

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING
January 3, 2023 7:00pm
130 N. Chestnut St. Lower Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)

Village Board Member Present: President Beissel, Trustees Anderson, Neeley, Borner, T. Hines, D. Hines and Austin.

Staff Present: Chief of Police Ladwig, Public Works Director Vick, Library Director Meyer (zoom), Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Roy.

One other in attendance, three others present online.

MINUTES

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Beissel.**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

10-minute discussion limit on all agenda and non-agenda items per Roberts Rules of Order, the Village Board may suspend this rule if deemed necessary, no board action may be taken on non-agenda items

- 2. Approval of minutes –12/5. MSC Anderson/T. Hines to approve the minutes.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**
- 3. Approve payments and deposits. MSC Borner/D. Hines to approve the minutes.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**
- 4. Public comment on non-agenda items.** No public comments.
- 5. Discuss 2023 Piety/Grant Reconstruct Sewer and Water Surveying and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program application.** Jon Strand from CBS² presented the project. There are issues with the watermain being undersized and possible lead connections. The issues with the sewer lines are cracks, misalignment, and sags. The project would be paid for with revenue bonds which are added to the utility charges and covers the full scope of the project including street and sidewalk replacement. The funding program has a application deadline of June 30. If the Village is to move forward, surveying and design would need to be started soon. A resolution to support need to be approved in February. The program also offers “principal forgiveness” for the bonds, but any amount of forgiveness is not known until August. No action taken.
- 6. Discuss future Village internet options (Scott Freier SwiftCurrent/Pierce-Pepin Cooperative Services).** Scott Freier presented the status of the SwiftCurrent/Pierce-Pepin Cooperative Services internet buildout. They are at the point to expand into the Village. The Village could utilize the service to provide “smart city” applications. No action taken.
- 7. Discuss and Approve Ordinance #700 amending the Village President salary.** Ordinance #700 was presented. Wages of Presidents and Trustees of other comparable communities were presented and discussed at a previous Salary and Labor Committee meeting. The current Trustee salary was within the average of the other communities, but the current President salary was below the average. The range of other President salaries was \$7,200 to \$10,000, the Salary and Labor Committee recommended raising the President salary to \$8,000. Trustee Austin voiced concerns about Village expenses and whether this is the right time to increase the President salary with all of the other financial needs in the Village. **MSC D. Hines/Borner to**

approve Ordinance #700 amending the Village President salary. Trustee D. Hines discussed how the amended salary would start after the upcoming election and how the proposed salary is within the average of comparable communities. Trustee Austin questioned whether the new deputy clerk could take on some of the tasks that the President is currently doing. President Beissel detailed some of the roles of the position. **Motion passed with five in favor and one (Austin) against.**

8. **Discuss and Approve Ordinance #701 amending the Village Board meeting time.** Ordinance 701 was presented, changing the Village Board meeting time to the first Monday of each month at 6:00pm. **MSC Austin/T. Hines to approve Ordinance #701 amending the Village Board meeting time.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**
9. **Discuss proposed plan for the Vibrant Spaces Grant.** President Beissel presented the grant which is up to \$50,000 for placemaking. The proposed scope of work would be for the exterior and underneath the drive through at the new library building. The goal would be to create gather places. Trustee T. Hines questioned the cost to the Village. President Beissel responded that the Library would be covering the costs for the project. Library Director Meyer discussed the project and the support of the Library Board. Questions were asked about the proposed activities and possible security. A resolution will be needed for the application. No further action taken.
10. **Approve Resolution 2023-1 to authorize the submittal of an application to the WEDC Community Development Investment Grant – Vibrant Spaces.** Resolution 2023-1 was presented. **MSC Austin/Neeley to approve Resolution 2023-1.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**
11. **Discuss and Approve the removal of the special assessment for the Pierce County Lift Station.** Public Works Director Vick presented the situation. The current assessment does not benefit the property. The Sewer and Water Committee recommended removing the special assessment for the Pierce County Lift Station. Village Attorney Loberg provided additional detail and the history of the assessment. **MSC T. Hines/Borner to approve the removal of the special assessment for the Pierce County Lift Station.** No further discussion. **Motion passes with five in favor and D. Hines abstaining.**
12. **Discuss and Approve the closing of the Construction and Demolition Landfill by April 2023.** Trustee Austin presented closing the Construction and Demolition Landfill. Public Works Director Vick explained that he believes this is the best option for the Village. It does not produce a revenue and the compost site will still be available. The material needed for the closing is already onsite. **MSC T. Hines/Neeley to approve closing of the Construction and Demolition Landfill by April 2023.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**
13. **Discuss and Approve Market & Johnson December invoices for 388 W. Main Street.** President Beissel presented the December invoices. **MSC Austin/Anderson to approve Market & Johnson December invoices for 388 W. Main Street.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**
14. **Updates on Change Order Requests for New Library Project.** No Change Order Requests. No action taken.
15. **Discuss and approve Police Department staffing.** Police Chief Ladwig presented the current staffing of the Police Department. The Administrative Support position recently became vacant,

one officer has resigned, another officer resignation is expected and the sergeant position is currently vacant. The Administrative Support position needs to be posted to be filled. Salary and Labor Committee recommended having the Administrative Support position be part-time 6-hours/day. **MSC Borner/Austin to approve the Administrative Support position to be part-time 6-hours/day and \$23.00/hour.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

16. President's Report. President Beissel presented her report detailing the projects she is involved with and working on.

17. Committee/Commission meeting reports/recommendations.

- a. **TID Joint Review Board**
- b. **Plan Commission**
- c. **Board of Appeals**
- d. **Board of Review**
- e. **ETZ**
- f. **Water and Sewer**
- g. **Street & Sidewalk**
- h. **Salary and Labor**
 - Trustee D. Hines reviewed the December 27 meeting minutes.
- i. **Parks, Recreation, & Development**
- j. **Finance, Purchasing, Buildings**
- k. **Public Safety**
- l. **Health, License, Welfare**
- m. **Solid Waste, Cable TV, Special Committee**
- n. **Cemetery**
- o. **Community Development Authority**

18. Department Head Reports: Department activity/update

- a. **Chief of Police Ladwig presented his report**
- b. **Director of Public Works Vick presented his report**
- c. **Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Roy presented his report**
- d. **Library Director Meyer presented her report**

19. Adjournment. MSC Borner/Austin to adjourn. No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer