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**VILLAGE OF WEBSTER**

# REGULAR MEETING BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday – February 14, 2024  
@ 6:00 P.M.

7421 Main Street, Webster, WI

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** –Village President, Bill Summer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – Village President, Bill Summer; Trustee, Ed Dedman; Trustee, Tim Maloney; Trustee, Matt Stuart; Trustee, Charlie Weis; Trustee, Kelsey Gustafson; Trustee, Aaron Sears; Police Chief, Stephenie Wedin; Public Works Director, Dean Phernetton; Admin Assist, Betty Teschler; Greg Marsten – Burnett County Sentinel; Absent; Clerk-Treasurer, Debra Doriott-Kuhnly
- III. **PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENDA, DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL** - There were no guests present on the agenda. Motion made by Trustee, Maloney to approve the agenda seconded by Trustee, Stuart. **Motion carried 7-0**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Trustee, Dedman to approve the January 10, 2024, Caucus Meeting Minutes; seconded by Trustee Stuart. **Motion carried 7-0** Motion was made by Trustee, Weis to approve the January 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; seconded by Trustee, Dedman. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- V. **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS & RECEIPTS:** January 9, 2024 – February 5, 2024 vouchers in the amount of \$195,354.62 and receipts in the amount of \$488,297.77 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Trustee, Sears; seconded by Trustee, Gustafson to approve vouchers and receipts. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None
- VII. **JUDICIAL/REGULATORY** – **Chairman, Bill Summer:** The February and March Police Department schedule was provided in the board meeting packet. Chief Wedin read the total monthly calls for service – total of calls was 37.  
  
Village President, Summer, and Trustee, Dedman, plan on attending The League of Wisconsin Municipalities Regional Roundtables on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in Rice Lake. They both stated this is a very informative way to discuss, share, and connect with other communities. There is a 30-day advanced sign-up requirement and no cost for anyone wishing to go. Please notify the Clerk if you wish to attend. Trustee Mahoney confirmed he has attended in the past and found it very beneficial and informative. The meeting overview revolves around the League and what it does, in addition to our municipality membership along with current issues and questions unique to this area.
- VIII. **PERSONNEL** – **Chairman, Ed Dedman:** Nothing new to report.

IX. **PUBLIC UTILITY - Chairman, Aaron, Sears:** Director of Public Works, Dean Phernetton discussed the new WPDES Permit and it is more stringent on the amount of phosphorus that can be released. Every Monday when they take a phosphorus test at the time of release, testing comes back between 2-6 parts per million. Currently, we can release 518 #s per year. The mathematical formula is 518#s based on the rate we release for our levels, but the new guideline will require we add the chemical, Alum, to the pond to stay within the 1 part or less, per million requirement. This is the cheapest way to get the phosphorus out. The Public Works Dept. is still working through how to accomplish this, but think they should be able to do it from shore using a pump they already have. Phernetton explained when they add the Alum to the pond, the wind and rain will mix it, causing it to disperse naturally and the Alum will attach to the phosphorus, sinking it to the bottom where it will be contained. Previously, they had not done anything to treat the phosphorus and we have time to find out what does and doesn't work. Phernetton stated they won't be adding Alum to the big pond where sewage comes in, but rather the second or third pond; testing is done near the point of release. He further stated we might need to get MSA on board, but because we have time (3-4 years) they'll try to get this done themselves as they think it should be fairly easy. A jar test will be done to determine the amount of Alum needed to be added and they plan on testing before and after adding the Alum to determine the amount needed. A rough cost estimate for the Alum is between \$2000-\$4000 per year. However, the bigger problem and cost will be the removal of the sludge with a rough estimate which could run \$50,000-\$1000,000 in as little as ten (10) years.

Trustee, Sears inquired how the house inspections for water were progressing, and Phernetton indicated there have been challenges getting into homes, leaky valves, etc., but they are finding the new portable testing meter a time-saver.

X. **FINANCE – Chairman, Matt Stuart:** The Wisconsin Governor's Fishing Opener sponsorship was discussed for possible approval. Trustee, Dedman shared both the Webster and Danbury Chamber of Commerce are going to share a \$500 sponsorship. It was also mentioned the Tavern League will be committing to a \$1500 level sponsorship. Trustee, Dedman, as part of the Tourism Coalition, inquired how other municipalities, more particularly, the Village of Webster, would benefit or gain from making a donation, as the village is represented by the Chamber. If we do a sponsorship, our name will be listed on the fishing towel. There does not seem to be any deadline noted but a decision will need to be made based on the lead time required to have those printed. The possibility of printing and hanging banners to welcome participants was discussed as this might prove more beneficial as Webster is the gateway to the lake; but at this time, we don't know what launch the Governor will be using. Trustee, Dedman, again questioned, from his perspective, if we would get enough benefit out of doing a sponsorship. Trustee, Weis indicated we would be conspicuous by our absence if we don't. Trustee, Mahoney stated there has to be somewhere in-between because we are not worried about advertising or recognition on a website, so maybe we could represent the village by including something in the VIP bag, a booth at the family fishing day event, or sending a couple of people to the VIP dinner as representation. Trustee, Dedman made a motion to table this until the March Board Meeting so we might have a better idea what other municipalities are doing as this seems to be more of a business sponsorship rather than for municipalities. Further discussion ensued with Trustee, Weis asking what the cost of banners would be to hang across the highway welcoming the Governor. President Summer indicated the state won't grant permission for banners over the highway. However, it was agreed that a couple of temporary welcome banners hung in the Village may be more beneficial. Trustee Weis stated he would check on the price of banners. Trustee, Maloney seconded the motion to table this until the next board meeting in March. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- XI. **PUBLIC PROPERTY – Chairman, Tim Maloney:** Nothing on the agenda. It was mentioned the minutes from last month indicate Trustee, Weis was going to contact REM to arrange for an inspection of the mobile homes at the Mobile Home Park. Trustee Weis stated he has not had an opportunity to contact REM.

President, Summer stated he wanted thoughts from the board to invite Laura Wagner/ADRC to the Public Property meeting on February 26, 2024. It was agreed this would be the perfect place to discuss their building plan. The new agenda needs to be reposted 24 hours before the meeting.

- XII. **STREETS – Chairman, Kelsey Gustafson:** Nothing on the agenda- Informational. Trustee, Gustafson shared that the proposed project, Hwy 35 County K through A going through the Village of Webster, has been pushed back, possibly until 2030. He further stated we had also applied jointly with the county for a Grant to repair County X but that will more than likely be pushed back a year as well.

- XIII. **DEVELOPMENT & ANNEXATION – Chairman, Charlie Weis:** Nothing on the agenda- Informational. Trustee, Weis discussed the \$25,000 grant we had applied for which was for villages to use to hire resources, such as grant writers, etc., to apply for bigger grants, obtain a community assessment, etc., was not approved even though Dick Hartman put in a lot of work getting this put together. However, Trustee Weis was recently notified that the US Dept of Agriculture Strategic Economic Community Development Initiative sent out another announcement for a grant to support projects to help rural communities thrive so we will be pursuing this one also.

Trustee Weis and Mark Krause had a meeting with a developer who might be interested in developing Smith Pines. This is very preliminary, but he is doing studies for projected population growth, etc. and we won't have any more information until next month. President Summer stated he has given thought to garnering more public interest in developing Smith Pines by possibly contacting an artist or MSA to see how much it would cost to get an artist's rendering for the proposed development and what it would look like with green space and a park. It should be large enough to put on an easel so the public could come and take a look at it. He further stated he would be willing to sponsor a band to turn this into an event so the architectural rendering could be put on display at the fairgrounds on a Saturday afternoon. This will be dependent on the cost but wonder if anyone has any other ideas, any interest, or if this should be discussed further. Previously MSA did an analysis but that was all. There are now two (2) lots available, and questions have been raised about why we're not selling lots if there is a need for housing. The concern is how we get from vacant property to a housing development and the need to work with a developer to build houses. It was agreed we need to figure out a way to think outside the box to entice a developer. Because we Previously worked with MSA we should reach out to them first and it's going to cost money to get the infrastructure there first, but we will have to look into this further.

- XIV. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE –** Dedman reported the Chamber is taking over the Memorial weekend Craft Fair. The Chamber will be involved with the Governor's Fishing Opener.
- XV. **WEBSTER RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION MEETING UPDATE –Trustee, Maloney:** Maloney reported the next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- XVI. **BURNETT COUNTY TOURISM COALITION - Trustee, Dedman:** Dedman reported the BCTC will hold their annual meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at The Lodge. Planning is underway for the Governor's Fishing opener.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE MEETINGS:

- TBD \*Plan Commission Meeting
- February 14, 2024 \*Regular Board Meeting

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT. Motion was made by President, Summer; seconded by Trustee, Dedman to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Doriott-Kuhnly

Clerk-Treasurer

February 14, 2024

\*\*\*These minutes are subject to approval at next month's Regular Meeting.

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Village President, Bill Summer

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Trustee, Ed Dedman

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Trustee, Kelsey Gustafson

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Trustee, Tim Maloney

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Trustee, Aaron Sears

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Trustee, Matt Stuart

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Trustee, Charlie Weis

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer