

Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes
Village of Almena
July 14, 2020 • 7:00 PM

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

Present: President Rayment; Trustees: Hellmann, Roff, Rockow, Jensen, Pichelman. Also present: Chief of Police Gabe, Public Works Director Becker, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, and 5 citizens

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting: Jensen, Second: Hellmann, all in favor. **Motion carried.**

Public Comments: Clerk reported that Softball tournament organizers would donate labor to upgrade the field and lights; Community Club will discuss whether or not to hold community rummage sale in September; Zoning question regarding building a garage on an empty lot zoned Residential – not allowed by Village Zoning Ordinance; Citizen request to groom the trail by the ballpark, it is overgrown; Citizen complaint regarding continued Jake-Braking coming up to Hwy 8/Cty P intersection – letters to be sent to offender

Police Report: Another accident at Hwy 8/Cty P intersection-vehicle/UTV with an injury requiring air-lift for medical services; Drunk & disorderly subject tried to steal tractor from United Ag; Domestic call at Trailer Court resulted in arrest; Several calls regarding nuisance bear in town – reminder to take down bird feeders at night.

Public Works Report: **1)** Brush pile was burned on Monday June 22nd. No issues with exceptions of small burn injury to Tom Feidt. **2)** Alma St N LRIP re-surfacing – blacktop has been ground and gravel put down. Monarch is not available to blacktop until after Labor Day. **3)** Cement work was done on Soo Ave W storm sewer and repairs to curbs/gutters. **4)** Request bigger garbage dumpster for the park in the summer

Clerk/Treasurer Report: **1)** Approve claims dated June 9, 2020 – July 13, 2020; Check #1103 thru #1149, check #1007 thru #1010; as presented and summarized. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Hellmann, Second: Pichelman, all in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** Ordinance book review meeting scheduled for July 30th @ 6pm **3)** FEMA paperwork for burning the brush pile submitted **4)** Workers Comp claim for Tom Feidt submitted. **5)** Village is eligible for a Routes to Recovery grant of \$10,486 to cover COVID19 related expenses – laptop, chairs, hand sanitizer stands

Unfinished Business: **1)** Wastewater Treatment Plant project update: Lagoon 1 work continues with liner installation by end of July. Progress pictures were shared with the board. Total Project costs to date \$549,047 **2)** Post Office construction is nearing completion but opening has not been scheduled.

New Business: **1)** Consideration and review of CMAR (Compliance Maintenance Annual Report) prior to submitting to the DNR. The deficiencies noted in the annual report will be corrected with upgrade to wastewater treatment plant currently underway. Motion to approve Resolution 2020-5 confirming review and submission of CMAR: Jensen; Second: Hellmann, All in favor. **Motion carried.** **2)** Consideration of RJ Jurowski Contractor's Application for payment for wastewater treatment plant construction activities in June 2020. Draw request totals \$281,711. Motion to approve Contractor's Application for payment: Hellmann; Second: Pichelman; All in favor. **Motion carried.** **3)** Consideration of Resolution 2020-6 ratifying the 35% sewer rate increase motioned & seconded at June 9, 2020 Board Meeting. Sewer rate increase must be effective prior to closing on the loan to finance the Wastewater Treatment plant project. Motion to approve Resolution 2020-6 confirming a sewer rate increase of 35% effective Q3 2020: Hellmann; Second: Roff; All in favor. **Motion carried.** **4)** Consideration of Resolution 2020-7 Seasonal Adjustment for sewer utility for residents that fill a pool or water lawn/garden on regular basis. Discussion in regards to how to manage such a program and how to track with current software. Topic tabled until August meeting to allow Clerk to gather additional information **5)** Consideration and discussion regarding current quarterly utility billing cycle. Given recent rate increases, merits and costs of monthly versus quarterly billing were discussed. Resident survey to be conducted to gather more information. **6)** Previously approved Class B Temporary Extension for Roxie's Bar & Grill for September event had the wrong dates. Corrected application provided to Board. Flea Market application for Kriesel Rentals also reviewed. No concerns noted **7)** Considered request for landscaping by Almena sign on Hwy 8/Cty P. Costs to update & repair to be split with the

Almena Community Club. 8) Considered Trustee Bohn's resignation. President Rayment appointed Richard Stefczak to fulfill the remaining term. Mr. Stefczak was present and accepted the appointment.

Trustee Report: Trustee Hellmann provided the Board with a discussion summary of the first of three meetings of the Barron School District community focus group. The first meeting consisted of a brain-storming session to list the infrastructure needs of the schools. Further meetings will dive into what classes need followed by cost and funding discussions.

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