

**Regular Village Board Meeting - Minutes**  
**Village of Almena**  
**August 13, 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, and one citizen.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 Regular Board Meeting: Jensen, Second: Roff, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Clerk-Treasurer reported **1)** Village-wide rummage sale inquiries; Trustee Jensen confirmed date will be Saturday after Labor Day, September 7th. **2)** Resident inquired if Village would consider snow plowing driveways for a fee. Board confirmed Village does not have the resources to perform this service. **3)** Clerk noted that Joe and Vicki Vinopal donated a copier to Village.

**Police Report - Chief of Police Al Gabe:** General report of activities: Homicide occurred in Almena on Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 206 Soo Ave E. Response to call was less than 5 minutes and suspect in custody within 20 minutes. Investigation is on-going; no update on parties responsible for restroom vandalism at Shadyside Park in July; recommend that Village close brush pile location as many non-Village residents are still dumping brush there; Almena Fun Days – no major incidents, only issue was with clearing the end of the track of spectators. PD requests that next year this area be blocked off to prevent the issue.

**Public Works Report:** **1)** Majority of time being spent on storm cleanup work; sign replacement, street sweeping **2)** Sewer scoping completed in July, no issues to report. **3)** Water Tower cleaning & inspection is needed every 5 years. Proceeding with proposal by Liquid Engineering **4)** Minor vandalism has been occurring at park restroom facilities. No damage, just a mess that has to be cleaned up. Village Board recommends purchasing a camera to put on the building instead of locking the facilities. Motion to approve purchase of a security camera: Hellmann, Second: Jensen, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Clerk/Treasurer Report:** **1)** Approve claims dated July/August 2019 as submitted Check #50935 thru #50982. Motion to approve claims as submitted: Hellmann, Second: Roff, all in favor. Motion carried. **2)** Discussed building permit application for a shed at 206 Portland received. Shed would be located on the lot adjacent to Village well-house. Motion to approve Building Permit application: Rockow; Second: Bohn, All in favor. Motion carried. **3)** Two additional Operators License renewals - approved. **4)** Clean Water Fund (CWF) application requires a lot of financial documentation. Clerk/Treasurer has submitted most of the documents necessary. **5)** General Code project to update Village Ordinances progressed to the next stage - Legal analysis to ensure no conflicts with WI statutes. Timeframe for completion is 180 business days – Spring 2020.

**Unfinished Business:** **1)** Reviewed letter prepared for the Mennonite group that is considering Almena as a site to build an assisted-living facility. PILOT proposal based on Almena mill rate. **2)** Wastewater Treatment Plant project update: Soil-boring tests were conducted with no issues. Next week DNR will be on site as pond sludge samples need to be collected/tested. There is a need for a Jon Boat to accommodate testing, now and going forward. Motion made for Director of Public Works to purchase a small Jon Boat for the Village wastewater treatment plant: Hellmann; Second: Roff, All in favor. Motion carried.

**New Business:** **1)** Discussed damage report from July 19<sup>th</sup> storm. Barron County is seeking Federal funds (FEMA) due to the widespread damage. For the Village, this entailed a formal Impact Statement, Declaration of Disaster and detailed list of damaged areas and related costs. Village total cleanup costs are estimated at \$12,000 if allowed to burn the brush pile. If brush pile must be chipped, cost increases by \$38,000. FEMA to be touring Barron County this week. **2)** Discussed DNR Notice of Noncompliance received due to a Sanitary Sewer overflow on July 19<sup>th</sup> due to power outage and significant rainfall. A response as to preventative action items must be submitted within 30 days. **3)** Post Office notified Village President that their final decision on Almena location was to move forward with the Village Board

proposal of a new building on property adjacent to Village Hall. Motion to move forward with site plan development and request for bids for the new building: Jensen; Second: Hellmann, All in favor. Motion carried. **4)** Reviewed Resolution #2019-3 appointing Village President as Authorized Representative to file applications for Clean Water Fund (CWF). Motion to approve Resolution 2019-3: Bohn; Second: Hellmann, All in favor. Motion carried. **5)** Reviewed Resolution #2019-4 Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from the proceeds of borrowing (CWF). Motion to approve Resolution 2019-4: Rockow; Second: Roff, All in favor. Motion carried. **6)** Reviewed Resolution #2019-5 appointing Village President as Authorized Representative to Sign documents related to the lease agreement to be put in place with the United States Postal Service. Motion to approve Resolution 2019-5: Jensen; Second: Hellmann, All in favor. Motion carried. **7)** Reviewed Resolution #2019-6 Termination of TID #2. TID #2 was created on September 22, 1992 so must be terminated by September 22, 2019. Over the life of the TID tax increments amounted to \$306k which will need to be distributed back to the affected taxing districts with proportionate funds to be determined by the final audit. Motion to approve Resolution 2019-6: Hellmann; Second: Jensen, All in favor. Motion carried. **7)** Reviewed Request for Proposal (RFP) for Village solid waste management services. Clerk noted that current contract with Waste Management expires on December 31, 2019. Clerk will send out RFP to all area vendors with 30 days to respond. Proposals will be reviewed at October Board meeting. **8)** Discussed zoning change request by Synergy Cooperative for 3 acres by the Almena trailer park to change from R-2 Multi-Family Residential to I-1 Light Industrial. Matter to be forwarded to the Village Planning Commission for review/approval. **9)** Discussed possible parking restrictions on Soo Ave W. With vehicles parked along the narrow stretch of Soo Ave W, it is difficult for large equipment to safely pass through. Proposal to limit parking to 30-minute increments on Soo Ave E between Cleveland and Garfield streets. DPW directed to order signs accordingly.

**Trustee Comments:** Request made for next newsletter to have a reminder that garbage pickup does not include grass clippings. It was also noted that the old Village landfill is exposed after recent weather.

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