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VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 14, 2022

7:00 PM

1. President Randy Kallstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call-** Randy Kallstrom, Vicki Kosok, Pat Sandstrom, Mike Michaud, Toni Raethke, Carrie Arens, and Shannon Van Allen.
Others Present: Tracy Rundquist, Roy Forsstrom, Jon Seifert, Jesse Van Alstine and Mike Schultz.
3. **Public Comments-** Larry Stahl wanted to know if the sailboats can be quieter, it is very noise when windy. Dan Fedie said that could be taken care of and he was happy to talk to Dennis.
Jesse Van Alstine mentioned that the fishing contest should be a day of no charges at the boat ramp. The date has yet to be announced. Randy agreed that after all of the work done by the Lion's Club it would be a nice gesture. He wanted it to be added to the December agenda for discussion and to be voted on.
4. **Clerk's Report- Motion** to approve by Pat Sandstrom, **second** by Vicki. All ayes, motion passed.
5. **Treasurer's Report- Motion** to approve by Randy, **second** by Carrie. All ayes, motion passed.
6. **Tourism Commission Quarterly Report-** Sue Fedie reported that the commission has been meeting about twice a month. They had an Open House, hosted at the Pepin Motel on August 24th which was very well attended. People were very interested in learning more about the Tourism Commission and their goals. In mid-September they hosted the cast and crew of the Outdoor Channel's Fishing University. They were in town for 3 days and the Pepin Motel put them up in 6 rooms, for 3 nights. Evening meals were generously provided by the Homemade Café, Pickle Factory and Stockholm Pie Company. There was also a presentation given at the school where they talked about the benefits of a career in outdoor wildlife and land conservation.
The tv show should air sometime after the holidays and will feature a ninety second advertisement for Pepin, and the West Coast of Wisconsin, who were co-sponsors.
More recently the Tourism Commission participated in the Annual Women's Weekend event, partnered with the West Coast of Wisconsin Tourism Association. It seemed to be very successful.
The commission purchased Christmas lights, Diamond Painting donated their time and boom truck to get to the top of the trees, which was appreciated very much. This past Saturday was the official lighting of the park. The boy scouts held a fundraiser and sold hot dogs and treats. There was also a collection of items for the Pepin Food Pantry.

Please note that the tourism commission plans to purchase more lights each year to make the display bigger and brighter, but it is off to a good start.

Since the commission was formed in February of this year, we have awarded 3 separate grants. For municipal development we have paid out a total of \$8931 to replace the grinder at the fish cleaning station. We recognize this as a very important amenity to serve both the fisherman who live here, and those who come as tourists.

We have also spent money on tourism promotion and digital marketing. Our budget committee is working on the 2023 budget, doing their best to get a handle on the types of expenditures needed, so that we can plan for putting more heads in beds. We feel we have really hit our stride and the commission members are very enthusiastic about overseeing the room tax dollars and promoting Pepin. Our mission is not only to bring tourism to Pepin, but also to protect Pepin's culture and values while doing so.

Randy mentioned that the board are appreciative of all the efforts of the commission, and of the Pepin motel for hosting both events and providing rooms for people.

7. **Weber Inspections- motion** by Mike Michaud, **second** by Toni to renew the contract with Weber inspections for another year. All ayes, motion passed.
8. **KLM Engineering**-Mike Schultz, KLM inspect the reservoir, which is a DNR requirement. This is done every 5 years they are offering to lock us in for the same price for a 10-year contract. This price will be \$6000 total for an inspection in 2027, and in 2032. Mike S. believes this is a good company to use and he is happy with the work that they do. **Motion** by Toni to approve, **second** by Mike. All ayes, motion passed.
9. **Police Report**- Not too much in addition to the report, limited use of the boat landing right now. Some discussion on boat ramp parking complaints, also about regular parking tickets given around town. Jesse said it is not unusual in October to have people disregard the signs and pay the ticket, rather than walk a few blocks.
10. **Ambulance Report**- Delivery date on ambulance is still next summer, as far as Chad knows.
11. **Zoning Administrator's Report**- lots of phone calls and information on Short-Term Rentals. The main goal is safety, for the most part everyone has complied easily. Two or three applications may require a conditional use permit. Several licenses issued, some decided to discontinue renting their property out. Roughly 22 licenses and 26 rooms are available, in addition to our motels.
A map is included in your packet-Butch Goss is on Pine Street and is interested in gauging the village's interest on vacating the alley between his property and the land where he has built his shed. Some discussion regarding utility access, easements, and concerns over dividing that alley. Also concerns about allowing this once, will we be opening ourselves up to other residents requesting to do the same thing on their property? Roy will report back to Mr Goss that there was no clear direction from the board, some pros and cons. From a public safety perspective, Jesse believes shutting down a portion of the alley could cause issues for ambulances and/or fire trucks.
12. **407 Prairie Street**- There is a non-compliant garage at this address, that has been built on the alley side of the property. When the zoning administrator went to look at it, he had two issues, there was no permit applied for, and it appeared to him to be in the alley, not entirely on the property, or with proper set-backs.

After conversation with the homeowner, a survey was completed. A representative from Johnson and Scofield attended the board meeting, he provided copies of the completed survey to the board. This confirmed multiple issues with the garage, it is in the alley, and on the property lines, which is in violation of our ordinances.

Roy recommended that the board ask the homeowner to come up with a plan to bring it into compliance, and to have a set timeline to do so.

Motion made by Toni to give the homeowner until December 31st, 2022, to bring a plan to the Village Board showing how he will bring this structure into compliance. At that time the board will decide if it will be sent to the Planning Commission, or if they will take further action. **Second** by Mike. All ayes, motion passed.

13. **Attorney's Report-** Jon has been advising the board on ordinance enforcement issues, primarily.
14. **Utilities Committee Update-** Mike said this was a continuation on the Focus on Energy and trying to find ways save the village money on their energy expenditures. Mike created a table to show where the electricity goes, roughly half goes to the water and sewer utilities. Mike would like to investigate the possibility of solar panel and/or batteries to help reduce these expenses. Mike is bringing it forward right now as the government just passed an inflation reduction act, which now has a new feature that village governments can now take advantage of. There is a 30% direct payment option , which is essentially a grant that comes our way for any project that we would undertake. There is also at the State level, some grant money available. These grants are quarterly, and we could also apply for those, which could be as high as 50%. Mike is looking for direction from the board to see if the utility committee should investigate this further and come up with a proposal. **Motion** by Mike to have the Utility Committee investigate some energy saving options, **second** by Toni. All ayes, motion passed.
15. **Public Comments-** Roy Forsstrom wanted to state that as the zoning administrator, he is here to help people navigate the rules. If people come ahead of time, he can help before mistakes are made.
Jesse Van Alstine wanted to update the board that the fire department have 4 applications out there, one has been returned and approved. More people are always needed, but this is good news.
Steve Westman wanted to know where the proposal that was approved at the last Harbor Commission meeting stood. Randy said a meeting needed to be scheduled. It was mentioned that an evening meeting was preferable so that all members could attend.
16. **Set Next Meeting Date-** Next meeting set for December 12th at 7pm
17. **Adjourn-Motion** to adjourn made by Toni, **second** by Mike. All ayes, motion passed.

Tracy Rundquist
Treasurer