; Radtke-no; Saylor-no; Zurfluh-no; Mancl-no).

It was suggested that this motion could be brought at the January meeting after the Village Attorney has a chance to review and comment on the agreement and the Trustees have more time to review the agreement.

Motion (Grunden/Zurfluh) to accept the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) program presented by Eric Hummel and his assistance. Motion carried 4-3 (McGregor-no; Radtke-no; Saylor-no)

This program was recommended by the Police and Fire Commission. Eric Hummel stated that the fire department has a lack of policies, etc. The program is not disciplinary action but rather a process to address some areas of improvement that need to be made with the supervisor. He is willing to serve as the "coach" for the program at no cost to the Village.

Mr. Hummel stated his qualifications in psychology and human resources.

When asked about the role of the Police and Fire Commission, Scott Stewart stated that the Commission is involved in hiring, firing, promotion and discipline. The result of the third-party investigation concluded that no disciplinary action was needed.

Jason Worden stated he has no idea what is involved with this program. He is concerned that the fire department will be coached on everything they do.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Village Administrator Report: Motion (Zurfluh/Radtke) to authorize Interim Administrator and Fire Chief to apply for a Lexipol grant for turnout gear, subject to the Athletic Association's approval. Motion carried 5-2 (Moore-no; Saylor-no). The Athletic Association will vote on whether to fund the grant writer's cost of \$2,500.00.

Clerk-Treasurer Report:

Motion (Radtke/Zurfluh) to authorize the Clerk to pay the bills for the remainder of the 2024 year. Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion (Saylor/McGregor) to appoint primary election workers, special voting deputies for Edgewater, and substitute workers as presented for the 2024-2025 elections. Motion carried. All ayes.

Communications: None

Trustee comments: Trustee Radtke stated that any problems or friction between the Board and any employees needs to be resolved.

Meeting adjourned at **8:46** p.m.

Minutes taken by Diane M Tremmel, Village Clerk-Treasurer

The following Village bills were approved for payment:

Alliant Energy-final bill for 231/241 Market Ave	41.77
Port Service LLC-TIF Economic Incentive Grant	5000.00
Abts Grubofski & Vruwink LLC-legal fees retainer	1000.00
Ace Hardware-tools & supplies	116.15
Advance Janitorial Service & Supply-monthly statement	218.93
American Welding & Gas Inc-fire health & welfare	38.80
Bowmar Appraisal-final payment of assessor contract	3425.00
Capital One (Walmart)-police misc expenses	117.27
Cash-tax drawer change for collection of 2023 taxes	2000.00
Cintas Corp-monthly statement	748.35
Diversified Benefit Services Inc-health insurance deductible reimbursement	396.08
Insight FS-small equipment; street machinery	2496.60
James Leiser-unused sick leave health insurance reimb	196.91
Mark Brandt-boot allowance	280.00
Mobile Lock & Security-parks; municipal garage	417.00
Postmaster/US Postal Service-postage stamps; water utility bills postage	660.00
Solarus-monthly statement	1261.66
State of Wisconsin-November court report	161.20
Wis. State Firefighters Association-2023-24 firefighter dues (17 members)	425.00
Wood County Clerk-dog licenses	2.00
Wood County Treasurer-November jail assessment	60.00
Ag Source Coop Services-wastewater testing	930.00
Alliant Energy-monthly statement	6103.58
Amoco-monthly statement	1225.38
Complete Office of Wisconsin-paper reams	839.80
Diversified Benefit Services Inc-health insurance deductible reimbursement	140.00
Diversified Benefit Services Inc-December health reimbursement	100.00
Duane Gau Municipal Services-monthly statement	4950.00
Gannett Wisconsin LocaliQ-budget hearing notice; spring election notice	191.26
James Leiser-unused sick leave health insurance reimbursement	183.08
Piggly Wiggly-fire meeting expense	300.84

The Dirks Group-monthly Microsoft 365	36.30
Verizon Wireless-monthly statement	386.96
We Energies-monthly statement	1731.18
WM Corporate Services Inc-monthly statement	10873.01
Wood County Register of Deeds-recording fee-boundary ordinance	30.00
Aflac-monthly statement	216.62
Amazon-compost thermometer	95.02
Anderson O'Brien LLP-legal fees for Lake District & Fire Dept Investigation	1440.00
Applied Industrial Technologies-street machinery	128.74
Aspirus Inc-blood draw	33.00
Caleb Peaslee-work related safety gear	100.00
Compass Minerals America-snow & ice control	8828.98
Diversified Benefit Services Inc-health insurance deductible reimbursement	798.79
El Café LLC-TIF Economic Development Grant	5000.00
H&H Industries Inc-maintenance of wastewater equipment	163.99
Lonn Radtke-unused sick leave health insurance reimbursement	295.48
Marco Technologies LLC-copier contract & copies	93.88
Matthew Fletcher-reimbursement for TV service	898.68
Napa Auto Parts/Nekoosa-street machinery	169.99
Nekoosa Fire Department-1/2 fit rental from McQueen Equipment	150.00
Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank-December direct deposit fee	50.00
Pomp's Tirre Service Inc-street machinery	500.79
Precision Grading & Utilities Inc-two water main breaks	3542.00
Principal Life Insurance Company-January premium	55.80
Private Lines Inc-water utility outside services	175.00
Quest LLC-TIF roads & streets project	298.30
Tractor Supply Credit Plan-tools & supplies	21.99
Wood County Emergency Management-street signs for boundary agreement area	121.08
Awards 'N' More-fire office supplies	130.00
Delta Dental of Wisconsin-monthly statement	1483.22
Diane Tremmel-mileage	38.64
Diversified Benefit Services-health insurance deductible reimbursement	461.76
Kim Holcom-mileage	66.70
Wausau Chemical Corporation-chemicals	1291.44
Wayne's Drains-maintenance of sanitary sewers	350.00
Wis. Dept. of Administration-web site hosting	65.00

Wages & Salaries – December wages**73938.62****The following Water Utility Bills were approved for payment:**

Badger Meter Inc-November Cellular Serv Units; Beacon hosting	17.06
Ag Source Coop Services-water utility testing	302.50
Alliant Energy-monthly statement	2421.74
Insight FS-fuel for pumps (wells)	1057.17
Mailboxes & Parcel Depot-testing	14.46
WI State Lab of Hygiene-testing	28.00

Building Permits:

Javier Juarez (Javier's Quality Roofing & Siding)/Mark Cephas-removal of front porch; build deck

Electrical Permits & HVAC Permits:

Projects Plus Unlimited LLC/Fidel Perez-installing heating and cooling systems

Plumbing Permits:

Steve Radwill/Neil Johnson-sanitation line

Excavation Permits:

TBD Paul Grove, CC for Charter-forced relocation due to WisDOT road improvements (1030 Letendre)

Zoning Permits: None