

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

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

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

**Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting: Jensen, Second: Hellmann, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Barron School District:** Danette Hellmann presented an overview of Barron School District referendum questions 1 & 2 that will be on the April 6<sup>th</sup> ballot. Question 1 is for authorization to issue \$24.5M in general obligation bonds for the purpose of facility improvement projects at 5 Barron area schools. Question 2 is for authorization to issue \$1.9M in general obligation bonds for the purpose of constructing a child care center at Woodland Elementary. Diane Tremblay provided insight and answered questions as to research, focus group and survey results that identified infrastructure and support needs of the community. More information can be found at [www.barron.k12.wi.us](http://www.barron.k12.wi.us)

**Public Comments:** President Rayment followed up on concerns related to the new Post Office as some residents with PO Boxes were forced to change addresses. District Postmaster said it was too late to override.

**Police Report:** Chief Gabe reported more than half TLPD calls have been to Almena. Spent time with suicidal person, working with human services on the case; issues with tenants at several rental properties with domestics & juvenile abuse complaints-working with landlords on possible evictions; vandalism at the park-ongoing concern that bigger issues will occur in warmer months; Almena School Barnebirkie was very successful event that may expand next year.

**Public Works Report:** **1)** Attended Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification classes all last week **2)** Working on remaining checklist items from DNR Sanitary Sewer survey **3)** Shop maintenance projects, purchased tables for computer work area **4)** Skid steer needs a different bucket with lower profile for road work

**Clerk/Treasurer Report:** **1)** Approve claims dated February 9, 2021 – March 8, 2021; Check #1488 thru #1548 as presented and summarized. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Hellmann, Second: Pichelman, all in favor. Motion carried. **2)** Spring general election is Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup>. On the ballot: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, District 3 Court of Appeals, Village President & Trustees, Barron School Referendum questions **3)** Dairy State Bank money market account is open **4)** Open Book is scheduled for Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 3pm. Board of Review is scheduled for Monday May 17<sup>th</sup> 3pm to 5pm **5)** Confirm water usage adjustment for residents asked to run water to avoid frozen lines: use previous quarters usage

**Unfinished Business:** **1)** Katie Jo Jerzak with SEH provided a project status update. No work was done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant last month so no application for payment. Next payment will be substantial completion payment at the end of the project. Trying to get vendor to replace an exhaust fan whose function was impaired due to ice build up on the ceiling. Also looking to see if Village is eligible for additional grant funding related to energy savings. Katie Jo explained higher than anticipated payments for Phosphorus Multi-Discharger variance. Cost was high due to rapid draining of the ponds. Expect cost to be higher than average in

2021 and should level out as plant becomes fully operational. Higher payments were offset with savings from no chemical additions during that time.

**New Business:** **1)** Village Assessor's contract has expired. A new contract was not available for Board review. Tabled until next month. **2)** Village Building Inspector contract has expired. A new contract was not available for Board review. Tabled until next month. **3)** Discussed Spring Clean-up Day plan. Board approved same program as 2020: Barron County Recycling Center \$25 certificates for residents to use during the month of May **4)** Discussed platting of alley in the 100 block of Soo Ave W. Board agreed to not vacate the alley property at this time.

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