

**VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH, WISCONSIN  
BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
1/6/2020**

Pres. DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room located in Village Hall

**Members Present:** Trustee Dick Hines; Rick Sweig; Curt Wandmacher; Neil Gulbranson; Michael J. Steele; Lance Austin

**Staff Present:** Clerk/Treas.; Peggy Nelson, Police Chief; Eric Ladwig, Library Director; Tiffany Meyer

**Others Present:** Attorney; Jens Loberg, Karen Meyer, Republican Eagle; Ashley Rezachek, Dale Auckland, Kim Beebe, Becky Beissel, Larry Murphy, The Journal; John McLoone

Attorney Jens Loberg lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MSC Hines/Sweig to approve minutes of 12/2/19 as submitted. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**MSC Wandmacher/Gulbranson to approve payment of vouchers submitted for audit to date. Unanimous.**

#35966-35982, 36017-36046, auto and P-card payments

General fund- \$ 61,942.69

Water fund - 9,578.22

Sewer fund - 101,288.05

**Public Comment on non-agenda items:**

Kim Beebe, Ellsworth Chamber, presented a PowerPoint on East End beautification done from the AARP Community Challenge Grant rec'd by the Chamber. Items included building improvements, pop-up stores, visitor brochure, flower pots, light pole banners, trash receptacles and benches. Pop-up stores were a big hit, plan is to do and expand on for 2020. Discussed looking at wayfinding signs.

**Approve Gerald K. Anderson to Election Inspector worker list for 2020-21:**

**MSC Wandmacher/Steele to approve. Unanimous.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Plan Commission:** 12/16 Trustee Rick Sweig

**Faye F. Larson, C.T.H. "C" Town of Ellsworth ETZ, CSM approval:**

**MSC Sweig/Wandmacher to approve. Unanimous.**

**Salary & Labor:** 12/3 Trustee Neil Gulbranson

Committee action taken per board authorization 12/2/19:

- 2 1/2% pay raise to Police Chief, Public Works Director and Clerk-Treas. effective 1/1/20
- 2 1/2% pay raise to Police Adm. Asst. and full-time Public Works Dept. employees effective 1/1/20
- Clerk's Office - Office Asst. 2 1/2% pay raise 1/1/20 and a \$1.00 per hour step raise 3/4/20
- Part-time police a 2 1/2% pay raise effective 1/1/20
- Step increase to \$13.32 per hour effective 1/1/20 for seasonal part-time including lawn mowing, snow shoveling and skating rink
- Public Works Foreman add' l pay increase of \$25.00 per month starting 1/1/20
- Allow Pubic Works Dept. employees accumulation of comp time to 60 hours in a six-month period (Jan. – June) and another 60 hours comp time from July – Dec. effective 1/1/20
- Set HSA rates for 2020 Village contribution to single \$1375.00 and family \$3200.00
- Raise Village Board per diem, special board meeting, committee chairperson, committee member, out of town meetings and Board of Review all \$5.00 increase per meeting, adjustments have not been increased since 2014 & 2018, effective 1/1/20, to include citizen members

**Public Safety:**

**1/6 Ellsworth Fire Services Assoc.:**

Pres. DeWolfe reported on annual meeting of election of officers, no change, financials were reviewed

**Ambulance Operating Committee:**

Board Rep. Dick Hines reported that the ambulance service is going with local providers being Feuerhelm-Langer for accounting and payroll services, Loberg Law Firm for general legal counsel and J.A. Counter for HR/Benefits effective 1/1/2020, will be reviewed in a year

**Solid Waste, Cable TV, Special Committee:** 12/18 Trustee Dick Hines

**MSC Hines/Austin to approve a 2.9% garbage cart rate increase effective 1/1/20 due to landfill costs increasing per P.I.G. Current contract allows for a cost of living increase each year. Unanimous.**

**35 gal. \$ 9.53 monthly**

**65 gal. \$11.21 monthly**

**95 gal. \$15.23 monthly**

Discussed recycling issues and cost with Trustee Austin working with P.C. Chair Jeff Holst to set a meeting date to see what, if anything, can be done with the P.C. Recycling Center.

**Community Development Committee:** 12/9 Trustee Curt Wandmacher

LMI survey update given by Joe Folsom, PCEDC. Survey to be completed by 1/15/20. Clerk Nelson gave update on a meeting to be held with Haster's on East End property, which was canceled. Megan Quinn-Kummer to draft a letter to Haster's explaining the economic development the property holds and if ECDC can help in any way. WI Economic Development Academy is hosting a series of 4 programs on workforce housing that will provide participants with an understanding of the causes and impacts of housing shortage. Kim Beebe reported that Scott Feuerhelm is willing to attend the training sessions and has submitted a cost to do so of approx. \$2300, chamber approved to support up to \$500 and will reach out to chamber members who may benefit for their support. Kim reported that in conversation with Joe Folsom approx. 30% of the surveys have been returned, 112 still outstanding. E3 members will be going door to door.

**Reports:**

**Chief of Police:** (Written report submitted)

-279 calls for service in Dec.

51 parking citations, 49 traffic stops, 10 arrests including probation, 3 ordinance citations, 20 traffic citations

-Update on current 5 part-time officers who also work in other municipalities and currently doing background investigation on 2 local part-time officer applicants

**PWD:** (absent - written report submitted)

-New plow truck will not be here until mid-March, current truck has broken down 3 times

-12/10 watermain break on N. Maple St.

-Crew hauled snow 4 nights in Dec.

-New employee applications run thru 1/10

-Trying a new spot sewer in place repair on s. Piety St., versus digging

**Clerk/Treas.:** (written report on file)

-Auditors week of Jan. 20th

-2020 State highway aid final calculation \$159,053.04, Budget amount \$159,269.00 (short \$215.96)

-2020 final Ambulance assessment \$104,005.00, Budget amount \$87,230.00 (short \$16,775.00)

**Library Director:** (written report on file)

2019 statistics

Total circulation: 65,297

New patrons: 256

New items: 2,506

Public access computer sessions: 2,899

Wireless sessions: 5,483

E-materials checkouts: 8,093

Website visits: 10,557

Door count: 31,618

**Library Board:** 12/17/19

Friends of the Library was successful in a \$1000 funding request from Nestle Purina program. New on-line catalog (Bibliocore) will be available in Jan. to patrons. CVTC will be offering GED classes at the Library beginning 1/21/20.

**Building Project:** two preliminary concept plans have been submitted and discussed with the Building/Space Committee. Tony Birkel will lead the fundraising campaign.

**Adjournment:**

**MSC Hines/Sweig, 8:17 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted:

Peggy A. Nelson-Clerk