

**Regular Village Board Meeting  
Village of Almena  
March 13, 2018 • 7:00 PM**

Village President Junkans called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Village President Junkans; Trustees: Mausolf, Hellmann, Roff, Jensen, and Rayment. Also present: Guests: MSA Engineers, Dave Wierzba and Teresa Anderson, Public Works Riebe, Clerk-Treasurer Story, Chief of Police Al Gabe, and seven citizens.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion: Jensen/Rayment to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. Carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion: Hellmann/Rayment to approve the agenda of the March 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting with the correction of 9(iii) being Spring Election not Spring Primary Election. Carried.

**Public Comments:** **1)** Steve and Bev Vanderwyst, both present, request a driveway off 206 Portland Ave and building permit request for a shed addition and changes. President Junkans indicated that if the requested future driveway placement is village property then it would not be in the best interest of the village to proceed with the approval of the driveway. The Clerk-Treasurer will confirm ownership. Tabled until the next board meeting. **2)** Michael and Kristen Pabst, who were not present, request a property division at 431 Lulu Ave West dividing the residence and 4.5 acres from his 9.0 acre parcel. Once the Clerk-Treasurer receives the CSM (Certified Survey Map) it will be presented to the Plan Commission for approval which will proceed to the Village Board for final approval. **2)** Virgil Rankin presented with multiple issues including snowmobilers trespassing onto his lot, neighboring disputes including revisiting the property line fence vs. tree issue the Board had considered resolved from the January 9, 2018 board meeting. A rather lengthy discussion amongst Rankin, Board Trustees, and Al Gabe. **2a)** The snowmobile trail club has been in contact with Rankin and provided stakes to block off areas the snowmobilers were accessing the lot. Rankin is not satisfied with this. Rankin has contacted the Turtle Lake Police Department with multiple issues including the snowmobilers. Al Gabe indicated the village has nothing to do with the trail system. It was recommended by the Board to try and resolve this with the snowmobile club. Rankin would like the village to remove or shut down the trail near his residence. Again, the Trustees indicated that the village does not have jurisdiction of the snowmobile trail or of residential or commercial properties allowing the trail to be on their property. **2b)** Rankin is not satisfied with the previous agreement indicated in the January 9, 2018 board meeting. He does not want trees or arbor vitae planted on

his property. President Junkans indicated that the village will require Midwest Frac to get a CSM (Certified Survey Map) of the property prior to planting. Rankin was satisfied with this. **2c)** President Junkans indicated the pumping of water onto his property and other issues will have to be dealt with by Rankin with a civil suit since the issues do not fall into an ordinance or zoning issue.

**Police Report, Chief of Police Al Gabe:** **1)** Officers responded to call on Washington Street on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 a.m. and due to Barron County officers responding to another call in Rice Lake, called Al Gabe in at 5:30 a.m. The subject was breaking items and had called 911 himself. Officers breached the door and noticed the subject was covered in blood, cut quite severely, and blood on the floor along with many items broken and smashed including the apartment windows. The gas stove was on high and the floors were flooded with water. The subject was tased three times but due to his 430 lbs was not responsive. Cumberland ambulance was called but since they cannot administer sedatives/drugs Gold Cross ambulance responded. It took five officers to restrain the subject. Gabe obtained a shoulder injury during the confrontation. Officers spent a considerable time trying to find an institute that would take the subject. Subject ended up being transported to Oshkosh. **2)** The reporting on social media that there was an abduction had spiraled out of control. The statement that was taken was that while a lady was out walking on Garfield and Lake Almena Drive two Hispanics in a car slowed down. The lady felt she was being followed so called 911 who informed her to go into a local establishment. There was never any contact with the lady. She was never pinned against a snowbank. Social media went viral and was sharing information that was not correct. **3)** Two storage units at Hwy P and Hwy 8 were broken into and items were stolen. **4)** Two stolen car reports a) While leaving a car running the car owner walked into the Holiday store. A male took the car and was apprehended in Turtle Lake six minutes later. In this case social media played a part in helping catch the perpetrator. b) A car owner had a car parked near P and Holiday and reported it stolen two days later. It got towed. The insurance company can determine what went on there. **5)** An eviction at a Housing Development in Almena resulted in an officer's finger being broken.

**Public Works Report:** Jason Riebe discussed: **1)** Road review was discussed. Riebe will be reviewing roads with Brad Dossell from Farner. Monarch will pave the alley between Lulu and Soo as soon as the road bans lift. Lulu patches will be done as well. Trustee Rayment will do a ride around with Riebe to discuss roads. Portland to Highway 8's blacktop is

failing. It's possible core drilling and repaving can be done. Trucks should not be driving on Park Avenue. The correct truck route is from Soo Avenue to Garfield Avenue. Jason will post road ban signs on Park Avenue. **2)** Xcel Energy indicated that the village has the summer to remove banners. All banners should be removed by Labor Day. The Parks Committee and Riebe can review alternate banner and flag placement. **3)** The scheduled burn at 501 Clinton at Shadyside Park is April 14<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. Highway P may be shut down temporarily. The Parks Committee can review what trees need to be removed. **4)** The sewer plant final compliance report is due June 30<sup>th</sup>. Riebe needs to report what direction the village will be heading regarding the sewer plant. **5)** The new restroom doors at Shadyside Park have been installed.

**Clerk-Treasurer Report:** **1)** Approve bills as submitted Check #50065-50113 dated 2/20/18-3/13/18. Motion: Hellmann/Rayment for approval of bills as submitted. Carried. **2)** Approve tax overpayment for Parcel #101-1091-04-000 \$106.93 to Sara Kallenbach. Motion: Jensen/Roff to approve tax overpayment reimbursement of \$106.93 to Sara Kallenbach. Carried. **3)** Spring Election is April 3, 2018 at 131 Soo Ave East, Public testing is scheduled for 3/27/18 at 11:00 a.m. **4)** March has been a good month for hall rentals. **5)** The adopted Deferred Payment Agreement is being used for the water-sewer utility billing. **6)** The Clerk-Treasurer's training offered much information for personal property taxes, municipality fiscal stress, and levy limits along with other info. It was decided that the Clerk-Treasurer can present the information to the Finance Committee with Trustees able to attend that meeting if they would like to. The Finance Committee will contact the Clerk-Treasurer with a scheduled meeting date. **7)** First quarter utility mailings reviewed and approved.

**Old Business:** **1)** President Junkans indicated that the request made by Trustee Rayment to the Board to raise the speed limit on Highway P would require a speed study by the State of Wisconsin. The cost is unknown. The Clerk-Treasurer will call to find out costs associated with raising it. The board will review at next month's meeting. Tabled. **2)** The zoning map from 1991 has been updated by SEH Engineers. The Board, Riebe, and the Clerk-Treasurer have reviewed the map and found it to be accurate. Motion: Hellmann/Jensen to approve the zoning map and the payment to SEH for the zoning map update. Carried. **3)** Rezone of Rayment property at 300 Clinton St N updates. The Plan Commission will review the rezone and a public hearing scheduled required by the zoning regulations. A Public Hearing date and time will be posted once the Plan Commission meet.

**New Business:** **1)** Plan Commission Ordinance 2018-1 was reviewed for formation. Members for the Plan Commission

will be: President Junkans, Trustee Ray Roff, Trustee Joyce Jensen, and citizens Richard Stefczak, Wally Tomczik, Matthew Sprague, and Anthony Mizer. Motion: Mausolf/Hellmann to approve the adoption of Ordinance 2018-1 in forming a Plan Commission and the appointed members of the Plan Commission citizens serving a 3-year term. None opposed. Carried. **2)** Vince Wohlk, Fire Chief informed the Clerk-Treasurer that the two storm warning sirens were currently insured by the Fire Department. The village insurance agent indicated that the sirens most likely would not have been covered with the Fire Department's insurer had a claim been put against them since they were owned by the village. Motion: Jensen/Rayment to approve the two storm warning sirens located at the Fire Hall and the water tower be insured through the village policy. Carried. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact the insurance agent to get the sirens on the policy. **3)** Minutes from minutes in 12-13-2016 and 12-12-17 referencing Bonnie Pichelman as Deputy Clerk needs clarified or modified. After discussion Motion: Mausolf/Roff to approve a correction of minutes to appoint Bonnie Pichelman as an Election Worker serving as Chief Election Inspector and not as Deputy Clerk. Carried. **4)** Garbage service is an annual expense of \$51,030.00 for the village currently. The new utility software has capabilities to add the garbage service to the quarterly billing or the cost could be on the tax roll similar to the Barron County Recycling fee. President Junkans moved to have the Finance Committee review the garbage service. Tabled. **5)** Two signers of checks are currently in place for the Village of Almena being the Village President and the Clerk-Treasurer. President Junkans would like an additional signer as an alternate for backup to the president. Motion: Hellmann/Rayment to approve Trustee Jensen as an alternate signer of checks for President Junkans. **6)** The US Bank merchant services is no longer part of the bank's normal services. There is a fee to the village for utility collections. It was agreed by the board to phase out the services accepting the first quarter payments and ending the service after April 15<sup>th</sup>. **7)** Ordinance book options for the website and ordinance review of ordinance(s) that may have fallen outside of the state statutes was discussed. The attorney can provide services or Municode is an option. This can be discussed at this year's budget hearing. Tabled until Fall 2018. **8)** Annual contract with Guinn, Vinopal, & Zahradka, LLP. was reviewed. Motion: Mausolf/Hellmann to approve the accounting contract ending December 31, 2018 with Guinn, Vinopal, & Zahradka, LLP. Carried.

**Adjourn:** No further business came before the Board. Motion: Jensen/Hellmann to adjourn. All aye, none opposed. Carried.

Ardith Story,  
Village Clerk-Treasurer