

Regular Board Meeting

August 19, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Dennis Manthei. Trustees present: Baltz, Koelbl, Lautz, Leicht, Schumacher, and Wehrs. Also present: Coulee News Special Correspondent Emily Staed, Police Chief Charles Ashbeck, Recreation Director Michelle Czerwan, Public Works Director Scott Halbrucker, Nancy Lautz, Village Attorney Bryant Klos, and Village Administrator Teresa Schnitzler.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2014, Regular Board meeting as written. Roll call vote: Wehrs – abstain; remainder of Board - aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims from the following funds were presented for payment:

<u>General Fund:</u>	\$89,998.09
<u>Water Utility:</u>	\$17,585.36
<u>Sewer Utility:</u>	\$32,315.45
<u>Storm Water Utility:</u>	\$12,836.33

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Schumacher to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Baltz – present; remainder of Board - aye. Motion approved.

Alcohol Beverage License Application

Motion by Trustee Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Koelbl to approve the issuance of an alcohol beverage license application to Megan Renee Roiland. Roll call vote: Baltz – abstain; remainder of Board - aye. Motion approved.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Trustee Leicht reported on the August 11, 2014, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and recommend proposed Resolution 6.14 to exceed the State-imposed levy limit and implementation of Resolution 1.14. Chair James Leicht reiterated the Wisconsin Department of Revenue does not allow a single referendum asking the voters to increase the levy in a different amount for each of five years. If the Village decides it does want a different levy increase amount for each of five years, it would have to pose five separate referendum questions on the fall election ballot each year. The State allows referendum questions to increase the tax levy for one year, a set number of years, or indefinitely. At the last Village Board meeting, a proposed Resolution 6.14 was introduced and discussed. The proposed Resolution presents a 35 percent levy increase each year for five years as this is allowed under State law. Chair Leicht scheduled the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting in order to discuss the proposed referendum and to get input from

department heads on the levy amount proposed. It was noted that West Salem has the lowest by far per capita basic spending, property tax levy, and property tax rate. Even with a 35 percent levy increase, West Salem will still be the lowest in per capita spending and tax rate and almost the lowest in tax levy. However, the Committee noted the public will see the total tax bill and not just the Village share of the total tax bill. In 2013, a real estate tax bill for a \$100,200 assessed value property in the Village of West Salem before credits was \$1,969.51. Of this amount, the Villages share was \$384.63. The rest of the tax bill was attributable to County, School District, and other taxing authorities. With the increase, the tax bill would go up \$134.62 for each year included in the levy. The Finance and Personnel Committee should make a recommendation to the Village Board on a percentage of levy increase and for what length of time. Scott Halbrucker informed the Committee the Household Waste Ad Hoc Committee has determined large article and appliance pickup should be converted to a user based system. When the Village Board affirms this, as of January 1, 2015, the public works department would no longer require replacement of the 1994 Ford Tandem truck. The set aside each year for replacement of this truck can be eliminated from the calculations. The Committee discussed posing a referendum question to increase the levy for five years versus indefinitely, and it was determined the needs of the Village would not change in five years. Infrastructure needs will remain, and if the tax levy is not increased to begin making progress in street reconstructions, for example, the Village will need to bond for the capital projects. The Committee felt the proposed 35 percent could be reduced and thus be more acceptable to the public. The Committee recommended a referendum resolution to the Village Board incorporating a requested levy increase of \$280,000 to be set on an on-going basis. The Committee also recommended authorizing the expenditure of funds to distribute an informational letter to the Village residents explaining the referendum question prior to the November 4, 2014, Election.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Koelbl to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2014, Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. Roll call vote: Baltz – nay; remainder of Board – aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Koelbl to approve Resolution 6.14 for exceeding the State-imposed levy as modified on the recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee. Roll call vote: Baltz, Lutz and Wehrs – nay; Koelbl, Leicht, Manthei, and Schumacher – aye. Motion approved.

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies for 2014 under Wis. Stat Sec. 66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.602 limits the increase in 2014 to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy; or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction, less improvements removed, which for the Village of West Salem is 2.36%; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of West Salem, La Crosse County, believes it is in the Village's best interest to exceed the State levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than 2.36%; and

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem actual levy in 2013 (collected in 2014) was \$1,119,792.00 and further whereas the State limit would limit the increase to \$26,427.00 for a total allowable 2014 (collected in 2015) Village tax levy of \$1,146,219.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Village of West Salem, La Crosse County does hereby resolve and order as follows:

The Village Board hereby supports an increase in the Village tax levy for 2014 (to be collected in 2015) to exceed the State levy limit. The Village Board intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis by including it in the base used to calculate the limit for 2015 and all years that follow.

The Village Board directs that the question of increasing the Village tax levy for 2014 (to be collected in 2015), by 25% (The 2014 increase in the base would also be applied on an ongoing basis for base calculation for all years that follow), which would increase the Village levy by \$279,948.00 over the past year's levy, for a Village tax levy of \$1,399,740.00, shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum election to be held November 4, 2014.

ADOPTED this 19th day of August, 2014.

/s/

Dennis Manthei, Village President

(VILLAGE SEAL)

/s/

Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Schumacher to authorize funds to distribute an informational letter to Village residents explaining the referendum question prior to the November 4, 2014, election. Roll call vote: Baltz – nay; remainder of Board – aye. Motion approved.

Board of Appeals

President Manthei reviewed with the Board the actions taken by the Board of Appeals at its August 11, 2014, meeting. The Board of Appeals was to consider an appeal filed on July 24, 2014, by Laura and Norman Ira. The Iras have applied for a variance to the Zoning Code for their property located at 113 Meadow Lane. The Iras wish to replace an existing deck with a four-season room of the same dimensions as the existing deck. The present deck was allowed as a "landing" for ingress and egress. Replacing the existing deck with a four-season room would violate the 25-foot rear yard setback required by Village Code of Ordinances. The Iras are requesting a 7-foot setback variance to allow a four-season room 18-feet from the rear lot line. The Board of Appeals agreed there is enough yard area to allow the construction of a four-season room, and the neighbors have a four-season room in their backyard. However the Board also acknowledged its duty to enforce the zoning and building codes and recognizes the risk of setting precedence. Village Trustee Koelbl questioned why the variance should not be allowed, and Chair Carl Wallace detailed zoning codes, variance approvals in hardship and unique circumstances, and uniformity in structure footprint and green space. Upon roll call vote, the Board of Appeals unanimously denied the appeal applied for by Laura and Norman Ira.

Motion by President Manthei, seconded by Trustee Koelbl to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2014, Board of Appeals. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Household Waste Ad Hoc Committee

Trustee Baltz reported on the August 7, 2014, Household Waste Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review for recommendation to the Village Board specifications for refuse and recycling collection bids. The Committee reviewed

and discussed the draft Request for Bid documents prepared by Teresa Schnitzler. The bid sheets include requests for a five-year bid, seven-year bid, and a ten-year contract bid. The Committee discussed how cart size decisions directly relate to recycling collection decisions. The Request for Bid was modified to include options for 95-gallon refuse carts and 95-gallon recycling carts with recycling collection being on a bi-weekly basis. The contract with the hauler needs to include a provision giving residents not more than a three-month period to exchange the 95-gallon size for a smaller size, a price to residents who wish to add an additional cart, a provision for special services for not to exceed twenty-five residential pickups for elderly, disabled, and physically challenged residents, and the proposed schedule of refuse and recycling pickup in West Salem. Other municipalities and the haulers recommend implementing a cart system program after winter, and the Committee agreed that April 1, 2015, would be an appropriate date to begin the new system. The Committee recommended requesting either a three-month extension from Hilltopper or requesting the new hauler provide the services presently in operation for the first three months of 2015. Large article and appliance pick up are not included in the bid document. The Committee recommends each bidder also include a list of acceptable large articles and appliances, the rate to be charged for resident's use in accessing large article and appliance pick up services from the hauler, and the frequency of pickups. The Committee agreed this should be not less than once per month. The Committee recommended the Request for Bid document to the Village Board as modified and to begin the bidding process. It should also be understood the approved contract hauler will make contact with West Salem residents to explain and educate the new procedures and implement the new program.

Motion by Trustee Baltz, seconded by Trustee Schumacher to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014, Household Waste Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Baltz, seconded by Trustee Schumacher to approve the recommended Request for Bid document and to begin the bidding process. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Wehrs, seconded by Trustee Leicht to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. Schnitzler, Village Administrator