

**VILLAGE OF BALDWIN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2023 – 6:00pm**

Prior to this village board meeting, board members had the opportunity to tour the new sewer plant on Florence St. Four board members and members of the staff were present for the tour. A quorum of board members was present. No village business was conducted.

The Village of Baldwin Board of Trustees held their regular board meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. President Lance Van Damme called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Tracy Carlson took roll call. Those present included: President Lance Van Damme, Trustees Kristine Forbes, Matt Knegendorf, Amy Jurgens, Doug Newton, Austin Van Someren and Chad Wernlund.

Others present: EMS Chief Tom Boyer, Public Works Director Brad Boldt, Librarian Rita Magno, Engineer Erik Henningsgard, Attorney Paul Mahler, Jodi Peterson, City of Rice Lake Mayor Justin Fonfara, James Wyngaard, Angela Chandler, Mitch Nichols, Mike Stoffel, Michele Dickhausen, Charlie Forbush and Jason Schulte

CONSENT AGENDA

Van Someren **moved** to approve the consent agenda items. Seconded by Jurgens. Motion carried. Items approved included:

- Checks written #41906-42029; payroll vouchers #28733-28844; and online checks for payroll taxes, HSA contributions, deferred comp/Roth IRA contributions, Payment System Network (PSN) payments and WI Retirement System (WRS) contributions.
- Financial reports (including budget comparisons) for September 2023.
- Minutes from Sept. 13, 2023 Regular Village Board Meeting
- Municipal court report – September, 2023
- Building inspector report – September, 2023
- Closure of Main St for BW Chamber of Commerce Trick-or-Treat event (Oct. 31)
- Wage adjustment for Brian Newton for positive 6-month review

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Comments: President Van Damme called for public comments.

Rice Lake Mayor Justin Fonfara explained to the board that he and Pres. Van Damme had a friendly bet regarding the BW High School/Rice Lake High School football game held in Sept. The losing team's elected official would have to wear the winning team's jersey for their next public meeting. Mayor Fonfara presented Pres. Van Damme with a Rice Lake football jersey as BW High School lost the game. Pres. Van Damme sported the Rice Lake jersey for the entire meeting as was their agreement.

No other public comments were heard.

Planning Commission:

Rancho Loco Signs: At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, Jurgens **moved** to approve the signs for Rancho Loco (2570 Gracie Dr) as presented. Seconded by Van Someren. Motion carried.

West Central Biosolids bonding: Sean Lentz (Ehlers) reported that the West Central Biosolids is doing a large upgrade to their facility, and they are asking all participating municipalities to pledge a portion of their borrowing capacity to assist in obtaining financing for the project. Knegendorf **moved** to approve Resolution 2023-16 – Resolution designating allocation of West Central Biosolids Facility revenue bonds to municipalities for bank qualification purposes. Seconded by Newton. Motion carried by roll call vote with all in favor. The amount of borrowing capacity needed from the Village of Baldwin is approx. \$413,597.

Financing village projects: Sean Lentz (Ehlers) explained to the board that, due to WI DNR required processes not being followed properly for application to the Safe Drinking Water Fund, the funding request may not be approved for the 2023 street construction project. The village board can continue with the process to obtain interim financing as presented at the Sept board meeting or anticipate not getting the low-interest funding from the state and move forward to obtain long-term general obligation debt at a much higher interest rate. The board agreed to continue with the interim financing process with anticipation that approval will be obtained for the Safe Drinking Water fund program. The projects that will be financed include: 2023 Street Project (\$1,003,626); water meter replacement/installation (2023 - \$87,500); south water tower repainting/repairs (\$137,082), additional street repairs (Locust St) (\$46,211) for a total of \$1,285,000 (Series 2023B). The refunding of the interim financing will be finalized through the Clean Water/Safe Drinking Water Funds. No action taken.

Ordinance amendment proposals:

Ch. 224-06 – Roller skates/roller skis/skateboards; At the request of Village Trustee Kristine Forbes, the Streets/Building Committee reviewed and ultimately denied a request to change this ordinance which would allow motorized scooters/skateboards etc. to be used on village streets. Forbes asked the board to reconsider this decision. She expressed her reasonings for wanting to allow motorized scooters, including that the village board should not tell citizens what to do for recreation, this is a “green” alternative to using a vehicle, that all riders should follow the rules of the road etc.

Newton **moved** that the ordinance remain the same with no changes. Seconded by Knegendorf. Motion failed 3-4 by roll call vote with Van Damme, Forbes, Jurgens and Wernlund opposed to not changing the ordinance.

Wernlund then **moved** to approve the amendment to allow motorized scooters/skateboards, etc. to be used on village streets. Seconded by Forbes. Motion failed by roll call vote 3-3-1 with Van Damme, Forbes and Wernlund in favor; Van Someren, Knegendorf and Newton opposed and Jurgens abstaining. The ordinance amendment was not approved and motorized scooters/skateboards continue to be illegal when used on village streets.

Ch. 547-34 – Non-traffic violations. At the request of the Municipal Court Clerk and the Police Dept, an amendment to this ordinance was presented to streamline the parking ticket process for the court and to provide that parking tickets be issued as a citation as opposed to a “parking ticket envelope”. The amendment was a collaboration between the court clerk, the police department, and the village administrator. Van Someren **moved** to approve the amendment as presented. Seconded by Wernlund. Motion carried.

Windmill Days Committee: Jodi Peterson, Windmill Days Committee, requested \$7000 for the 2024 event plus an additional \$6000 for a laser light show to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Village. The board agreed to table this item until the 2024 budget is reviewed to determine if additional funds are available. This will be discussed again at the November board meeting

Temporary appointment Police Commission: Austin Van Someren has recused himself from the Police Commission as they deliberate the hiring of a new police chief. Trustee Amy Jurgens offered to be temporarily appointed to replace him until a police chief is hired. By consensus, the board approved the appointment.

League of Municipalities/Mutual Insurance: Administrator Carlson reported that a quote for property/auto/work comp insurance was solicited and received by the League of Municipalities Mutual Insurance. Their premium is significantly less than our current carrier. At the suggestion of Carlson, Van Someren **moved** to approve changing brokers/companies effective Jan. 1, 2024. Seconded by Forbes. Motion carried.

Presbyterian Church property: At the request of Librarian Rita Magno, the board considered the possible purchase of the Presbyterian Church (1650 8th Ave.), which has closed. Magno and the Library Board/staff viewed the property with Admin. Carlson as a possible option for a new library. The library staff determined that the building would not be conducive to remodeling for a library but should be considered for other village uses. The board briefly discussed possible uses and determined that there are too many unknowns about the building to make an offer. There was little interest in researching the building further. (As of this meeting, there is a known offer on the building).

Old EMS Building (630 Hwy. 12): Van Someren **moved** to reduce the price of the old EMS garage from \$475,000 to \$325,000. Seconded by Newton. Motion carried.

Special assessments – 2023 Street Project: Mike Stoffel explained that the final special assessments are 99% completed. There are two driveways that need to be completed with asphalt. Carlson requested that the board approve the special assessments and resolution with the final two driveway amounts to be submitted within a week. Newton **moved** to approve Resolution 2023-17 – Final Assessments for the 2023 Street Projects. Seconded by Knegendorf. Motion carried by roll call vote with all in favor.

Certificate of Deposits: Administrator Carlson informed the board that interest rates on certificate of deposits at Citizen State Bank in Woodville is substantially higher rates than the current rates at Westconsin Credit Union. Van Someren **moved** to check with Westconsin Credit Union to see if they will match the rate and if not, to move three CD’s to Citizen State Bank for their 15 month special rate of 5.43%. Seconded by Van Damme. Motion carried.

Purchase of snow pusher/sewer plant: Public Works Director Boldt requested that a snow pusher be purchased for the new sewer plant. He obtained four quotes, the lowest being for \$9800. Van Someren **moved** to approve the purchase from Tri-State Equipment. Seconded by Jurgens. Motion carried.

Sewer plant pay requests: Van Someren **moved** to approve pay request #26 - RJ Jurowski - \$275,895, SEH - \$42,113.32, Lincoln Contractors Supply, Inc. - \$402.63; Bakke Norman - \$225; Clifton Larson Allen - \$1,848. Seconded by Jurgens. Motion carried.

Sewer plant change order #36: Jeremiah Wendt (SEH) explained the requests listed on change order #36 increasing the project amount by \$12,685.78. Van Someren **moved** to approve the change order. Seconded by Wernlund. Motion carried 6-1 with Van Damme opposed.

2023 Street project pay request: Van Someren **moved** to approve pay request #4 for Albrightson Excavating - \$135,013. Seconded by Knegendorf. Motion carried.

EMS building pay requests: Jurgens **moved** to approve pay request #8 - \$209,947.37, Wold Architects - \$5,042.37; Kraus Anderson – \$74,017.67; HES - \$20,704.80; Sleep Number - \$3,834.44. Seconded by Van Someren. Motion carried.

REPORTS -

Village Engineer – Erik Henningsgard (SEH) – Written report submitted. Henningsgard reported that the north water tower work is out for bid and will be ready for the November board meeting and he met the board members at the new sewer plant to assist with the tour of the facilities.

Committee Reports

EMS Committee: Chief Tom Boyer reported that the committee met and are recommending approval of his requested increases of 5% for the 2024 run rates, a pay rate increase for on-call staff effective Oct, 2023 and ordering a new ambulance for delivery in 2025. Van Someren **moved** to approve all items as recommended by the EMS Committee. Seconded by Jurgens. Motion carried.

Dept. Heads

Public Works – Director Boldt reported that Day & Night Towing removed and then reset the walking bridge at Florence St. at no cost to the village. The board thanked them for their generosity.

Police Department – No one present. No report submitted.

EMS – Report submitted. There were 160 calls for service in September, 2023. Chief Boyer gave a brief update on the EMS building project.

Library – Librarian Magno reported that there were 30-40 people present for Coloring with a Cop, a staff day was held on Sept. 30 which allowed the carpets to be cleaned and the library staff participated in the Chamber Chili Fest.

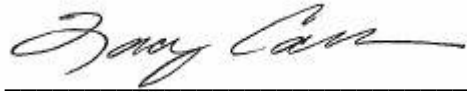
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer's Report – Administrator Carlson reported on the following:

- Interviews for the Chief of Police have been arranged with three candidates selected by the Police Commission.
- The annual application for a simplified water rate increase will be applied for with the PSC.
- The Winter Farmers Market will begin on Sat., Oct. 14.
- Budget review meeting will be held on Oct. 18. All board members are invited to attend.

Being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.



Lance Van Damme
Village President



Tracy Carlson
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer