

**Village of Stoddard
Village Board Meeting
February 13th, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

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

Minutes: Motion Long, second Olson to approve minutes from the January meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Appearances: Mississippi River Parkway Commission – Lee Nerison, Francis Schelfout – WI DOT.

Bills and Vouchers: Motion Evans, second Olson to approve December payments #21322-21365 in the amount of \$402,924.44 for payment. All aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Appeals – No meeting.

Board of Review – No meeting.

Budget & Finance – No meeting.

Building/Zoning/Land Planning – No meeting.

Fire – No meeting. A meeting will be set up soon. Chief Brian Lehmann reported that a Recruiting Open House will be held on Saturday the 17th from 1 – 3 p.m. The SBFD will also have a "Truck Push" to welcome the new engine to the Fire Station.

Park – No meeting.

Personnel – No meeting. Meeting will set soon for interviews to replace Mike Young as Operator.

Public Works – No meeting.

W&S – Utilities Commission Meeting, January 22nd, 2024, 3:30 p.m., Stoddard Sewer Plant

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. Present - Mark Peterson, John Tully and Russ Bolton. Village Lead Operator-Mike Young, Operator Rob Hurlburt, Board member Scott Chiples and Village Clerk Kent Hatlestad also present. **Minutes:** Motion Bolton, second Tully to approve minutes from previous meeting. All aye, motion carried. **Appearances:** None. **Bills and Vouchers:** Sewer - #3733-3741 = \$8,062.06 Water - #3368-3380 = \$4,010.70. Motion Bolton, second Tully to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion on water survey return. Hatlestad reported that the surveys were coming back in at a good rate and that a 75% response rate would not be out of the question. Discussion on job posting. Hatlestad reported that the job for Operator had been posted on the Rural Water website, in the La Crosse tribune and on Indeed. Three applications had already come in.

New Business:

Discussion on water testing. Hatlestad reported that Hurlburt requested the installation of sinks in the well houses to test the water for chlorine levels before it gets into the system. This would help get a better idea of what is needed and calculate the delivery dosage. Sinks will be installed.

Discussion on WPDES permit. Hatlestad reported that the 30-day window for response to the WPDES permit is now open. After reading the permit there were several areas of concern that were flagged for response: Phosphorus dropping from 1.0 to 0.6 levels; Ammonia monitoring – not needed; CBOD testing on influent; Disinfection; Chloride testing for one year; All of these things cost money. Makepeace Engineering will help draft the response to the DNR.

Communications: None. **Public Comment Time:** None. Motion Bolton, second Peterson to adjourn at 4:27. All aye. Motion carried. Adjournment.

Utilities Commission Meeting, February 12th, 2024, 3:30 p.m., Stoddard Sewer Plant

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. Present - Mark Peterson, John Tully and Russ Bolton. Village Lead Operator-Mike Young, Board member Scott Chiples, Village Clerk Kent Hatlestad and Deputy Clerk Carrie Brudos also present. Operator Rob Hurlburt – excused.

Minutes: Motion Bolton, second Tully to approve minutes from previous meeting. All aye, motion carried. **Appearances:** None.

Bills and Vouchers: Sewer - #3742-3744 = \$1,679.71 Water - #3381 = \$491.98. Motion Bolton, second Tully to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion on Mike Young retirement. Hatlestad announced that Mike Young would be retiring from the village after 19 years of service on March 15th. Young will go to the 2024 Rural Water Convention in March to keep his credentials up to date in case the village needs to bring him out of retirement for any reason.

Discussion on village website. Hatlestad reported that a test page has been created and the site should be up and running soon.

Discussion on WI DOT DT1078. Hatlestad reported that the form was signed and sent to the DOT. The project plans are with the engineer and will be ready to be sent by April 5th.

New Business:

Discussion on new Operator position. Hatlestad reported that 6 people had applied for the Operator position. After looking at the applications the Commission has recommended inviting two applicants in for an interview. Information will be sent to the Village Board.

Discussion on water survey return. Hatlestad reported that the surveys were coming back in at a good rate and that a 75% response rate would not be out of the question.

Communications: Hatlestad reported that the 30-day window for response to the WPDES permit is now open. After reading the permit there were several areas of concern that were flagged for response: Phosphorus dropping from 1.0 to 0.6 levels; Ammonia monitoring – not needed; CBOD testing on influent; Disinfection; Chloride testing for one year

Hatlestad reported that the Phosphorus payment to Vernon County this year will be \$3,385.46 **Public Comment Time:** None

Motion Bolton, second Peterson to adjourn at 4:35. All aye. Motion carried. Adjournment.

Unfinished Business:

a) Discussion on Mike Young retirement. Hatlestad reported that Mike Young will be retiring from the village on March 15th after serving as an Operator for 19 years. A celebration in honor of his work will be scheduled for later.

b) Discussion on new web page. Hatlestad reported that the StoddardWi.gov website was getting ready. Some test pages have been created and it is coming together.

New Business:

a) Discussion on the appointment of a new Board of Appeals member. Jerry Furlano was approached about taking an open position on the Board of Appeals. Motion Venner, second Olson to approve Furlano for the position. All aye, motion carried.

b) Discussion on new Operator. Hatlestad reported that the position had been posted for a while and a group of applicants had been created. Interviews will take place soon.

c) Discussion on parking issues. Hatlestad brought up parking issues regarding Center St. and Main St. These issues will be taken to the Public Works committee for consideration.

d) Discussion on Resolution 2024-01 A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF STODDARD

Hatlestad reported on a resolution to recognize the designation of the Mississippi River Trail within the village limits to promote bicycle tourism. A member of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission – Lee Nerison, and Francis Schelfout – WI DOT made a short presentation on the resolution.

Resolution 2024-01

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF STODDARD

WHEREAS bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is a national bicycle route, along the length of the Mississippi River, through ten states, from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail was designated as one of only 16 National Millennium Trails which honor the past and imagine the future by preserving and commemorating major events and aspects of America's history and culture; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail provides access to and promotes the scenic, historic, archaeological, cultural, recreational and natural qualities of the Mississippi River and its amenities; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is located primarily on the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road National Scenic Byway (WIS 35) between Prescott and Illinois State Line, but also routed on other state and county highways, local roads or alternative routes for bicycling; and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission and the Village of Stoddard, with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders, have proposed a specific route to be designated as Mississippi River Trail; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail implements Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 1.11, 84.01(35), 84.60, and 85.02, 349.23 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Trans 400 which required that “due consideration to establishing bikeways and pedestrian ways in all new highway construction and reconstruction projects”; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail adds value to existing roads and trails; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is largely ready to sign and market, and many suggested improvements are already planned; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail will contribute to sustainable economic development in 33 Wisconsin Mississippi River communities; and

WHEREAS the proposed route for the Mississippi River Trail comes through the Village of Stoddard and can therefore provide a benefit to our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail will provide increased recreational and transportation choices for individuals to enjoy the outdoors as well as provide health, economic, and quality of life benefits; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail continues Wisconsin’s tradition of honoring and enhancing the Mississippi River by offering multiple bicycling experiences, each in a unique river landscape; and

WHEREAS we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be a suitable route, and desire that the route be designated so that it can be mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Stoddard in order to receive full benefit of the Mississippi River Trail, hereby expresses its approval and support for the development of the Mississippi River Trail, and requests that the appropriate officials see to it that the route is officially designated along the following segments within the limits of the Village of Stoddard:

SOUTHBOUND: WIS 35 from the north village limits south to the south village limits.

NORTHBOUND: WIS 35 from the south village limits north to the north village limits.

Motion Olson, second Evans to approve the resolution. All aye, motion carried.

e) Proclamation for the 100th Anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Hatlestad reported on a request for a proclamation to recognize the 100th anniversary of Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

WHEREAS, The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge was formed 100 years ago by legislative action on June 7, 2024 to develop systematic evaluation and management of this protected area for the future generations; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of Refuge organizations, federal and state partners, and others work to conserve, protect, and enhance habitat as a breeding ground for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants for the continuing benefit of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the refuge has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention and a Globally Important Bird Area; and

WHEREAS, the 240,000-acre refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from the confluence of the Chippewa River near Wabasha, MN to Princeton, IA. It crosses 4 states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin. The Americans that live in these communities along the river depend on the river for commerce, recreation, water supply, and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, the refuge hosts 3.7 million visitors annually. It provides a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation; and

WHEREAS, the refuge addresses significant issues including: threatened and endangered species, waterfowl migration, neotropical migratory birds, bottomland hardwood restoration, cultural resources, public use, and forest fragmentation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Village President Robert Wurtzel, hereby proclaim the week of June 7, 2024 as:

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Day

in the Village of Stoddard. I encourage all businesses and community members to support community efforts to continue this legacy of cooperation and to participate in the refuge events throughout the year of 2024 in celebration of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge vision.

Motion Evans, second Olson to approve the proclamation. All aye, motion carried.

Communications: None.

License Applications: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion Long, second Olson to adjourn at 6:25. All aye. Motion carried.

Next meeting March 12th.