

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2014 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm Clerk's Office, 228 W. Washington Ave, Dorchester WI 54425

Minutes:

1. President Rau called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was said.
3. Present were President Rau, Trustee Seubert, Trustee Schauer, Trustee Kussrow, Trustee Dunlap, Trustee Koncel, Clerk-Treasurer Ruge, Dean Faude, Jesse Rieck, and Kevin O'Brien-TP Printing. Trustee Schwoch showed up later during the meeting along with Rick Golz, Chief Leichtman, and Dan Krause.
4. There was no Public Input.
5. When Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Wiersma and Clerk-Treasurer Ruge were hired they were told that raises would be presented at the 3 and 6 month periods. Employee Committee recommends giving each of them the agreed upon raise of \$0.25/hour. Motion was made by Trustee Dunlap, seconded by Trustee Schauer to approve the \$0.25/hour raise for both office employees. Motion carried 6-0.
6. President Rau stated that the 2015 Fire Department budget will not be finalized until the end of November. They are still waiting on decisions from the townships, but that the contribution from the Village will range from \$46,000 - \$55,000. This item was tabled until a final budget can be received from the Fire Department.
7. President Rau stated that in the past the Village contribution to the Library has increased by \$1,000 each year. Since we are asking all other departments to make cuts he suggests that we contribute \$500 more than last year, but not the full \$1,000 as asked. Motion was made by Trustee Koncel, seconded by Trustee Seubert to contribute \$42,500 to the Library for the 2015 Library budget. Motion carried 6-0.
8. Group Health Insurance rates came in with about a 16% increase compared to last year. After the Employee Committee discussed alternative options with Brian Hedlund, Hedlund Insurance, it was suggested that the Village look at dropping its group insurance. Brian met with each of the full-time employees last week and put together an estimate of what it would cost each individual out of pocket to get insurance for them and their families. Clerk-Treasurer Ruge has put together 5 options to choose from on how the village could compensate each full-time employee for this additional cost. Option 1 was a renewal of the current policy with Security Health Insurance; Options 2-5 included reimbursement to each employee that could provide Clerk-Treasurer Ruge with a copy of their individual insurance bill plus a direct payment into a Health Savings Account for 4 full-time employees, in addition to a related bonus to 1 employee who is not eligible for a Health Savings Account at this time. A motion was made by Trustee Koncel, seconded by Trustee Schauer to approve Option 4 (Eligible employees would get a reimbursement of 75% of their monthly premiums, plus monthly deposits into their HSA's totaling \$6,000 /year). Motion carried 6-0.
9. Before final decisions could be made on the 2015 Budget, wages for employees needed to be set. Clerk-Treasurer Ruge provided all board members a spreadsheet that showed current rates on the 6 employees that were to be decided. Each employee can be increased individually, or all can be increased at the same rate or percentage with the Board's discretion. It was mentioned that all full-time employees were now receiving an additional increase in benefits from the health insurance decision and that could be taken into consideration. Motion was made by Trustee Koncel to increase Public Works and Office staff at \$0.40/hour each, and increase Chief Leichtman's salary by 4%. Motion was seconded by Trustee Schauer. Motion carried 5-1, with President Rau opposing it.
10. Justin Sornsins, MSA, was here to present the 2015 Budget. President Rau stated that when he and Clerk-Treasurer Ruge first received a copy of the preliminary amounts on Monday, there was approximately \$95,000 that needed to be cut out. After removing a few large purchase items, and changing salary amounts, we now had a surplus, and needed to decide on what should be put back in. President Rau stated that the Village owns a piece of land on the West side of town that we currently do not have access to. In order for anyone to enter that field, they must pass through privately owned property. President Rau said the engineering for this was done in the past, and

in order for this property to be able to be developed in the future, we should look at putting in a driveway. Approximate cost of this would be \$12,000-\$15,000 for 15-20 feet of access, so \$15,000 was added to complete this project in 2015. Chief Leichtman was asked if he could go 1 more year with the current squad car even though it was originally planned to be replaced in 2015. He stated that would be fine, since he had to make additional purchases for digital radios in 2014 to be compatible with the county's system. Much discussion was held with Public Works employees on the need for a pay loader, instead of replacing an old plow truck and end loader. Board decided to place a \$35,000 amount in the budget for purchase of equipment for Public Works department, with the decision on what will be purchased to be made at a later time. Water utility has a surplus in its budget, but the Sewer Utility cannot support the repairs/cost for 2015 without an increase. Board budgeted for a 3% increase in the sewer use rate, which will bring the cost from \$8.81/1,000 gallons of usage to \$9.07/1,000 gallons of usage. Motion was made by Trustee Koncel, seconded by Trustee Schauer to approve the 2015 as it appeared on screen after all changes were made as suggested. Motion carried 7-0. A full copy of the budget will be available in the Clerk's office.

11. Public Works/Building Committee Chairperson Trustee Kussrow suggested the Village rehire Mike Arndt for part-time snow removal this winter. After discussing with the Public Works supervisor, this helps cut down on overtime for full-time employees and helps if any full-time employee is out of town when it snows. Motion was made by Trustee Kussrow, seconded by Trustee Schauer to approve the rehiring of Mike Arndt at a rate of \$15.00/hour during the upcoming winter season as needed. Motion carried 7-0.

12. Clerk-Treasurer Ruge stated that WE Energies had contacted her with interest in being provided an easement to provide natural gas service at 15961 STH 13. The easement would run along the Village's current right of way. Motion was made by Trustee Koncel, seconded by Trustee Schwoch to approve easement as Resolution No. 272. Motion carried 7-0.

13. Earlier discussion on the 2015 Budget resulted in the decision that a new police vehicle would not be purchased until 2016, so this item was tabled until a future date in 2015 for discussion.

14. Motion was made by Trustee Koncel, seconded by Trustee Schauer to approve an Operator's License for Megan Zoellick. Motion carried 7-0.

15. Building Permits for the following properties were approved by Jim Jantsch:

- *15961 State Highway 13 (addition/renovation)

- *137 N. 2nd Street (new garage)

16. Regular Board meeting for November will be pushed back to Wednesday, November 19, 2014 because of publishing requirements for the Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget. Motion was made by Trustee Schauer, seconded by Trustee Schwoch to approve the change in dates for the November Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

17. Motion was made by Trustee Dunlap, seconded by Trustee Schauer to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Brooke Ruge, Clerk-Treasurer