

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

The regular board meeting of the Village of Hustisford was called to order by Village Board President **Laurie Buchanan** at 201 South Lake Street, Hustisford, Wisconsin at 7:00PM in accordance with the Notice of Meeting delivered to trustees on February 9, 2024.

Trustees Present: Bob Knueppel, Andy Buchanan, Ted Engelbart, Jay Huncosky, and Ken Westphal

Trustees Absent: Cynthia Stroessner

Others Present: Kim Hopfinger, Todd Tessmann, Roger Zubke, Nathan Schoenike, Brian Ripplinger, Nicole Mszal, Scott Smits, Kristine Heckl, Chuck Rantzow, John Lambaris, Ken Rahlf, and Katelyn Terkel

Hustisford Community Library:

Library Director Nicole Mszal appeared before the board to update them on the progress of the Strategic Planning committee. She encouraged the board members and those in attendance to take the survey the committee had put out. Nicole also shared a 2023-year end report on the library.

Public Appearances:

President Buchanan noted that residents in attendance at the meeting regarding the wheel tax discussion would be allowed to participate in the discussion when the board got to that matter on the agenda.

Minutes:

Andy made a motion, seconded by Ted, to accept the January full board meeting minutes with one correction. The motion carried unanimously.

Bills:

Ted made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the January bills with check #46205- #46268, except for check #46263 to Ray O'Herron for \$534.88, for a total of \$549,674.06. The motion carried unanimously. There was a question as to the amount of uniform allowance for Officer Brehmer on check #46263, as it was more than the yearly allowance. Kim will check into this as it is possible there was a mistake on the payment.

Utility:

Todd gave an update on the utility. Todd discussed the process for the new well permit. Todd also stated the utility would be getting new accounting software.

Police Committee:

Sargeant Brian Ripplinger reviewed the monthly report with the board. Ted stated he would like to see more foot patrol from officers in the Village.

Ripplinger told the board that Officer Ryan Brehmer was voted Officer of the Year in Dodge County. He also stated that Brehmer has a very positive relationship with the school district as the school resource officer. Brehmer will be presented with the county award at the next village board meeting.

The police committee interviewed 2 people for part-time officer positions. The Chief completed the background checks, etc. and is recommending hiring Devin Meeuwsen for a part-time position. Police chairman Ted Engelbart stated that until yesterday, he was not ready to make a motion on this because he was not informed if the background check was done but had since heard from Chief Kaepernick that Meeuwsen's background check and physical was good. Ted made a motion, seconded by Andy, to hire Meeuwsen for the part-time police position. Bob Knueppel stated that he felt the board should be given more information on this candidate, before voting to hire him. Ted agreed with Bob and rescinded his motion to hire Meeuwsen until the board had further

information. Ted made a motion, seconded by Andy, to table the matter until the March full board meeting. The motion carried.

Finance Committee:

The board had been given information to discuss the possibility of implementing a wheel tax in the Village of Hustisford. The finance committee started discussion on this at their last meeting. Finance Chairman Andy Buchanan stated that this matter is still in the discussion stage, and they are waiting on more information from the DOT. A wheel tax is something that is added on by the DOT when you register your license plate every year. The DOT keeps 17 cents per vehicle and sends the rest to the Village. This money generated from the wheel tax could be used to maintain roads in the Village instead of borrowing for this like the Village has done in the past. There was much discussion on this between the board and the residents in attendance. The committee is working on finding out how many vehicles are registered in the Village and deciding what dollar amount could be put on each vehicle. Communities with wheel taxes in the state range from \$10-\$50 per vehicle. The finance committee will continue to research and discuss the wheel tax.

Finance Chairman Andy Buchanan stated that the matter of Campers Island Parking Lot discussion had been tabled at a board meeting in October of 2023. The finance committee brought back discussion on this at their February 5th committee meeting. The committee feels that because the ordinance states that there is no parking on the grass in the Village – Campers Island Inc. should have to at least gravel and maintain the parking lot. It was noted that this is Campers Inc. private property and is zoned residential. After much discussion, Andy made a motion, seconded by Jay, to table this matter. The committee will investigate the options that would be best for this residential property before contacting the owner with what needs to be done on the property.

Upon a recommendation from Chief Kaepernick, the finance committee is recommending an addition to Truancy Ordinance 222-7. There is a truancy problem at the school and adding wording for habitual truancy will help the police department enforce the ordinance. Andy made a motion, seconded by Ted, to add the following language to Ordinance 222-7 (A) as number (5):

(5) Habitual Truancy – 2nd and greater offense of truancy

The motion carried unanimously.

The Police Department would like to see additional signs for winter parking in the Memorial Park parking lot to help the enforcement of parking tickets in this location. At the last police committee meeting, Chief Kaepernick stated he would like to add 2 more signs that state NO PARKING ON ODD DAYS FROM NOV 1 TO APR 1 2:30AM TO 10AM. This would be in addition to the 3 even day signs that are currently there for the no parking on even days. Upon recommendation from the finance committee, Andy made a motion, seconded by Jay to get the 2 additional signs, and to move the current ones to the North side of the lot so enforcement can be clearer. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Committee:

Public Works chairman Bob Knueppel stated that our present 40-year-old salt shed is 35' x 30'. The cost of building a new shed will be split evenly with the Town of Hustisford, since we both utilize it for our roads. The committee agreed to relocate the shed away from the Village wells to 600 S.Lake St. to the north of the existing storage building. Roger and Nathan have done extensive research into multiple options. They presented quotes and recommendations for a couple options at the committee meeting. The committee agreed to recommend going with a shed comprised of the following details for an estimated total of \$228,235.34:

A 40' x 60', 1,000-ton capacity, Hoop, Clear Span Fabric Structure, 16' Poured Concrete Walls, 6' concrete divider wall down the center, and asphalt floor.

Todd and Nathan will discuss this project with MSA Engineering to develop specs for bidding purposes. The Township has agreed to split all costs with the Village. The Village will borrow the money for this project once the final costs are figured out. Ted made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve going ahead with the engineering for this project and putting it out for bids. The motion carried unanimously.

The roof and overhead door I-beams of the shop need repair. At the last Public Works Committee meeting, Roger and Nathan presented quotes from local contractors for doing the work so we have an idea of the cost because we will need to borrow the money for these projects. There are a few unknowns yet due to the fact that actual construction around the overhead doors could lead to more extensive work once they start the project. Also, the door contractor gave an inadequate quote because he did not actually meet with the guys to discuss the project when he was here to look at it. The committee felt the total cost of these projects could range from \$125,000 to \$150,000. This project will need to be put out for bids, so the department will need to come up with bid specs. Because of the unknown costs of the projects and bid specs not ready, Andy made a motion, seconded by Jay, to table this matter until the Public Works Committee has more information. The motion carried. The cost of this project will be put in future borrowing.

The Village front-end loader is 28 years old and has had extensive repair work done already, so it is time to look into replacing it. Roger and Nathan have been researching and testing multiple brands and sizes of new loaders. They have not finalized their testing yet, but they are estimating a new loader could cost around \$180,000. Todd said he would estimate getting around \$15,000 for our old loader if we advertised on Wisconsin Surplus. The Village does not have any money saved for this purchase and would have to borrow for it. The question was asked if the current front-end loader could be repaired and used for a while yet or if Roger and Nathan should continue to look at models and get prices. Jay made a motion, seconded by Ted to approve having the public works department continue to look into purchasing a new front-end loader. The motion passed with Andy opposed.

Bob made a motion, seconded by Ted, to approve the bid form for the 2024 Streets Maintenance Projects as recommended by the Public Works Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Bob presented the remaining plan for street maintenance over the next few years, totaling an estimated \$138,000. Bob was proposing that the funds for this be included with the borrowing for the other above-mentioned projects. Andy suggested waiting with borrowing for future streets maintenance because the Finance committee is researching the possibility of implementing a wheel tax in the Village, which could possibly help fund these projects. Ted made a motion, seconded by Andy, to table the discussion on future streets maintenance projects until more is decided on the wheel tax. The motion carried unanimously.

The agenda included discussion and approval on borrowing for the salt shed, the shop repair, the front end loader and the future streets maintenance. Jay made a motion, seconded by Ted, to table borrowing discussion until there is more information on costs and the wheel tax. The motion carried unanimously.

A public works committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday March 7th at 6:00pm.

Report from Village Board Representatives on Joint Boards:

Ken gave a brief update on the Fire Department. He distributed a 2023 year-end report on the department. February 21st is the next Fire Board meeting.

There was no library report as Cynthia Stroessner was not in attendance.

Bob Knueppel gave an update on the Recreation Department. The youth basketball program runs through February. The adult bags league continues to run on Monday nights until March 11th. Men's basketball league goes through March. The Poms squad will be performing at a few more basketball games. The next Recreation Board meeting is February 14th.

With no other business before this board, Jay made a motion, seconded by Ted, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.