

Final Approved
Village of Luther
REGULAR MEET

September 12th, 2023

Village President Treiber called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Members Present: Village President Andrew Treiber, Clerk Dennis Karczynski, Treasurer Amy Jo DeJesus

Trustees: Brandon Voyles, James Bacon, Connie Holmes, Felisa Wert and Linda Wellman.

Members Absent: Trustee Richard Mongar

Visitor's Present: Village DPW Matt Pulaskey, Michelle Gill (Pine River School Superintendent), (Sheriff) Rich Martin, Kris Raymond (County Commissioner)

Brandon Voyles made a motion to accept the agenda dated September 12, 2023, 2nd by Connie Holmes. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

- Kris Raymond
 - addressed the meeting regarding the ARPA loan and conveying the commissions support to finish the park with the grant. When the property issue is resolved. A detailed plan would need to be written to the commissioners stating the plan, they would present it to the ARPA committee with no guarantees of approval. She is hoping the Village will pursue moving forward.
 - shared that the Township Association meeting, for August, was held in Peacock township and the Village of Luther should be getting notifications of these Association meetings. The next meeting will be in Pinora, on Deer Lake) on October 26, 2023, at 7 pm. All Village Officers are invited to attend and share information. Andy stated we have not been getting e-mails or invites to these meetings. Mrs. Raymond said she will make sure we are added to the mailing list.
 - Informed the committee about Land Bank Grant opportunities (\$2 mill. Available). This money can be used to tear down & clean up old commercial buildings and sometimes to clean up blighted, abandoned houses. The properties must be condemned and have no power going to them. Proposals are needed by September 30th to Kelley Allen. Property with the address needs to be sent as a request.
 - talked about District 10's attempt to help with local drug problems. Every Tuesday, at district 10 site in Baldwin, in the parking lot. A Drug Unit Help Tent with staff will be there to give support to anyone needing assistance with a drug use issue. It's confidential and no cost associated with it. They'll help with prescriptions, getting people to rehab, etc. This is an opportunity for people that are having problems getting help. She will have information at the Lions Club on Sept. 22nd at the Awareness night.
 - stated Lake County is looking for board members for the Land Bank, Library Board and DHHS. Boards meet monthly, 2x a year it depends on the board.

- Sheriff Martin shared information about;
 - The Watershed and the Natural River movement and its restrictions.
 - Working on a driver's education program the would be paid for at least partially, for local area students.
 - The bank robbery trial has been delayed to October.
 - The stabbing death and closing of schools for the situation.
 - Fatal car crash on M37 & M10
- ORV park being built in Webber Township
- Trout-a-Rama car crash and arrest.
- John Hemmeky arrest
- Fraud case in Irons
- Discovery death in South Cemetery
- New Dollar ride available to citizens
- Bonding information available to officials.
- Attempts to start a local recycling program.

Lynn Wert asked about enforcing the ordinance requiring children to being off the streets after 10 p.m... Nothing was resolved.

- Michelle Gill (Pine River School Superintendent)
 - Introduced herself and shared information on her background.
 - She provided information regarding Luther Village children attending Pine River schools.
 - 56 in Elementary School
 - 48 in Middle School
 - 51 in the High School
 - Total 155 student from Luther
 - There is a total of 923 students in K-12 total.
 - One person employed at the school from the Village of Luther
 - The school district is hiring and looking for employees in the cafeteria, substitute teachers, bus drivers, custodians and other areas.
 - A student requested a disk golf game be installed in a Luther park
 - There is an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) program that reimburses seniors that volunteer and help at the school. They are reimbursed for their milage when volunteering.

Connie asked about the Pine River for the Summer ball Program meeting. Michelle was not familiar with it but will look into it.

Correspondence – Andy stated they are on the table.

Minutes Dated 8/14/2023 – Connie Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes, 2nd by Linda Wellman to approve the minutes dated August 14th, 2023. All in favor. Motion Carried.

The Financial report dated August 2023 was presented with the following balances: General Fund \$318,511.74, Payroll \$9,188.32, Major Street \$168,276.78, Local Street \$150,129.82, Public Improvement \$24,091.50, Petty Cash \$1,208.07. Connie Holmes made a motion to approve the financials as presented. 2nd by Linda Wellman. All in favor. Motion Carried.

September 2023 Bills to be paid: CV Kwik Mart \$115.50, Republic Services \$289.63, Consumers Energy (DPW) \$84.25, Consumers Energy (LED) \$475.44, Consumers Energy Street Lights \$602.69, Consumers Energy (LASA) \$125.79, OCD Accounting \$90.00, Reith Riley Construction (Road Repair) \$78,700.00, Brooks Elite Contracting (Web Site) \$119.00, ACE 1 Septic & Port-a- potties \$ \$,1500, Rothig Forest Products (Parts) \$100.74, Road Equipment Parts center \$59.96, Newkirk Township (Lake County Road Commission) State Rd. repair \$ 16,106.39

Connie Holmes made a motion to pay all bills as presented, 2nd by James Bacon.

Roll Call Vote-Yes-Linda Wellman, Yes-Lynn Wert, Yes-Connie Holmes, Yes-James Bacon, Yes-Brandon Voyles, Richard Mongar-absent, Yes-Andy Treiber. -No-None. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

The DPW Committee Report-

The new village signs materials will be ordered this week. Hopefully they will be installed in the next two weeks.

Andy presented a bid for striping main street (State Rd./M63) on old M63 (7,762 ft.) within the village at \$2,639. He said this did not include the road through the north end on state road. Estimated addition cost is \$1,000. (.34 cents per foot). Connie Holmes made a motion to pay up to an additional \$1,000 to the bid \$2,639, not to exceed \$3,700, for striping the additional portion of the road north from the village, Linda Wellman 2nd the motion.

Roll Call Vote-Yes-Linda Wellman, Yes-Lynn Wert, Yes-Connie Holmes, Yes-James Bacon, Yes-Brandon Voyles, Richard Mongar-absent, Yes-Andy Treiber. -No-None. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Andy Treiber discussed tree removal at Flynn's garage. A tree across the street from the Senior center fell and damaged two cars. It was requested to remove the tree that remains standing. He will talk with James's tree service about removing and also about three stumps that have not been removed from the village by them.

Andy presented a quote to repair Lincoln Creek Road by the County, \$15,468.13. He stated this appeared too high and will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

Fire Board Committee –

Lynn Wert stated nothing to report.

Hall Committee – Nothing to report.

Ordinance Committee Report – Nothing to report.

Lynn Wert asked about the status of the animal violation letter to the resident complained upon in the past meeting. Connie Holmes said she will investigate needed information. Dennis and Andy will write a letter to the resident. The letter will include the removal of the animals from the property. Andy stated he will hand deliver it. All council members will get a copy of the letter.

Lynn Wert questioned ordinances and not acting on them. She questioned the carnival rides ordinance. Andy discussed the difference between variances, ordinance termination and amending ordinances.

Parks (Public Improvement Committee) –

James Bacon discussed the purchase of the Fairbanks Park property. Andy questioned the process to follow on this. Her realtor contract is over. Need to have a purchase agreement, run through a land survey and title search. James will contact the title escrow company as a start. (Osceola County Surveyors)

ARPA fund refund status – Kris Raymond will provide Dennis Karczynski with the information to refund the amount of \$26,250 to.

Mill Pond pedestrian bridge. Andy stated the DPW committee is reviewing all the options. The bridge will remain closed until the spring.

Lynn Wert questioned the park cameras and why they are not working in the parks. Andy stated Matt is investigating newer camera systems. All the cameras are damaged and not working. Andy stated a hot spot box should be purchased for a WIFI signal for Village Cameras.

Old Business -

- Lynn brought up the letter to Jacob regarding violating the ordinance. Andy said the ordinance committee needs to send the letter. Animal permits / ordinance, Dennis & Andy will write letter to citizen in violation.
- Clerk & Deputy Clerk will receive QuickBooks training. Training was approved and not to exceed \$300. A roll call vote was taken to reapprove funding for the training.

Roll Call Vote-Yes-Linda Wellman, Yes-Lynn Wert, Yes-Connie Holmes, Yes-James Bacon, Yes-Brandon Voyles, Richard Mongar-absent, Yes-Andy Treiber. -No-None. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

New Business –

- Discussion regarding Halloween took place. The council agreed it will be on the date 10/31/2003 as per the calendar. Hours will be 4 pm – 8 pm
- Connie stated that the Rodeo grounds will have some kind of Halloween event on them. (Booths, haunted trail, etc.) Possibly October 14th
- LASA is having a fun and family day on the 14th possibly; flyers will be sent out.
- Christmas Lights, Lynn brought up the idea of rechargeable batteries for the Christmas wreathes, she will get a price.
- Linda Wellman discussed the upcoming Lions Club Events. September 22nd 5-7 Community Awareness, Trunk or Treat October 31st and contest for best decorated cars.
- She requested the Village Council to approve a Donated Memorial bench & Plaque, from the Lions Club be Placed in Purchase Park. Connie Holmes Made a motion to accept the Bench & Plaque into the park, Linda Wellman 2nd the vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The Lions Club has permission to place the bench in Purchase Park.
- Linda asked for a letter from the Village to designate the Luther Lions Club Hall as an Emergency Shelter. This will help the club get state funds to improve the building as a shelter. Andy says this needs to be stated in the form of a resolution and he will provide it at the next meeting.
- Linda reminded the council that she and Dennis will not be present at the next meeting.
- Lynn Wert presented that a sheriff officer has volunteered to take the job as blight officer. Sheriff Martin stated he needs to investigate it to make sure there would be no issues for his department or for the officer and he will get back with us.
- Andy stated that Janey and Newkirk will decorate the tree in front for Christmas.
- Andy presented the Townships Resolution to merge Ellsworth Township and Newkirk Township for future elections starting 2024. The reason is because of new laws requiring 9 days of voting. All present agreed that it made sense. A roll call vote was taken to adopt the resolution.

Roll Call Vote-Yes-Linda Wellman, Yes-Lynn Wert, Yes-Connie Holmes, Yes-James Bacon, Yes-Brandon Voyles, Richard Mongar-absent, Yes-Andy Treiber. -No-None. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Public Comment-

Sheriff, Rich Martin, presented the possible liability of the carnival and drinking on the streets to the Village.

HE stated with no containment area for the drinking, it is possible for the drinkers to have an accident by the rides. This could be a huge liability issue. He will look into it at more depth and provide the council with more information.

A motion was made by Connie Holmes 2nd James Bacon to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m... All in favor! Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.

Dennis Karczynski
Clerk
Village of Luther