

**Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes**  
**Village of Almena**  
**February 9, 2021 • 7:00 PM**

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

**Present:** President Rayment; Trustees: Hellmann, Pichelman, Rockow, Roff, Stefczak. Also present: Chief of Police Gabe, Public Works Director Becker, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, and SEH representative Katie Jo Jerzak

**Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting: Hellmann, Second: Pichelman, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

**Public Comments:** None to report

**Police Report:** Chief Gabe reported a high number of welfare checks and mental health calls in January including aiding with a suicidal teen and working with Barron County Housing on a plan for a couple with disabilities and unable to care for themselves; reported on issues with new residents at the trailer court and on Washington St-landlords have been contacted; Almena School Barnebirkie event is scheduled for 2/26/21 and will be held in the open field behind the Village Shop. An officer will be there to aid in highway crossing and for community relations.

**Public Works Report:** **1)** Registered for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification classes for the first week of March **2)** Contacted residents with high risk of frozen water pipes to start running water due to frost levels and extreme cold **3)** Frozen pipes on Washington St, will add to the list of freeze-risk addresses to contact **4)** Training at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with the new software/computer set-up **5)** Barron County bridge inspection report noted that bridge on Alma St N needed maintenance. Board requested Public Works Director to work with Barron County Highway Dept to schedule the needed repairs

**Clerk/Treasurer Report:** **1)** Approve claims dated January 12, 2021 – February 8, 2021; Check #1440 thru #1487 as presented and summarized. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Stefczak, Second: Hellmann, all in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** Primary election for State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be held Tuesday February 16th **3)** In contact with Republic Services in regards to their annual \$1,000 donation **4)** Building permits 21-01 & 21-02 issued for re-roof and modular home **5)** Reviewed proposals by Dairy State Bank to open a money market account for a portion of the Village fund reserves. Interest rate is higher than current account. Motion to move \$500,000 from General checking account to money market account: Hellmann, Second: Stefczak, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

**Unfinished Business:** **1)** Katie Jo Jerzak with SEH provided a project status update. UV System was operational as of last month even though it will not be in use until approximately May 2021. SCADA System has been installed and some training conducted but is not fully operational, still working out some bugs. OEM manual is under review. Next billing will be in the spring for final grade and landscaping **2)** Post Office in Almena is now open. Some residents with PO Boxes were forced to change their address because there were not enough boxes installed and the installed boxes were pre-numbered. President Rayment contacted the Barron Postmaster but the address change process had already been started and would be too difficult to reverse. **3)** President Rayment and PWD Becker reviewed the bid proposals for the purchase of a new payloader as directed and approved by the Board in January. President Rayment reported that the bid for the John Deere 624P for \$129,670 was accepted. Bid was lowest considered and included 7-year warranty with no charge parts and labor. Expected delivery in 90 days.

**New Business:** **1)** Consideration of RJ Jurowski Contractor's Application for payment for wastewater treatment plant construction activities in January 2021. Draw request totals \$29,403.50. Motion to approve Contractor's Application for payment: Hellmann; Second: Pichelman; All in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** Consideration of proposal by Municipal Insurer to add coverage for cyber-security attacks. Current coverage is \$25,000. Risk to Village assessed – Water system is manual and WWTP risk is small. Village will not add coverage at this time. **3)** Consideration of White Electric proposal to replace exterior lights on Village Hall for \$1,726. Motion to approve White Electric proposal: Rockow, Second: Roff, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

**CLOSED SESSION:** President Rayment convened into Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(c) for purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to wit: Employee review. Motion: Rockow/Roff to adjourn into CLOSED SESSION. Roll call: President Rayment; Trustees: Hellmann, Pichelman, Rockow, Roff, Stefczak. Closed session Motion made by Hellmann/Pichelman, all members voting aye, motion carried to reconvene into open session. As per discussion in Closed Session, Motion: Hellmann, Second: Pichelman, Clerk/Treasurer to receive wage increase effective immediately, all members voting aye, **Motion carried.**

**Adjourn:** No further business. Motion to adjourn: Hellmann, Second: Rockow, all in favor. **Motion carried.**