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## **VILLAGE OF PEPIN BOARD MEETING**

Village of Pepin Municipal Building

**Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00pm**

### **MINUTES-**

1. **Call Meeting to Order-** Randy called the meeting to order at 7:02.
2. **Roll Call-**Randy Kallstrom, Toni Raethke, Mike Michaud, Shannon Van Allen, Kelsey Gilmore, Vicki Kosok, & Pat Sandstrom were all present. Others present were Julie Wheeler, Jon Seifert, Jeff Heit(zoning), & Jesse Van Alstine (PD) Adam Baader (FD).
3. **Public Comments-**No Public Comments
4. **Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services-** Swift Current update. Scott Freier gave the board an update. Lund 1 circuit is complete and open for hooking people up and they are working their way down to Pepin. They have all the duct in before the frost and the fiber are in. They have some splicing to do before they can get actual light into the village. They are hoping to have all the village spliced by the first week of January. Then, they will bring light in and be opening it up by the end of January or February depending on the weather. Scott said they only have one ask, that the Village decide what it wants for service, what buildings and service they are needing so they can make a proposal. Then Scott opened the floor for questions.
5. **Clerk's Report-** Approval of November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes. A **motion** was made by Kelsey to approve the 11.12.2024 meeting minutes. **Second** by Pat. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **Treasurer's Report-** **a) Approval of Treasurer's Report.** A **motion** was made by Pat to approve the treasurer's report. **Second** by Vicki. All ayes, motion carried.  
**b) Ambulance Fund Savings Account-**Discussion/Action-A motion was made by Toni to accept Tracy's request to open an ambulance savings account with the Bank of Alma. Second by Pat. All ayes, motion carried.
7. **Utilities-**Hydro Corp. Service Agreement for cross connection checks. Discussion/ Action- Mike Schultz explained to the board that the company that used to service our commercial cross connections is no longer able to do so. A 5-year contract with Hydro Corp. was presented to the board for approval. After some discussion, a **motion** was made by Mike to approve the contract with Hydro Corp. **Second** by Toni. All ayes, motion carried.

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8. **Pepin Lions Club-** Ice Fishing Contest Discussion/Action regarding parking. The Lions's club wants the village to waive parking fees for the weekend of the ice fishing contest on February 1<sup>st</sup>. A **motion** was made by Shannon to waive the parking fees for the ice fishing contest weekend. **Second** by Toni. All ayes, motion carried.
9. **Police Report-**The report was provided in the packet. No questions for Jesse. Jesse did mention that there would be Active threat training at the school on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.
10. **Ambulance Report-**The report was in the packet. No one was available from the Ambulance.
11. **Appointment and swearing in of the New Fire Chief-**Dustin Gold resigned as Fire chief. Adam Baader was elected as the New Fire Chief. Adam was sworn in by the clerk, and signed his official oath.
12. **Fire Department Report-**Adam gave an update to the board. Maxville Truck and Repair performed a service on the new rescue vehicle and donated their time, materials and labor. A contract is being written for them to do annual servicing on the fire rigs. Adam updated the personnel roster, Thomas Pawlak is the assistant fire chief, Preston Lehnartz is the 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant chief, and Zane Lehnartz will be Captain/Secretary. The fire department is trying to obtain a fire fighter1 program in the surrounding area for proper certification. Seven firefighters are obtaining their driver operator training, and five are enrolled in officer classes. A personal Improvement Plan is in place for firefighters needing to meet proper standards.
13. **Attorney's Report-**Jon said it's been a quiet month, with some discussion regarding ordinance enforcement.
14. **Zoning administrator's Report-**Jeff Heit went over his report with the board. It was a fairly quiet month-4 permits issued.
15. **2025 Bauman's Letter of engagement-** Discussion/Action- The letter of engagement with our auditor's is up for renewal. After some discussion, Mike made a motion to approve signing the contract with Bauman's & Associates. Second by Pat. All ayes, motion carried.
16. **Mississippi River Trail (MRT)-** Presentation-Discussion/Action- Francis Schelfhout presented the board with a power point handout and maps. Leanna Kavanaugh was also present as the Pepin County representative on the MRT. The goal of the MRT is a formal designation of the Mississippi trail through 8 Wisconsin Great River Road counties. What they need from the village is to identify and confirm the route through our municipality, and a formal resolution to support the local route and statewide effort to sign and designate the MRT. Three map options were presented to the board. After some discussion it was decided that Option 1-HWY 35 seemed like the best option. A **motion** was made by Toni to accept the MRT resolution as

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presented with option 1, staying on HWY 35 Northbound and Southbound. **Second** by Shannon. All ayes, motion carried.

17. **Public Comments**-Steve Westman asked whose positions were up for election in the spring. Randy, Toni, Mike, & Pat's terms are up. Dan Fedie asked if there was any resolution on the 911 question asked at a previous board meeting? Kevin Sandwick (who posed the initial question), answered Dan. Dan asked about the Beach grant funds and how that money was spent. Toni explained that the funds were used for safety equipment and the portion that was not used was transferred to the park for new playground equipment that will be installed in the spring. Dan also asked about the lead and copper inventory letter received by residents and why the report was filed late. This was just basic human error. Lastly Dan made a comment that he thinks the planning commission should consider setting guidelines for committees to get their minutes completed in a timely manner.
18. **Set Caucus Date**- The caucus will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
19. **Set Next Meeting Date**- The next board meeting will follow the caucus on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
20. **Closed Session**- Toni made a **motion** to go into closed session per §§ 19.85 (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.  
  
Per §§ 19.85 (1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.  
  
Per §§19.85 (1) (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.  
**Second** by Pat. All ayes, the meeting went into closed session.
21. **Reconvene into open Session**-Discussion/Action on closed session items in closed session. The **motion** to close the closed session and reconvene into open session was made by Toni. **Second** by Vicki. All ayes, meeting reconvened into open session. There was no action taken on the items discussed in the closed session.
22. **Adjourn**- The **motion** to adjourn was made by Shannon. **Second** by Toni. All ayes, meeting adjourned.

Julie Wheeler, Clerk