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VILLAGE OF PEPIN BOARD MEETING

Village of Pepin Municipal Building
Monday July 14th, 2025, at 7:00pm

MINUTES -

1. **Call Meeting to Order-**Randy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **Roll Call-**Randy Kallstrom, Mike Michaud, Shannon Van Allen (via Zoom), Kelsey Gilmore, Vicki Kosok, & Pat Sandstrom were all present. Brittany Dondlinger was absent. Others present were Julie Wheeler, Jeff Heit, Jesse Van Alstine, Adam Baader, Tina, Cook, Sue Fedie, and Jon Seifert (via zoom).
3. **Public Comments** – Larry Stahl made a comment that the engineers should be contacted regarding the Boat landing and not being able to get to it. Randy stated he was taking pictures and sending them to the engineers.

   Mary Pellegrom expressed a concern regarding a sign on main and second street that reads "No more short-term rentals". She has received comments from visitors who have stayed at Short-term rentals approach her and say how negative that was. She has also seen very negative comments on reviews toward the person that has this sign. She would like the village to look into our ordinances and how to address this negativity. Dan Fedie asked if this falls under the zoning administration to handle. Jeff said he figured he could look into it.
4. **Clerk's Report-** Approval of 6.23.2025 meeting minutes. -Motion was made by Pat to approve. Second by Vicki. All ayes, motion approved.
5. **Treasurer's Report-** Approval of Treasurer's Report. -Motion was made Mike to approve the Treasurer report. Second by Pat. All ayes, motion approved.
6. **Streets/LIW Days-** Discussion/Action approval of the new parade route. The board was presented with a new parade route for Laura Days for approval. The Route will loop from Lake Street to Locust Street on 4th and 5th street and start at Washington Street. Motion was made by Kelsey to approve the parade route as presented. Second by Pat. All ayes, motion approved.

7. **Tourism Commission-** Quarterly report- Sue Fedie reported that the Tourism Commission refocused its marketing plan earlier in the year to feature more of the organic nature of our area with an eye toward local merchants. The refocus lead to a major update of their Destination Pepin website. The commission contracted with a company out of Rochester who sends content creators that come and stay here and sample what we have to offer. They then create reels & content for the website based on their experience. June & July have been busy months for projects within the commission. A couple of projects were TV production teams that came here to film over the course of a couple of days. Those programs will show up on digital & streaming channels in late summer, early fall. Also, they have a travel writer coming to town who will feature Pepin on his podcast, "Bill on the road". Another project that the commission is looking into is to beautify Hwy 35 from East to West. They have recently made a third installment toward the boat launch project and continue to grant money to local projects to help promote tourism.
8. **Police Report-** The report was provided in the packet. June was a quiet month. Jesse said we should get a copy of the new parade route to emergency services.
9. **Ambulance Report-**The report was provided in the packet. Tina mentioned that they have been very busy. Mike asked if the notice for EMT's was because they lost some. Tina said no, they just need reinforcements.
10. **Fire Department Report-**Chief Baader gave the board a copy of the Firefighter One training schedule for August through October. He noted that on September 13th they would need to have Lund Fire Dept. cover for Pepin as they will all be in training at CVTC in Eau Claire. The Smash burger fund raiser event was a success. The fire dept. also sold T-shirts at the campground for the fourth of July fireworks. The community support has been greatly appreciated. He has applied for four grants for new turnout gear, and they are still waiting to hear back from the Fiscal year 26 grant for a pumper/tender truck. There are three pending applications for the fire department. There will also be a multi-department auto extrication training course in August, and the Village Clerk & Treasurer have been given access to the Lexipol for both the Fire Department and Police Dept. for department policies.
11. **Attorney's Report-**Jon had discussed fire dept policies & personnel matters with members of the board, attended a special meeting regarding closed session regarding questions of council for the board, and had discussions with the village president and board members regarding village issues.

12. **Zoning Administrator-** The report was provided in the packet. Mike asked Jeff if he could include the addresses for the permits issued in his report. There were no other questions for Jeff. Jeff expressed an issue with a village sidewalk at 204 Main St. They are requesting a permit to build a garage. He wants to know if the board should send a letter regarding responsibility if the sidewalk is damaged in the process. It was decided that a statement on the LUCR permit would be sufficient.
13. **TIF Committee-** Pepin Mini Storage discussion/action on transfer of TIF agreement to new owner. Kelsey explained that the TIF committee met on June 24th and at that meeting the committee was presented with a request for a transfer of the current Tif agreement between the Village of Pepin and Kim Seipel's Pepin Mini Storage to the new owner Jenohn Newcomb's Pepin Country Self Storage, LLC. The TIF committee recommends that the board allow the transfer of the TIF agreement to Pepin Country Self Storage, LLC., which goes through 2026. After some discussion, Kelsey made a motion to transfer the remaining 3 yrs of the original TIF agreement to Jenohn from the Pepin Mini Storage. Second by Pat. All ayes, motion approved.
14. **Public Comments-** Steve Westman asked Randy to clarify if he was voted as the Boat landing Committee chair. The answer was yes; he was. Freda Anderson stated that last month when she needed to call 911, Jesse was there in two minutes. She wanted to thank him and the emergency services for their quick response. Randy offered sympathy from the board for her loss.
15. **Set Next meeting Date-** The next regular board meeting will be August 11th at 7:00PM.
16. **Adjourn –** Motion was made by Shannon to adjourn. Second by Pat. The meeting was adjourned.

Julie Wheeler-Clerk