

VILLAGE OF SOLDIERS GROVE, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting held October 5, 2023.

Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Jerry Miller, Brett Pettit, Harrison Heilman, Vicki Campbell, Steve George, Paul Nicholson, and Howard Arndt.

Public Input: Diane Coleman spoke about complaints regarding Swampfest; they were selling beer with no picnic license. Coleman was told the issues will be addressed when the agenda item comes up during the meeting.

Sewer Ordinance Update: Tabled due to Delta 3 Engineering unable to attend meeting.

Fire department: Fire meeting rescheduled to Wednesday; October 11 due to Village Picnic the same night as regular scheduled meeting. Rescue Task Force Raffle Tickets are available. Fire Department elections are set for November's Fire Meeting on Wednesday, November 1st. Everything is running smoothly, and an updated Fire Department picture taken.

CDC: No bills. Driftless Brewery has not paid on their CDC Loan in 2 months, due on the 15th of every month. If not received by November 15th, the amount due will go on the tax bill.

Public Works: Mowing has started up again due to the rain we finally received. Getting ready to start winterizing the campground, Lion's Shelter, bathrooms, and equipment. Mike is scheduled to start his water class the week of October 9th, Mike also obtained his CDL. Jeannette will be going in the following weeks to obtain hers. Campbell asked the workers to start getting rid of the flowers in the park due to the weather changing and it getting closer to winter.

Motion by Pettit, second by Miller to approve the 2023 Village Trick or Treating hours for October 31st 4 pm to 7 pm. All present aye, motion carried.

Picnic License for Big Buck Rod-N-Gun Club: Motion by Campbell, second by Arndt to approve Picnic License for Big Buck Rod-N-Gun Club. All present aye, motion carried.

School Building: The main building has been torn down and in the process of being cleaned up. No injuries or damage occurred in the demolition of the building. The building had to be torn down as the roof had collapsed at the back, the side wall was leaning towards the church next door.

Swampfest Issues: Received many complaints over the weekend regarding Swampfest. Music was played until 4:30 am Saturday morning, the park agreement states everything must be shut down by Midnight each night of an event. Reports of the selling of alcohol when they did not have a picnic license to do so, with the selling of alcohol without a picnic license, the Swampfest will no longer be allowed to obtain a picnic license within Village limits.

Motion by Nicholson, second by Miller to not enter into park rental agreement with the Swampfest or anyone involved, not allowing Swampfest to happen in Soldiers Grove. All present aye, motion carried.

The Swamp People have left a mess of wood and debris by the slough that the Village workers had to clean up. No proof of permit from the DNR to do any work on the slough has been provided to the Village.

Motion by Nicholson, second by Miller to strip rights of the Swamp People to do any work regarding the slough on Village property from here on out. All present aye, motion carried.

Library Budget: Library budget was presented and discussed. Projected the health insurance cost to the highest possible percentage it could go up causing the increase to the wage/benefit line. Added a maintenance line to the budget, due to the maintenance costs in 2023. Library is putting \$1,000 toward the budget this year. Circulated 7,000 items this year so far, good turn outs for toddler story hour, have a partnership with North Crawford Schools for story hours. Will be getting a grant from Southwest Library

System for a charging station in the Library to electric items. Campbell asked the hours for employees working in the library, Sarah stated 48 hours total a week for two employees. Wanting to raise part time employee's wages from \$13 to \$15. County funds also are increasing in 2024 due to more circulation in the library and the budget increasing in 2023. No action was taken due to waiting for numbers for the health insurance.

General Budget: Shared revenue is increasing by 20% in 2024, State Highway Aids are also increasing in 2024, also an increase in the garbage charges as residents are now being charged correctly. Talk to Crawford County Sheriff to increase hours spent in the Village as not much of the police protection budget has been used. Added a line for Equipment as some of our equipment is getting old and will need to be replaced eventually. Campbell says the budget looks good. No action was taken as waiting on numbers for the Health Insurance to come in.

Motion by Miller, second by Heilman to approve minutes of the September 12th meeting. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Miller, second by George to approve bills General \$15,437.71, Fire \$482.46, Sewer \$6,889.83, Water \$904.90, and Library \$5,878.00. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by George to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(f), for personnel matters. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to reconvene to open session, pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(2).

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm. All present aye, motion carried.

Kaitlynn R Ott