

**VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING  
December 7, 2020 7:00 p.m.**

**130 N. Chestnut St. Lower Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

**Members Present:** Trustees Lance Austin, Becky Beissel, Scott Feuerhelm (Appeared Remotely), Neil Gulbranson, Michael J. Steele and Curt Wandmacher

**Staff Present:** Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Stewart, Library Director Meyer

**Others Present:** Village Attorney Bob Loberg, 1 audience member and multiple virtual Zoom meeting participants

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.**

**2. Approval of minutes – 11/02/2020 and 11/23/2020:** MSC Gulbranson/Beissel to approve the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes as presented. **Unanimous.** MSC Wandmacher/Beissel to approve the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes as presented. **Unanimous.**

**3. Approve bills:** MSC Steele/Austin to approve the bills as submitted. **Unanimous.**

**4. Public comment on non-agenda items:** Angie Whelan made a public statement regarding 245 S. Broadway street encouraging the Village to start the process by requesting access to inspect and plan to follow through on the property issues until it is resolved.

**5. Adopt Ordinance #687 extending sunset date of ATV and UTV route from 12/31/20 to 12/31/21:** MSC Gulbranson/Austin to adopt Ordinance #687 extending sunset date of ATV and UTV routes from 12/31/20 to 12/31/21. **Unanimous.**

**6. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance #688 extending sunset date of 12/31/20 to 12/31/21 on reduction of residential and commercial Impact Fees:** MSC Steele/Wandmacher to approve Ordinance #688 extending sunset date of 12/31/20 to 12/31/21 on reduction of residential and commercial Impact Fees. **Unanimous.**

**7. Approve Cudd's Mobile Home Park License for 2021:** MSC Gulbranson/Austin to approve Cudd's Mobile Home Park License for 2021. **Unanimous.**

**8. Approve current Life Insurance/STD plan and dental plan renewal 1/1/21:** MSC Beissel/Austin to approve current Life Insurance/STD plan and dental plan renewal 1/1/21. **Unanimous.**

**9. Village of Ellsworth- Sub OPEB Valuation Proposal:** MSC Gulbranson/Steele to approve the Sub OPEB valuation proposal. **Unanimous.**

**10. 3.5% increase to garbage cart services for the Village of Ellsworth:** MSC Wandmacher/Austin to approve the 3.5% increase as presented. **Unanimous.**

**11. Renewal of cleaning contract with Dawn Churchill:** MSC Gulbranson/Beissel to renew the cleaning contract with Dawn Churchill. **Unanimous.**

**12. Approve Wipfli CPA's & Consultants 2020 Audit Contract:** MSC Wandmacher/Austin to approve

Wipfli CPA's and Consultants 2020 audit contract. **Unanimous.**

**13. Approve a Kennel License for Jodi Jalowitz Brown at 325 E. Crosstown Road: MSC**

Gulbranson/Wandmacher to approve the kennel license for Jodi Jalowitz Brown at 325 E. Crosstown Road. **Unanimous.**

**14. Committee/Commission meeting reports/recommendations:**

**A. Plan Commission**

- Discuss a petition from Barrett Macejkovic, Lot 3 Railroad Ave., for a change in zoning from Agricultural (A) to Residential (R-1): **MSC** Wandmacher/Austin to approve petition from Barrett Macejkovic, Lot 3 Railroad Ave., for a change in zoning from Agricultural (A) to Residential (R-1). **Unanimous.**

**B. Board of Appeals**

**C. ETZ**

**D. Water and Sewer**

**E. Street & Sidewalk**

**F. Salary and Labor/Finance Committee**

- Reviewed Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.
- 2021 non-union employee wages/benefits, health insurance design plan/employee % effective 12/1/20 renewal date

**MSC** Gulbranson/Beissel that we give the Public Works Department a 2.5% wage increase and increase the monthly cell phone reimbursement by \$10. **Unanimous.** The approved increases start on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher that we give Mike Huppert a \$4 raise if he accepts the interim Public Works director position until June 1<sup>st</sup>. **Unanimous.** The approved salary change would start on December 1, 2020 if he accepts. The village board also clarified that Mr. Huppert would also get a 2.5% increase on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Austin that we give the part-time Public Works employees a 50-cent wage increase per hour. **Unanimous.** The approved increase starts on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Beissel that we give Police Chief Ladwig a 2.5% wage increase. **Unanimous.** The approved increase starts on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher that we give the Police office staff member Jennifer Wagner a 2.5% wage increase. **Unanimous.** The approved increase starts on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Austin that we give the part-time police officers a 2.5% wage increase. **Unanimous.** The approved increase starts on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Beissel that we give Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Stewart a 2.5% wage increase. **Unanimous.** The wage increase starts on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher that we give Office Assistant Angie Fisher a \$3 raise effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. **Unanimous.**

**MSC** Gulbranson/Steele that we give Public Works Director Greg Engeset a 2.5% wage increase.

**Unanimous.** The wage increase starts on January 1, 2021.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher that we give everyone a \$10 raise on monthly cell phone reimbursements. **Unanimous.**

**MSC** Gulbranson/Beissel that due to Covid-19 allowing staff to carry over a maximum of 80 hours to be used within 2021. **Unanimous.**

**MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher to recommend that due to Covid-19 allowing union police staff to carry over a maximum of 80 hours to be used within 2021 contingent on union signing off that it doesn't trigger renegotiations. **Unanimous.**

**MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher that the monthly percentage of health insurance payments remains the same for employees and to add on to the currently policy that the village will pay up to \$1,000 for a family plan after the employee pays \$8,000 and up to \$500 for single after the employee pays \$4,000. **Unanimous.** That will provide a second payment that employees are eligible for due to the rise in deductible.

No action taken to change village board compensation.

**G. Parks, Recreation, & Development**

**H. Finance, Purchasing, Buildings**

- Reviewed Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes

**Motion** Wandmacher/Steele to purchase the BMO bank building using the library funds and proceed with the base remodel as prepared by Ayres and Associates Inc. The Village will borrow \$500,000 for the project after the library has collected through fundraising or grants enough to complete the base remodeling, or more if funds are raised. The Village will proceed to apply for the We Cares grant for the Sr. Center and Community room. **Motion Amended**

Wandmacher/Steele to purchase the BMO bank building using the library funds and proceed with the base remodel as prepared by Ayers and Associates Inc. The Village will borrow \$500,000 for the project after the library has raised and reached a minimum of \$350,00 to be realized cash in hand. The Village will proceed to apply for the We Cares grant for the Sr. Center and Community room. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**I. Public Safety:** Trustee Beissel informed the board that Allina did not reach an agreement with the ambulance service and that the ambulance service needed to set something else up by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**J. Health, License, Welfare**

- Reviewed Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

- Ordinance 11.22 Prohibited Conduct of Sex Offender: **MSC** Gulbranson/Wandmacher to approve Ordinance 11.22. **Unanimous.**

**K. Solid Waste, Cable TV, Special Committee**

**L. Cemetery**

**M. Community Development Authority**

**15. Department Head Reports:** Department activity/update

**A. Chief of Police** submitted a monthly report.

**B. Director of Public Works/Zoning Administrator** submitted a monthly report.

**C. Administrator-Clerk/Treas.** provided a report at the meeting.

**D. Library Director Meyer** submitted a monthly report and reviewed it at the meeting.

**MSC** Gulbranson/Austin to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85 (1)(g)

conferring with legal counsel. **Unanimous** after a roll call vote.

**16. Closed Session:** The village board adjourned to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(g) conferring with counsel. Conferring with legal counsel who either orally or in writing advised the governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or likely litigation. The legal consultation was about a property located at 245 S. Broadway Street.

**MSC Wandmacher/Steele** to go into open session. **Unanimous** after a roll call vote.

**MSC Steele/Wandmacher** to direct the village attorney to send a letter to the property owner requesting consent to inspect the property and in the event the property owner fails to consent to the inspection direct the attorney to apply for an inspection warrant. **Unanimous.**

**MSC Wandmacher/Steele** to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel. **Unanimous** after a roll call vote.

**17. Closed Session:** The village board adjourned to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(g) conferring with counsel. Conferred with legal counsel who either orally or in writing advised the governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or likely litigation. The legal consultation was regarding a property located at W6404 450<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**MSC Wandmacher/Gulbranson** to go into open session. **Unanimous** after a roll call vote.

The Village board decided to take no action regarding the property located at W6404 450<sup>th</sup> Ave at this time.

**18. Adjournment:** **MSC Beissel/Steele** to adjourn. **Unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted by Nicole Stewart Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer**