

Village of Almena
Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes
February 13, 2024 • 7:00 PM

President Gabe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Trustees: Hellmann, Jensen, Pichelman, Rockow, Roff. Also present: Police Chief Posey, Fire Chief Wohlk, Public Works Director Becker, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, 8 citizens

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting: Pichelman, Second: Hellmann, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Public Comments: Several barking dog complaints received at the Clerk's office – Officers have been following up; Resident updated the board on steps being taken to minimize barking dog complaints about his animals; Almena school has cancelled Birkiebeiner due to lack of snow and plans a track and field day May 15th; Almena Housing Authority recently lost a member of the board so a replacement is needed. Motion to appoint Alan Gabe to the Almena Housing Authority Board: Rockow; Second: Jensen. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Police Report: Chief Posey provided a summary of calls. Speed enforcement with several traffic stops and citations; multiple animal complaints from mobile home court; two suicide attempts – chaptered and help found; car vs semi accident with no serious injuries

Public Works Report: **1)** Water main break along Clinton St that was repaired **2)** New air exchanger installed in Wellhouse #2 **3)** Synergy is planning to build/expand to the east of current facility on Hwy 8 and asked about getting municipal water to the new facility. Board does not want to create a water district so property would need to be annexed into the Village for water service **4)** Continue installing new meters – 46 remain to convert

Clerk/Treasurer Report: **1)** Approve claims dated January 9, 2024 – February 12, 2024; Check #3369 thru #3400 as presented and summarized. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Jensen, Second: Hellmann; All in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** No Building Permits issued in past month **3)** Simplified Rate Case has been approved by PSC for 8% increase effective 4/1/24 **4)** Confirmed re-investment of CD proceeds into 6-month instrument at 5.22% APR **5)** Confirmed receipt of a Bernick Family Foundation grant of \$10,000 that will be used for the new playground equipment/area. Bernick Family Foundation reps will be on site to present the check and see the project.

Village President Report: **1)** New dump truck will be here this week. Old truck will be posted for sale on WI Surplus **2)** R-Local is working on plans for a truck terminal and transfer station on the land purchased last year **3)** No updates on the street grant status **4)** Discussed recommendation to change out fluorescent lighting at Village Hall and have the carpet professionally cleaned. Motion to proceed with Village Hall lighting update and cleaning: Pichelman; Second: Roff. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Old Business:

None to report

New Business:

1) Reviewed quotes for playground border timbers and safety surface mulch to complete the new playground equipment set up. Motion to approve quote from Play Design Scapes for the purchase of border timbers and safety surface mulch for approx. \$10,000: Hellmann; Second: Rockow, All in favor. **Motion carried.**

2) Discussed land lease options for 5 acres of farmland located adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. Current rental contract expired with no intent to renew. Board determined that land should be put out to bid for 2-year lease contract with sealed bids to be reviewed at March 12 board meeting.

3) Discussed request to designate handicap spot on Soo Ave E in front of Roxie's Bar and Grill. Board tabled discussion until bar owner is able to be in attendance.

Adjourn: No further business. Motion to adjourn: Jensen; Second: Hellmann; All in favor. **Motion carried.**