

Regular Meeting

September 20, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Also present: Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Kyle Holzhausen, Stephen Cohen, Charlie Handy, Bob Gollnik, and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022, Regular Board meeting, as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Claims

Claims totaling \$150,670.44 were presented for payment. Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

S.M.R.T. Budget Presentation

La Crosse County Planner Charlie Handy and Bob Gollnik, Senior Planner at Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, appeared before the Village Board to discuss the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit system and request financial support from the Village. The SMRT Bus system is a dynamic, integrated, and coordinated transportation network that provides access to jobs, recreation, shopping, and other opportunities for residents within the region. The system has been operating for ten years, and the West Salem green route was added in October of 2018. Area businesses, local units of government, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation are contributing to provide inexpensive public bus transportation for Southwest Wisconsin citizens. The focus of this regional bus transit service is for commuters, elderly and disabled residents, the general public and potential tourism-related travel. Presently, rides are \$3.00 one way no matter how far the rider travels. The service is administered through La Crosse County with bus operations provided via contract currently with Running, Inc., based in Viroqua. The ridership is over 21,000 rides annually, with 20 percent of the riders on the West Salem green route. Sixty percent of the riders use the service for transportation to and from work, and the remainder use the transportation for medical and other daily needs appointments. Historically, the annual local match totals \$95,000, but with an 8.3 percent increase in costs, in order to maintain long-term sustainability, by 2025 the local match will need to be \$145,000. The County is asking for a five-year local match commitment. Without commitments for local match, La Crosse County will discontinue administration of the program.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to refer the request to the Finance and Personnel Committee. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Special Event Application

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the Special Event Application submitted by the West Salem High School in order to hold the 2022

Homecoming Parade on September 30, 2022, and to waive the \$50 permit fee. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Recreation Committee

Stephen Cohen as Chair of the Recreation Committee reported on the September 12, 2022, meeting. The Recreation Committee discussed the proposed bicycle recreation area at Lewis Point Park. Items discussed were parking, wetlands, and maintenance of the new park. It was determined that a memorandum of understanding could be entered into between the Village and ORA regarding maintenance of the structures at the park. The Committee recommended pursuing the bike recreation area at Lewis Point Park.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022, Recreation Committee meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Curtis to pursue creation of a bicycle recreation area at Lewis Point Park. Roll call vote: Leicht – present; remainder of Board – aye. Motion approved.

Planning Commission

President Schumacher reported on the September 14, 2022, Planning Commission public hearing and meeting. The public hearing concerned proposed Ordinance No. 509. This Ordinance, if adopted, would revise Section 3.07(E)(1)(g) Off-Premise Signs of the Village Code of Ordinances to define minimum distances between signs and prohibit signs facing residential districts within those minimum distances. The Ordinance would also delete Village Code Section 6.15 School Crossing Guards as the West Salem School District will be managing the school crossing guard duties. There were no citizens present to speak for or against Ordinance No. 509. The Planning Commission meeting was then called to order, and the Commission reviewed for recommendation to the Village Board Amended Conditional Use Permit No. 53. After Conditional Use Permit No. 53 was approved by the Village Board, the family requested a change to the proposed residential unit. Mr. Handy stated the family would now like to build the apartment on the ground floor for the family relative. The new request would be a zero-barrier style dwelling between the present home and the new garage to insure there are no stairs to climb. The proposal would be a 24' X 28' apartment and a 28' X 28' garage for a total addition attached to the south side of the house of 28' X 52'. The utilities will all remain on one meter or one service to the home. The new plan will only require the addition to extend four feet farther south. The Commission recommended the Village Board approve Amended Conditional Use Permit No. 53. The next item on the agenda was to review and act on Ordinance No. 509 Amending Chapters III Zoning and VI Traffic. The Commission recommended approval of Ordinance No. 509.

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the September 14, 2022, Planning Commission meeting minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve Ordinance No. 509 as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve Amended Conditional Use Permit No. 53. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator