

VILLAGE OF SOLDIERS GROVE, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Minutes of a Special Board Meeting held October 17, 2023.

Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

1. Health Insurance Renewal: Discussion to go with Quartz at a 50.5% increase or switch to Alliance Trilogy at a 13% increase. Alliance Trilogy covers all Hospitals and Clinics in the area, Quartz only covers Gundersen Hospitals and Clinics. Motion by Campbell, second by Pettit to switch to Alliance Trilogy for Employee Health Insurance. All present aye, motion carried.

2 & 3. General and Library Budgets: The Library was asking for a \$7,347 increase from the Village for their 2024 budget, due to the unknown insurance costs. With the motion to switch to Alliance Trilogy with an increase of 13% and not 50.5% with Quartz, the board discussed the amount needed for the Library Budget to cover the 13% needed for insurance. Also, discussed 75% of the Library budget is wages and benefits, which concerns Campbell. Campbell had me, Kaitlynn, reach out to Libraries around the area to see their hours and if they offer benefits, in findings, many Library Directors in small towns around the area only work at most 26-30 hours a week, no benefits included and 1 or 2 part time librarians. Another concern that was brought up, the Librarian gets paid to work from home while there are volunteers in the Library, in talking with other Libraries, none work from home anymore, that was only during the COVID outbreak, it was stated, this issue needs to be brought to the attention of the Library Board that the Library Director should be working the full 35 hours in the Library if she is going to be paid for 35 hours a week. The Library is only open for 32 hours a week, with one part-time employee who works 9-13 hours a week.

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to raise the Village portion of the Library budget from \$52,496 to \$53,222.04 which is a \$726.04 increase from 2023. All present aye, motion carried.

The remaining \$6,620.96 that was originally figured into the Library budget was discussed to be put into the Equipment Fund, due to our Village equipment getting old and will start needing to be replaced.

Motion by Campbell, second by Pettit to put the \$6,620.96 into the Equipment Fund. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Heilman, second by Pettit to adjourn the special meeting at 7:25pm.

Kaitlynn R Ott