

**Village of Stoddard
Village Board Meeting
November 14th, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

The Village Board met in regular session. Roll call: Scott Chiples, Diane Olson, Steve Davis, Bill Evans, Karen Long, Bob Wurtzel and Tom Venner.

Minutes: Motion Davis, second Evans to approve minutes from the October meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Appearances: None.

Bills and Vouchers: Motion Evans, second Venner to approve October payments #21193-21231 in the amount of \$41,650.57 for payment. All aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Appeals – No meeting.

Board of Review – No meeting.

Budget & Finance – Budget & Finance Committee, November 2nd, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call: Bob Wurtzel, Karen Long and Scott Chiples. Clerk Kent Hatlestad also present.

Discussion on 2024 budget. Hatlestad reported that two accounts at Associated Bank were coming due. A CD, #6045120, in the amount of \$14,197.17 will mature on November 7th. A Money Market Account, #9418, in the amount of \$20,923.40 has been dormant for 34 months. Associated Bank is asking that the village perform a transaction on the account. Hatlestad will close out both accounts and open new CD's at River Bank.

Discussion on wage and benefit compensation. Recommendation to increase the clothing allowance to \$500/yr, Work Boots to \$250/yr. and Insulated Work Boots to \$250/every third year.

Discussion on putting funds in the budget for the new hire. Recommendation to put in at least one quarter of funding in the budget, \$16,000, to cover staffing and training.

Discussion on increasing Poll Worker wages. Recommendation to increase wages from \$10/hr. to \$15/hr.

Budget hearing will be held on Thursday, November 30th at 5:00 p.m.

Motion Long, second Chiples to adjourn. All aye. Adjournment

Building/Zoning/Land Planning – No meeting.

Fire – No meeting.

Park – No meeting.

Personnel – Personnel Committee Meeting, November 2nd, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call: Mark Peterson and Bob Wurtzel. Steve Davis-excused. Clerk Kent Hatlestad also present. Minutes: Motion Peterson, second Wurtzel to approve previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Wurtzel, second Peterson to go into Closed Session per Sec. 19.85 (1) (C), Wis. Stats., for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Peterson-aye, Wurtzel-aye, motion carried. Hatlestad invited to stay for the closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion Wurtzel, second Peterson to reconvene into Open Session. Peterson-aye, Wurtzel-aye. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion on filling position of General Maintenance Worker. Hatlestad reported that Mike Young had announced his decision to retire in March 2024 after almost 19 years. The position will be advertised in the same manner as the last hiring round. Advertisements will start running at the beginning of 2024.

Discussion on 2024-2026 3-year contract between the Village and Robert Hurlburt, Carrie Brudos, new hire, Mike Young and Kent Hatlestad. Motion Wurtzel, second Peterson to approve 2024-2026 wage increases of 3% per year for Robert Hurlburt, Michael Young, Carrie Brudos, new hire and Kent Hatlestad. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion on 2024 Health Insurance. Hatlestad reported that the village had looked at a number of options. Quartz was going up 22% for the same coverage. Mayo Clinic would not even provide a plan because Quartz has 82% of the coverage in the area. Benefit Advisors looked on the market and found Exemplar at a reasonable price. Motion Peterson, second Wurtzel to approve Exemplar Platinum W100 option insurance plan for Rob Hurlburt, Kent Hatlestad and the new hire. The new plan will represent a 12% increase from the 2023 plan. All aye, motion carried. Recommendations of the Personnel Committee will be sent to the Village Board on November 14th, 2023.

Motion Davis, second Peterson to adjourn at 3:15. All aye. Motion carried. Adjournment

Public Works – No meeting.

W&S – Utilities Commission Meeting, November 13th, 2023, 3:30 p.m., Stoddard Sewer Plant

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. Present - Mark Peterson and John Tully. Russell Bolton – excused. Village Lead Operator-Mike Young, Operator Rob Hurlburt and Village Clerk Kent Hatlestad also present. **Minutes:** Motion Peterson, second Tully to approve minutes from previous meeting. All aye, motion carried.

Appearances: None. **Bills and Vouchers:** Sewer - #3712-3724 = \$36,519.44 Water - #3351-3361 = \$13,316.32. Motion Tully, second Peterson to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion on the 2024 proposed budget. Hatlestad shared budget information that proposed a Water budget of \$216,200, a 2.5% increase over 2023. The Sewer budget was proposed at \$222,500, a 5% increase over 2023. Motion Peterson, second Tully to approve the 2024 budget proposals and send to the Village Board for approval. All aye, motion carried.

Discussion on proposed Simplified Water Rate increase. Hatlestad reported that the Simplified Rate Increase filed with the WI PSC will result in an 8% increase. The increase will help maintain the water system and the Simplified Rate is much smaller and less expensive than a regular rate increase. Motion Peterson, second Tully to approve the Simplified Rate Increase proposal and send it to the Village Board for approval. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on proposed Sewer Rate increase. Hatlestad reported that in order to meet the requirements being placed on the sewer Department by the WI DNR it is necessary to increase the base rate of sewer \$3/qtr. Motion Peterson, second Tully to approve proposal to increase the sewer base rate \$3/qtr and sent the recommendation to the Village Board for approval. All aye, motion carried.

New Business:

Discussion on NON. Hatlestad reported that the Sewer Department has been issued a Notice of Non-Compliance concerning sludge testing in 2019. The department has until November 21st to take a sludge sample and report the results to the WI DNR.

Hatlestad reported that the old sewer jetter has been sold on Wisconsin Surplus and brought in \$2,750. The village portion of the sale proceeds will be around \$800.

Communications: None. **Public Comment:** None

Motion Peterson, second Tully to adjourn at 4:20. All aye. Motion carried. Adjournment.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Discussion on 2024 budget. Hatlestad reported that he completed work on the 2024 budget. Hatlestad explained that the Tax levy had decreased and the mill rate had actually decreased slightly. There were no questions concerning the budget. Budget hearing set for Thursday, November 30th at 5:00 p.m.
- b) Discussion on wage and benefit package. Hatlestad reported that the village had looked at a number of options. Quartz was going up 22% for the same coverage in 2024. Mayo Clinic would not even provide a plan because Quartz has 82% of the coverage in the area. Benefit Advisors looked on the market and found Exemplar at a reasonable price. The new plan will represent a 12% increase from the 2023 plan. A wages package offering a 3% wage increase for each of the next three years was recommended for approval at the Personnel meeting. Motion Davis, second Long to approve the health insurance and 3-year wage package. All aye, motion carried.

New Business:

- a) Discussion on Simplified Rate increase for Water Utility. Hatlestad reported that the Simplified Rate Increase filed with the WI PSC will result in an 8% increase. The increase will help maintain the water system and the Simplified Rate is much smaller and less expensive than a regular rate increase. Motion Davis, second Long to approve the Simplified Rate increase proposal. All aye, motion carried.
- b) Discussion on Sewer Rate increase proposal. Hatlestad reported that in order to meet the requirements being placed on the sewer Department by the WI DNR it is necessary to increase the base rate of sewer \$3/qtr. Motion Davis, second Long to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Communications: None.

License Applications: Operator License - Mary Jones, Alexis Jones, Billie Renee Kinser, Julie Garbers. Motion Chiples, second Evans to approve. All aye. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Motion Olson, second Evans to adjourn. All aye. Motion carried.

Next meeting December 12th.