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VILLAGE OF PEPIN BOARD MEETING

Village of Pepin Municipal Building
Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00pm

MINUTES

1. President Randy Kallstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. **Roll Call-** Randy Kallstrom, Toni Raethke, Shannon Van Allen, Vicki Kosok, Mike Michaud (via Zoom), Goran Pesic.
Other- Tracy Rundquist-Treasurer, Drew Adams-Clerk, Jon Seifert-Attorney (via Zoom), Roy Forsstrom- Zoning Administrator (via Zoom), Mike Schultz- WWTP supervisor (via Zoom), Pat Sandstrom (via Zoom), Police Chief Jesse Van Alstine, Debra Fisher (via Zoom), Troy Miller, Steve Westman.
3. **New Board Member Discussion/Action-** As there was a vacant seat on the Village Board after the resignation of Carrie Arens, Randy nominated Pat Sandstrom for the open seat. **Motion** by Randy to appoint Pat Sandstrom as Village Board member, **second** by Mike. All ayes- motion passed. Pat was then sworn in on the official oath. As Pat is willing to be on the Village Personnel Committee, a meeting will be scheduled next week to determine who will chair that committee. Randy made a **motion** to appoint Pat Sandstrom to the Personnel Committee, **second** by Shannon. **Motion** by Randy to remove Pat from her current role as citizen member of the Ordinance Committee and to appoint her as one of the Village Board members serving on the Ordinance Committee, **second** by Vicki. All ayes- motion passed. As there is also a vacant seat on the Ordinance Committee, Police Chief Van Alstine nominated Steve Westman. Steve Westman then accepted his nomination to serve as a citizen member of the Ordinance Committee. Randy made a **motion** to appoint Steve to the Ordinance Committee, **second** by Toni. All ayes- motion passed.
4. **Clerk's Report-** **Motion** to approve 08/09/2021 board meeting minutes by Shannon, **second** by Goran. All ayes- motion passed.
5. **Treasurer's Report-** **Motion** to approve Treasurer's report by Shannon, **second** by Toni. All ayes- motion passed.
6. **Troy Miller-** Mister Miller is the owner of 201 Boyd Street, 205 Boyd Street, and 211 Boyd Street. He has spent significant amounts of time on Boyd Street over the last 4 years. Over the past summer he has become increasingly concerned with the smell coming from the nearby Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and would like to know why the smell is now so bad and what can be done about it. WWTP Manager Mike Schultz pointed out Mr. Miller removed significant amounts of trees on his property, and that when the south winds blow in the smell will go right into Mr. Miller's property. Mr. Schultz

stated he is meeting all DNR expectations at the WWTP and doesn't know what to do about the smell. Roy Forsstrom and Mike Michaud pointed out how hot and humid the summer was, and how often the wind was blowing in from the south. Mister Miller asked that whatever can be done or investigated to lessen the smell please be done. Mike suggested having the Utilities Committee reach out to the WWTP design firm in the meantime to see if they have any feedback, and to continue the discussion at a future date.

7. **Fuel Bids Received-** Village sent bid notices out to local gas companies on July 29th for service of 4 propane tanks over the 2021-2022 heating season. 3 were received back. Feil's Oil was the lowest bid submitted at \$1.347 per gallon. **Motion** to accept bid from Feil's by Shannon, **second** by Vicki. All ayes- motion passed. Clerk will contact Feil's to set up service with new tanks, as well as contact the Co-op to have them collect the old ones and to cancel service.
8. **Pepin County Health Update-** COVID-19 numbers are going up in the county to such a degree that in-house contact tracing done by the county is not possible. County is relying on people testing positive to inform the people they have had contact with. Goran spoke about the situation at the school, noting how people aren't masking up and following guidelines. As a result, not only are COVID numbers rising, but so are the number of flu cases. It was decided the Village will hold the ETZ Committee public hearing on September 29th exclusively over Zoom and not in person. Notices letting people know of the change will be posted in town and in the newspaper. Signs will be posted in Village Hall encouraging customers to please wear masks when in the building.
9. **Police Report-** Chief Van Alstine stated the school staff active shooter drill was canceled in August due to COVID. The flood run is happening this weekend with people working at the intersection of Prairie Street and Hwy 35 from noon until 4pm to help people cross the street. September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd there will be police training sessions conducted in the Village Hall for local officers on a variety of topics.
10. **Ambulance Report-** Financial reports and call hours were presented. Nothing else to report.
11. **Streets Report/Zoning Report combined-** On August 30th the streets and planning committees met to review 2 LUCR applications. One is for a house at 2nd Street and Main Street that is building a deck. The other is the blue painted wine bar on Main Street. Both decks, one in the process of being built and one proposed, were determined to be located on the Village right-of-way. Construction was halted on the deck being built at 2nd and Main, and an application was filled out. Roy presented the application to Streets and Planning Committees. As the right-of-way on 2nd and Main is used to store snow, the 2 committees unanimously voted to grandfather in the existing dimensions of the deck, but not allow anything to go beyond the posts of the existing dimensions. Deck will be deconstructed and rebuilt accordingly. Owner has appealed via a letter, which he will need to take to the Zoning Board of Appeals once the board is set up. On the Main Street property, owners wanted to put a two-level deck on the side of the building where the street is set up for water drainage. Owners felt the deck would

improve the appearance and commercial aspects of the area, but the committee unanimously voted not to allow the deck. Owners have appealed and are planning a revision to see if they can come up with something the Village will allow. Owners are also planning to open a coffee shop at Main and 3rd. Roy's Zoning Administrator report was then presented. Four construction permits have been approved over the last month. Troy Miller has offered to donate to the Village a piece of his property at the corner of Boyd and 2nd. Costs to transfer this land include a title search, an IRS appraisal, and recording fees. Village would then present Mr. Miller a letter, and the property would likely then be declared as right-of-way. Village will find out if property needs to be surveyed. According to the 2020 Census the Village of Pepin population is now 731 people, down 106 people since the 2010 census. Kyle Brantner has requested approval to join two adjacent lots into one larger lot. Mr. Brantner bought lots #38 and #39 a few months ago after the previous owner had built a garage on lot #38 that extended across the side lot line into #39. As the structure is still required to meet setback requirements, he would rather combine the 2 lots into one rather than move the garage, remove the garage, or alter the lot lines. Randy made a **motion** to accept Mr. Brantner's proposal to combine the two lots into one, **second** by Toni. All ayes- motion passed.

12. **Attorney's Report-** The campground water bill situation has been resolved without litigation, and campground will be paying outstanding bill. An unemployment appeal hearing involving a former Village Clerk took place, with Treasurer Rundquist providing testimony. The hearing administrator reversed the Department of Workforce Development's previous order for the Village to pay \$2,700.00 regarding the former clerk's employment. It is now up to the former clerk to pay that money. Jon has also been working on the ordinance recodification and has been meeting regularly with the Village president on several issues.
13. **WWTP Report-** Mike recently attended some conferences in La Crosse, but nothing new to report.
14. **Public Comment-** Troy Miller had questions about Laura Ingalls Wilder Days and was referred to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum Committee.
15. **Extraterritorial Committee-** The committee has been working for 2 years now to develop a wellhead protection strategy for residents outside the village boundary. A joint committee was created with citizen members of both the village and township. Work has been going well at coming to agreements on the Extraterritorial Zone Ordinance. The ordinance will be taken to the Joint Extraterritorial Committee public hearing scheduled for September 29th. After the hearing they will decide whether changes are needed. Once approved by the Joint Extraterritorial Committee it will then go before the Village Board. Once the ordinance is approved the Village of Pepin's Zoning Administrator will be making sure new permits in that area are compliant.
16. **Finance Committee-** The Village has been looking into purchasing a new Police squad car from Pischke Motors. The vehicle is a black 2021 Dodge Durango, and the cost is \$26,282.50. Bank of Alma is willing to provide the financing at 4.02 percent over 48 months. Payments will be made twice a year and will start in 2022. **Motion** to approve

the purchase of a new squad car through the Bank of Alma by Toni, **second** by Shannon. All ayes- motion passed.

17. **Set Date for October Meeting-** Due to Columbus Day falling on Monday, October 11th, and Village Hall being closed that day the next board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12th. It was also decided to schedule meetings for wage negotiations on Monday, October 18th and the budget meeting on Monday, October 25th.
18. **Adjourn-** Randy made **motion** to adjourn at 8:25, **second** by Toni. All ayes- motion passed.

Drew Adams
Clerk

