

**Village of Stoddard
Village Board Meeting
March 11th, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**

The Village Board met in regular session. Roll call: Bill Evans, Scott Chiples, Steve Davis, Karen Long and Diane Olson. Jancyn Lepke – excused.

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

Appearances: None.

Bills and Vouchers: Motion Chiples, second Long to approve February payments #21778-#21809 in the amount of \$436,335.28 for payment. All aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Appeals – No meeting. A meeting will need to be scheduled for Cory Pronschinske and a variance for a creation of a lot.

Board of Review – No meeting. Open Book set for April 14th, 4 – 6:00 p.m., Board of Review – May 7th, 6-8:00 p.m. Jancyn Lepke – Chair.

Budget & Finance – No meeting.

Building/Zoning/Land Planning – No meeting.

Fire – No meeting.

Park – No meeting.

Personnel – No meeting.

Public Works – No meeting.

W&S – Utilities Commission Meeting, February 17th, 2025, 3:30 p.m., Stoddard Sewer Plant

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. Present - Mark Peterson Russ Bolton and Mike Young. Village Lead Operator-Rob Hurlburt, Operator Village President Bill Evans, Village Trustee Scott Chiples, Administrator Kent Hatlestad and Deputy Clerk Carrie Brudos also present.

Minutes: Motion Bolton, second Young to approve minutes from the January meeting. All aye, motion carried. **Appearances:** Jamey Makepeace, Makepeace Engineering.

Bills and Vouchers: Sewer - #3835-3841 = \$2,985.21, Water - #3483-3488 = \$1,826.05. Motion Bolton, second Young to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion on Hwy 162 project. Makepeace passed out construction plans on the project and construction estimates. The estimated cost of the project has increased \$137,500 since the initial estimate in 2023 from \$605,281 to \$742,757. Looking at the estimates it was suggested that the village look at ways to reduce the costs of the construction materials. Swapping out reinforced concrete with HDPE pipe would save a substantial amount of money. Makepeace will go over the construction estimates and look for more ways to save money. Storm water is another area that will be looked at. Running storm water 500 ft. to daylight could be changed. The village will be eligible for 45% loan forgiveness from the Clean Water Fund and the Safe Drinking Water Fund from the state. Discussion on Nitrate management project 2028. Makepeace brought a proposal that showed a cost of \$89,000 for the proposed UV disinfection project. Chlorine disinfection upgrades would cost around \$558,000. Makepeace reported that the Village of Coon Valley was installing the UV disinfection equipment now and the village could wait and see how the results look before making a decision. Coon Valley and Stoddard have the same system set-up. The project could be paid for with funds saved by the outfall loan being paid off in May.

New Business:

Discussion on ferric replacement for phosphorus removal. Hatlestad reported that Hawkins had sent a representative to do some jar testing at the plant last week. New chemicals were tested that were less than half as corrosive as ferric. The catch is they are more expensive. The village has used roughly 30,000 lbs of ferric annually since the phosphorus removal program began. The cost of the ferric in just the last two years has increased from .2891/lb. to .5218/lb. This is not sustainable and that is why we are looking to change chemicals.

More testing will need to be done before a decision can be reached.

Discussion on private well testing.

Hatlestad reported that he will hire a well inspector to conduct private well inspections in the village just like in 2020. It is easier and much faster to do it ourselves than chasing down private well owners to get it completed by the deadline. Can be done in one day. 12 wells to be inspected.

Communications: None. **Public Comment Time:** None Motion Young, second Bolton to adjourn at 4:38. All aye. Motion carried. Adjournment.

Next meeting March 17th.

Unfinished Business:

a) Discussion Hwy 162 project. Hatlestad discussed the construction plans on the project and construction estimates. The estimated cost of the project has increased \$137,500 since the initial estimate in 2023 from \$605,281 to \$742,757. Looking at the estimates it was suggested that the village look at ways to reduce the costs of the construction materials. Swapping out reinforced concrete with HDPE pipe would save a substantial amount of money. Makepeace will go over the construction estimates and look for more ways to save money. Storm water is another area that will be looked at. Running storm water 500 ft. to daylight could be changed. The village will be eligible for 45% loan forgiveness from the Clean Water Fund and the Safe Drinking Water Fund from the state. Hatlestad reported that the estimated cost would be less than \$100/household per year for the entire project.

New Business:

a) Discussion on Open Book and Board of Review. Hatlestad reported that dates have been set: Open Book set for April 14th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Board of Review – May 7th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Jancyn Lepke – Chair.

b) Hatlestad reported that the Vernon County Board has passed a Comprehensive Plan. It is 267 pages long and available on their website.

c) Hatlestad reported that the 2025 Audit had been completed and it all looked good.

d) Hatlestad reported that the Disinfection Upgrade Plan for E. Coli had been approved by the WI DNR. Hatlestad reported that Makepeace Engineering had prepared a proposal that showed a cost of \$89,000 for the UV disinfection project. Chlorine disinfection upgrades would cost around \$558,000. The Village of Coon Valley is installing the UV disinfection equipment now and the village could wait and see how the results look before making a decision. Coon Valley and Stoddard have the same system set-up. The project could be paid for with funds saved by the outfall loan being paid off in May.

Communications: None.

License Applications: Darwin Oldenburg – Operator license. Motion Davis, second Olson to approve. All aye, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

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

Next meeting April 8th.