

Village of Almena
Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes
March 12, 2024 • 7:00 PM

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

Present: Trustees: Gabe, Hellmann, Jensen, Rockow, Roff, Tomczik. Also present: Police Chief Posey, Fire Chief Wohlk, Public Works Director Becker, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, 1 citizen

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting: Jensen, Second: Rockow, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Public Comments: Clerk reported a request for waiver of 2-week camping ordinance for relatives camping on empty lot May 19th – June 11th – board approved. Clerk reported request from Al Wuorenma for donation to Fourth of July fireworks – tabled until June.

Police Report: Chief Posey provided a summary of calls. Few service calls to Almena in the past month. Follow up on dog registration issues at trailer court with citations issued for non-compliance and two aggressive dogs have been removed; Village brush pile started on fire Friday – possibly kids; officers will start working on clean-up yard/car notices in the next few weeks

Public Works Report: **1)** Starting on spring cleanup projects, trimming trees, prepping playgrounds **2)** Plan to replace 3 more of the ballfield lights this year **3)** Excavator contacted to schedule clearing out drainage ditches **4)** Lift station maintenance has been scheduled **5)** Continue installing new meters – 43 remain to convert

Clerk/Treasurer Report: **1)** Approve claims dated February 13, 2024 – March 11, 2024; Check #3401 thru #3448 as presented and summarized. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Hellmann, Second: /Rockow; All in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** Bernick Family Foundation reps will be here April 4th at 11AM to present grant award and see playground project **3)** Election is April 2nd with public test of equipment scheduled for March 26th at 1pm **4)** Time for spring cleanup. Motion to issue \$25 Clean-Up-Day coupons for the Barron County Recycle Center effective through May 31, 2024: Jensen; Second: Hellmann, All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Village President Report: **1)** PT Public Works employee did resign in February **2)** Bridge Project: grant allocations start in July. Plan to complete the project in the fall. Engineer will provide bidding documents. **3)** Soo Ave Project: grant awards will be announced in June 2024 **4)** Fire District Banquet is March 23rd at the Vets Club, board is invited **5)** Building Inspector has announced fee increase mid-contract, board requests building inspector attend a future board meeting **6)** Old dump truck is on WI Surplus Auction, closing March 18th **7)** Reviewed R-Local plans for transfer station and maintenance shop **8)** Discussed idea to spotlight local businesses in the quarterly newsletter

Old Business:

1) Opened and reviewed sealed bids submitted for a 2-year lease of approx. 5 acres of farmland the village has available by the WWTP. Bids were received for \$85/acre and \$110/acre. Motion to accept and award contract to the highest bidder: Tomczik; Second: Hellmann, All in favor. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

1) Reviewed questions from financial advisor Ehlers in regards to miscellaneous tariff changes for the water rate case. Updates to be incorporated into the rate case submitted to the PSC will be: increase NSF fee to \$35; Add a missed appointment charge (\$50 for first time; \$100 – second; \$250 – third); Increase reconnection charges to \$50 during normal business hours and \$150 after normal business hours; no other changes to miscellaneous charges

2) Community Club president, Adam Parker, discussed the details of a new event that is being planned this year and asked for approval from the board. The Club will be sponsoring a Poker Run on June 22nd that will end in Almena with planned food and entertainment. Event would necessitate the closure of Soo Ave East from Garfield to Washington from approximately 4-11pm. Board advised that a Picnic License permit will be required to serve liquor with no other concerns noted at this time.

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