

VILLAGE OF REDGRANITE  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING –May 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the Municipal Building on May 15, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll Call: Mark Juslen, Dillon Gray, Jim Erdmann, Ellen Caswell, Tim Hagar, Gary Rodencal. Absent: Matt Knollenberg. Motion by Mark, second by Tim, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

FINANCE, PERSONNEL, INSURANCE –Motion by Mark, second by Tim, to approve general fund disbursements – checks 14333 through 14366 (BankFirst) for a total of \$25,809.77; water fund checks 6205718 through 6205729 (BankFirst) for a total of \$5,862.64; sewer fund disbursements – checks 6306487 through 6306498 (BankFirst) for a total of \$7,063.25 ARPA disbursements – check 2021010 \$3,066.00 and payroll of \$49,024.82 creating a grand total of \$87,760.48 and approval of financial reports for general, water and sewer as printed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tim, second by Dillon to accept Gary Rodencal as a new Village Board Trustee. Motion by Tim, second by Dillon to accept Ellen Caswell as a new Village Board Trustee. Motion carried. Jim welcomed both to the Village Board and is looking forward to working with them.

Motion by Mark, second by Tim to table Board Committee assignments to a later date. Jim would like to talk with Ellen and Gary after the meeting to explain. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark, second by Dillon to accept Gina Smukowski as the new Deputy Clerk. Motion carried.

Motion by Gary, second by Dillon to approve extension of Mary Piechowski's retirement date for training the new Deputy Clerk for 30 days. Review progress at the next Board Meeting of June 19, 2023 and extend if needed. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark, second by Tim to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting of April 17, 2023 and the Special Board Meeting of April 19, 2023. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing to Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Nothing to Report.

PUBLIC FORUM – Sandy Lyles stated the March Board Meeting minutes are not posted on the website. She also stated that the Special Board Meeting minutes in which a motion/action was made also need to be published. Sandy stated the new ordinance of a Wheel Tax was not published in the Waushara Argus. This item was not on the Agenda and needs to be further reviewed. Mark Opperman spoke of ongoing problems at 511 Horne Street and he would like to know the Abatement progress. Mark stated a new fence was put up with a tarp on it, unregistered vehicles, blocking driveways and has numerous violations. Owner was given an extension at the March Board Meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing to Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Nothing to Report.

SEWER, WATER – Matt Rettler gave an update. The sewer jetting is done. Have replaced 75% of the new meters. Flushing of the fire hydrants will take place in the next few weeks.

Ad will be placed in the newspaper. Sledge removal is an ongoing process and anticipates a savings to the Village from last year. Have not received any bill yet. Wisconsin Rural Water Plan is monitoring the water well system to make sure it remains safe along with an Energy Saving program. This is a free program and once testing is completed, a report will be sent.

Matt stated a pump is leaking at the Old Plant Lift Station and needs repair. Labor extensive and the other two pumps are working fine.

Brian Roemer/Ehlers Finance had a presentation and supplied a packet for review. Explanation of adding the Public Fire Protection to the resident's quarterly water bills. Debt service helps with the General Fund financing. Short time relief. Public Service Commission regulates the expense of the services. In Dec of 2022, Village applied to change the PFP to apply the cost to water bills. It was approved and charges added on April 1, 2023. This is a five-year window to extend options available. Brian suggests keeping monitoring these fees to keep within the operating levies.

Motion by Dillon, second by Mark to send out an explanation letter to the residents for the Public Fire Protection charge on the second quarterly water bills. Glen McCarty is drafting a letter and sending to all Board members. This letter will be completed and added to the June meeting for Board approval. Motion carried.

#### MACHINERY, GARBAGE, ORDINANCES –

Motion by Mark, second by Dillon for \$3,000 for emergency Chipper repair. Not to exceed \$4,000. There was an equipment flaw and needs replacement. Worth repairing versus renting one. Will need annual maintenance. Needed for brush removal in the rural areas. Jim Fredrick suggested money to be taken out of the machinery fund and balance can be taken from the Street Budget. Repairs estimate approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Dillon, second by Gary to add Standby Lot Fees to the quarterly utility bill. Glen McCarty spoke of Standby Lot Fees for empty lots. This charge was dropped in 2018. An additional charge of approximately \$16.50 would be assessed per parcel which has a water main in front of the property or empty lot(s). As of now, there is approximately 60 residents with 20 of those that have a curb stop and are not using it. This would be on a quarterly basis and recorded on the water bills. Charges would raise estimated \$17,000 revenue for the General Fund. This would not go to the Water Dept. PSC suggests adding this charge because it's in our tariff. Only parcels that are proved to be unbuildable or marshland would be exempted. Motion carried.

#### MUNICIPAL BUILDING – None

#### PARKS, CEMETERY - None

STREETS, SIDEWALKS, DITCHES – The monthly public works department update was given by Jim F. A new Leaf Vac was installed on the truck and is working well. Used on streets, gutters, fence lines, and ditches. Mowing operations have begun. Parks are being prepped for summer use. Water is turned on and bathrooms are ready. Estimates on taking trees down in the parks should be in next month and he will update at the June Board Meeting.

Motion by Mark second by Ellen to use "Safe Step Program" to repair and maintain trip hazards on the sidewalks. Jim F. provided pictures of sidewalks that need immediate repair. \$2,000 was budgeted for sidewalks. "Safe Step Program" would stay within that dollar amount. Eventually the money would return to the Village by the residents paying it back when the work is done. Each year having a roll-over amount set to continue sidewalk repairs. Starting near the school and working on the high traffic routes that are used by the school children. Jim stated that 70% of the sidewalks need replacement and twenty-three trip hazards need addressing. This process would be ongoing and may take a few years to complete. Motion by Mark, second by Tim to open the floor for discussion. Belinda Passarelli asked if there were any plans in installing sidewalks in front of the school. No plans currently. Federal grants may be available. Will need further review. David Kroll added that the Public Works Department is doing a great job on maintenance issues. Motion carried.

POLICE, FIRE – Jim Erdmann gave an update on the Redgranite Area Fire District . They are in the process of getting all the townships and villages onboard with the new fire engine. Next step is to order the truck. Delivery would be in approximately 12 to 18 months. Kyle gave updates on the current Abatements. Timeline for 511 Horne St has expired and is not compliant. Contact was made with the owner and abatement process is going to continue. Other four abatement property owners have been notified and Kyle is working with them to comply. Discussions will continue with Dan Sondalle. Slow process but progress has been made. ARPA funds are being used for the cost of the Abatement process at approximately \$5,000+ in costs. Motion by Ellen, second by Mark to table the Abatements until a full audit is made on the remaining ARPA funds. Motion carried.

Kyle has written numerous tickets to 511 Horne St but unable to collect the monies due. Jim Erdmann suggested due to slow progress, the abatement process should proceed. Motion by Mark, second by Dillon to initiate stronger actions to help Kyle with the Abatements and ordinances. Legal letters were sent out. Motion by Mark, second by Dillon to update the next steps at the June Board meeting. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – Motion by Mark, second by Tim to have attorney Dan Sondalle take the next legal process on 404 Bannerman Ave property. The Building Inspector (Kunkel Engineering) supplied a report. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark, second by Dillon to table a Citizen Participation Plan for CDBG to the June Board meeting. Julie Fredrick not present to give further information. Will add to the June Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Dillon, second by Gary to donate money in kind determined by license fee, park permit fees and clean up fees to Redgranite Labor Day Festival. Letter to be sent to them with a break down. Sponsorship deadline is June 9, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark second by Gary to approve Andrew Zahn's Operator License. No issues reported. Motion carried.

Agenda Items to be Placed on Next Regular Board Meeting Agenda:

- Abatement progress at 511 Horne St
- Explanation letter of PFP fees to be included in next utility bill.
- DOT Wheel Tax Publication places.
- Citizen participation plan for the CDBG Program / Julie Frederick.

Motion by Mark, second by Tim to Adjourn.  
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Streck  
Village Clerk