

Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes
Village of Almena
October 8, 2019 • 7:00 PM

President Rayment called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present: President Rayment; Trustees: Hellmann, Bohn, Roff, Jensen, Rockow, Mausolf. Also present: Chief of Police Gabe, Public Works Director Becker, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, Republic Services Jon Schneider, and two citizens.

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting: Jensen, Second: Hellmann, all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments: **1)** Resident asked for a seasonal adjustment on the sewer utility billing as 9,000 gallons of water were used to fill a pool but did not go down the sewer. Board will review the request and notify the resident. **2)** Clerk has received several comments/questions in regards to 2nd sewer rate increase. **3)** Rumors that Memorial Park table/benches were destroyed – Clerk to clear up rumors via post on website. **4)** Norton County (location of Almena, Kansas) would like to write an article comparing Almenas **5)** Tree hanging into the road by Lulu Ave W and Alma St

Police Report - Chief of Police Al Gabe: General report of activities: Search warrant executed at Lulu residence along with Polk and Barron County drug units resulting in 2 arrests; Several disorderly conduct calls; a domestic disturbance call to the trailer court resulted in one arrest; Two separate traffic stops resulting in drug arrests; ATV accident on the trail near sewer plant

Public Works Report: **1)** Fire Hydrant replaced on Lulu and Washington, curb and gutter repair almost complete **2)** Quarterly meter reading went well, identified several meters in need of replacement. **3)** Post office site – started work clearing the park benches and table – stored at Village Shop until Post Office construction is complete. **4)** Groundwater Supply & Distribution classes are going well – registered for exam on November 5th **5)** Wastewater Treatment plant project update: SEH submitted the building plans to State for review/approval, Village received the WPDES Clean Water Permit for operation of the WWTP effective through 2024

Clerk/Treasurer Report: **1)** Approve claims dated September/October 2019 as submitted Check #51029 thru #51082. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Hellmann, Second: Bohn, all in favor. Motion carried. **2)** Two building permits issued in September – no issues noted. **3)** WI Election Commission has rolled out an Election Security Subgrant Program for upgrading election security going forward. Village is eligible to apply for IT Support funds and Education funds. To receive funds, Village must complete an Election Security Contingency Plan outlining actions in case of emergencies. **4)** Clean Water Fund application was submitted 9/30/19. Clerk is working with Financial Advisor from Ehlers to obtain interim financing in support of the WWTP project. **5)** Initial budget meeting is set for Tuesday, October 15th @ 7PM

Unfinished Business: **1)** Post Office construction bids were opened on October 2nd @ 6pm after Class II notifications requesting bids. The Village received one bid from Berghammer Builders. Motion to accept bid and award contract to Berghammer Builders: Hellmann; Second: Roff, All in favor. Motion carried. **2)** Board reviewed proposals for Village garbage pickup. Proposals submitted by incumbent and 4 additional vendors. Cost is relatively flat across proposals so decision will be based on service differences in offering. Board tabled decision until November board meeting.

New Business: **1)** Reviewed Resolution 2019-7 to ratify the April 9, 2019 motion to increase sewer rates effective April 1, 2019. Motion to approve Resolution 2019-7: Rockow; Second: Jensen, All in favor. Motion carried. **2)** Reviewed Resolution 2019-8 Sewer Rate Increase effective October 1, 2019. This is the second of three planned increases to fund the sewer plant upgrades. Motion to approve Resolution 2019-8: Hellmann; Second: Roff, All in favor. Motion carried. **3)** Village of Almena is eligible for LRIP funds of \$13,000 for projects in 2020/21. Projects must be a minimum of \$26,000 and be on roads that score 6 or less on pavement rating scale. Pavement ratings were reviewed with no recommended changes. Alma St N has lowest ratings so repair project for this street will be submitted. **4)** The Village 5-year Infrastructure Improvement Plan was reviewed and possible sewer and street projects were discussed. The Board will consider the projects and finalize the plan at November 12th Board meeting. **5)** WI Administrative Code Chapter SPS 316

Electrical Code. The new release would allow municipalities to choose to exercise jurisdiction over the inspection of electrical wiring installation at various locations – not limited to public buildings. The alternative is to default to the Department of Safety & Professional Services for inspection of covered buildings. After consideration, the Board determined not to pursue jurisdiction over electrical inspections.

Board Comments: **1)** Rayment noted that new seasonal tires would be purchased for the Bobcat. Old tires/rims will be saved and used during summer months. **2)** Bohn thanked Board members for participation in Fun Days fundraising event. There were 1,007 in attendance with approximate proceeds of \$8,800.

Adjourn: No further business came before the Board. Motion to adjourn: Hellmann, Second: Jensen, all in favor. Motion carried.