

THE VILLAGE OF GAYS MILLS

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Village Board of Gays Mills held Monday, August 2, 2021, which began at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Commerce Board Room.

Village President Harry Heisz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following present: Aaron Fortney, Harry Heisz, Josh Kasinskas, Larry McCarn, Kevin Murray, and Lee Ruegg. Seamus Murray was absent.

The board received verification that the agenda was posted in accordance with the open meeting law.

No citizens or delegations.

Jim Chellevoid, Director of Public Works reported that the well house is back working after the storm, parts have been ordered for the backhoe repair, lawnmowers are repaired, would like to schedule Iverson's for repairs to West Point Road and more patch work has been done to the roads. The board followed up on asking about the trees with bark to be placed around to prevent damage, crack filling some streets, and spraying weeds. The volunteer workers did place bark around the trees, crack filling was not placed in this year's budget and Chellevoid plans on spraying weeds again.

Seamus Murray arrived at 6:06 pm.

Evan Chambers of Town & Country Engineering was present and reported that there has not been an update from the DNR on the Village's variance request. A Scope of Services for Wastewater Treatment Facility Facilities Plan and USDA Rural Development Funding Efforts was presented. The engineering cost will be billed on an hourly basis and will not exceed \$24,000 for a scope of Facilities Plan to evaluate alternative to address the long term needs of the wastewater treatment including an evaluation of existing capacity, future design conditions, deficiencies with the current system including ability to meet proposed effluent limits, alternatives to meet long term wastewater treatment needs, capital and operational cost estimates, user rate impacts, and discussion of possible funding opportunities. This plan would address deficiencies at the existing WWTP, with strong consideration given to a relocation of the WWTP. The USDA Rural Development Planning Grant and Funding Application will be billed hourly and will not exceed \$9,500 for a scope of completing grant applications documents, a Preliminary Engineering Report, Environmental Review, and questionnaires. The timeline was discussed with these two items to be complete in spring of 2022, with the estimate of the actual new wastewater treatment plant project starting in 2024. The proposed \$33,500 Scope of Service from Town and Country Engineering was discussed and asked when payment was needed. An estimate of \$15,000 to \$20,000 payment will be needed in 2021 and the remaining \$13,500 to \$18,500 in the 2022 budget. It was mentioned that local borrowing

maybe be needed for this expense since grant funding does not pay until the Facilities Plan is complete. Ruegg made a motion to accept Town and Country Engineering's proposal of \$33,500. Seconded by Fortney. Motion carried.

There was not a Tree Board report given. It was noted that there is tree damage on a leased lot and a crab apple tree that needs to be removed on village land.

Kayla Fortney, swimming pool manager submitted a written report for the Swimming Pool update. Wauzeka is starting their second set of lessons, local lessons have started, the pool has been inspected, the pool has had a couple of private parties, the last day is scheduled for August 28th, and the Mertle Lake Swamp project has asked if the swimming pool would like to sponsor the Dunk Tank at Swampfest on August 28th. The sponsorship would cost \$100 with half of the proceeds going back to the swimming pool. After discussion Kasinskas approved the \$100 sponsorship for the Dunk Tank at Swampfest - Mertle Lake Swamp Project. Seconded by McCarn. Motion carried.

A kitchen report was not given.

Ruegg made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes of July 12, 2021. Seconded by McCarn. Motion carried.

McCarn made a motion to approve payment of the bills as listed in the monthly expense report. Seconded by Ruegg. Motion carried.

Nothing new to report on the 212 Main Street roof project.

A second set of letters will be sent out for junk and unlicensed vehicles.

Update on Alliant Energy TID 3-phase electrical project – payment has been sent and received for \$33,621. The village is now waiting for the project to be scheduled. In discussion it was mentioned about having the overhead power lines buried underground. Kasinskas will follow up with Alliant Energy regarding this concern.

Emily Swiggum was present to request ballfield improvements. Emily Swiggum is the North Crawford Summer Rec coach for the 10 and under girls and informed the board that the parents have been discussing on how to improve the field if they could raise the funds. Requesting improvements for leveling the field, new screenings, new bases, dug outs, and score board. The board welcomed the group of parents to fundraise and make improvements after reviewing each project with Jim Chellevoid. The group will need help from the village for an electrician to connect the score board. Also other items that need to be looked at are the lights and breaker panels at the ballfield. This will be mentioned to the Friends of Gays Mills to see if they would be interested in helping with the lights and breaker panel expenses.

The old high school–mushroom factory demolition project was discussed. Heisz had talked with contractor Guy Nelson on the village’s options of a parking lot or to finish the remaining portion of lot with dirt and grass seed. After discussion McCarn made a motion to have the gravel pile removed, no parking lot, and the remaining lot to be finished with dirt and grass seed. Seconded by K. Murray. Motion carried. The board asked for the public works to reapply grass seed where the storm washed out the grass seed.

Heisz informed the board that the Thursday early morning storm had damaged the village’s firewall, battery backups, and possibly the village server. These items will need to be replaced and will be turned into insurance but unsure of what is allowed for coverage. Most items have been restored temporarily. The only item not working for the office is the ability to send out emails. The public works crew had a lot of tree damage and did end up going out in the early morning to remove trees and branches out of the roads and streets.

The board was provided the 2020 Audit which was completed by Johnson Block and Company.

Nothing new to report on the TID Trail project. Charley Preusser brought up the concern that he sees many people using the trail and walking past the trail onto the highway to get to the Community Commerce Center or farther south of the village. Preusser pointed out that this should be a big safety concern because of the small amount of distance between the curb and highway. Also discussed was the concern that the Marketplace has not installed their sidewalk as previously agreed on. Many pedestrians are walking the driveway of the Marketplace while traffic is driving next to the pedestrians. This item was asked to be on the next agenda. Heisz will follow up with the Marketplace and find out who is the new contact person.

Fortney made a motion to approve operator’s licenses to Karen DeSchane, Jackson Walmer, Lee Ruegg, and Cindy McCullick and to approve a temporary Class “B” license to Crawford County Fair on August 25th through August 30th, 2021 at 17725 State Highway 131 (Fairgrounds). Seconded by K. Murray. Motion carried.

Under correspondences Craig Anderson informed the board that there is a Basic Tree Care for Landowners class available September 11th. A brochure and registration form is available. Craig Anderson also mentioned his concern about a trail connection issue at the Lion’s Park.

Due to Labor Day on the 6th the next regular board meeting has been scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the board room.

At 7:02 p.m. Fortney made a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) for the purpose of reviewing applications for the cleaning position. Seconded by McCarn. Motion carried. Jim Chellevoid was invited into closed session.

At 7:12 p.m. K. Murray made a motion to reconvene into open session. Seconded by Fortney. Motion carried.

Fortney made a motion to hire Dawn McCann for the cleaning position at \$10.50 per hour, to be paid on a separate payroll with no retirement. Seconded by K. Murray. Motion carried.

K. Murray made a motion for the village to purchase a leaf blower. Seconded by Ruegg. Motion carried.

K. Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Seconded by Ruegg. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Dawn R. McCann, Village Clerk

APPROVED 09-13-2021