

Regular Meeting

November 21, 2023

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Excused: Anderson. Also present: Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023, meeting, as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$84,535.30. Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Ordinance No. 525

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve Ordinance No. 525, Amend Park Hours to Add Usage Bans as revised. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Public Safety Building Ad Hoc Committee

President Schumacher reported on the November 8, 2023, Public Safety Building Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The members appointed Scott Schumacher Chairperson. Chief Holzhausen presented the background of the need for a new public safety building. Everyone is aware of the lack of space in the present police department. Additional information presented was:

- One garage space is inadequate.
- In addition to squad cars, multiple trailers sit outside (some have been donated.)
- The recent hailstorm took out 3 squad cars.
- There is no back up power for the PD at all.
- PD will have 15 total staff once additions are made.
- PD currently only has 3 offices (chief, sergeant, captain-shared)
- PD has a small, squad room which is shared by all other officers.
- The lobby is too small.
- PD lacks evidence storage space.
- PD does have a small conference room with shared locker behind, but no female facilities.

At a recent training session, Chief Holzhausen was informed that there are other update mandates that could be coming (mother's rooms, etc.) Jason Lassen noted that some of these other amenities can help attract talent from other areas when comparing options. Chief Holzhausen then discussed various options for partnering, collaboration, and possible funding avenues for a new facility. Partnering options include the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Tri State Ambulance, and La Crosse County Dispatch. Chief Holzhausen stated collaboration can open options for funding, and Scott Schumacher has also heard this from County Administration on other subjects. Collaboration and

partnering to share the facility can be more effective due to the ability to share common spaces. Chief Holzhausen noted how Prairie du Chien received \$5M in funding from the Federal Government (Tammy Baldwin) and Cross Plains was awarded \$1M. John Lautz inquired if there is there a timeline on use of funding as is the case with other grants. Chief Holzhausen will verify and reach out to the Prairie du Chien Chief of Police for more information. A discussion was then had about communication with the other parties. The approach is that the Committee reach out for input in their specific areas, and this Committee will take input and incorporate it into the plan. Some of the groups (particularly the fire department) might be looked at as a future addition or phase 2. Proper site planning will be important to keep options open. Scott Schumacher informed the Committee the two lots on County Trunk M, Crestwood Avenue, and Greenfield Lane were purchased as an initial option before a collaborative facility was considered. Chief Holzhausen noted that the police department has already outgrown the original facility study that former Chief Ashbeck worked on. Since then Cedar Corporation expanded on the original study but more work is needed. Cedar Corporation has recommended a nearly six-acre parcel located on Garland Street extended, east of the elevated water tower. This is likely the best option for a new building as of right now. The Committee agreed that there is no need for an overly fancy building, but function and flexibility is important. The question was asked about Public Works and if that department would ever need more space. The option of a new building versus renovating an existing building was discussed. Renovating an existing large building could potentially save some costs, but there are not a lot of options. The City of Viroqua did something similar. Access to the building and to other areas like Interstate 90 and Highway 16 is important. The Committee discussed the option of a phased construction. However, communication with the other potential partners needs to be started in order to understand what kind of timeline those parties are on. One of the next tasks may be to formulate a request for proposal. There was discussion about different project delivery methods (i.e., Design Build, Design Construction Management, and use of an overall Construction Manager that helps with all other phases). When discussions begin with other municipalities, the Committee needs to learn: What process did they use? What went well? What did not? Potential locations and timing of engaging other potential partners is important. Chief Holzhausen stated police department morale has been impacted by a perceived inaction. This process may still might take a while, but progress is good. The Committee discussed when to listen to “experts” and when to do things the way we do them. Many times, both should be considered. The next steps involve visiting other police departments, and Chief Holzhausen will identify locations in the next two weeks. The next meeting may be a road tour to other police department facilities.

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Lautz to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2023, Public Safety Building Ad Hoc Committee as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator