

**FREDONIA VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**Fredonia Government Center**  
**242 Fredonia Avenue, Fredonia, WI**  
**February 16, 2012**

The regular village board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Lapicola. Present: Chuck Lapicola, Jill Bertram, Don Dohrwardt, and Mark Edbauer, Sr. Also present: Lisa Dohrwardt, Becky Baughman, Gary Buntrock, Brian Schommer, Tom Sheppard, Mark Jaeger, and Jo Ann Wagner. Arriving later: Fritz Buchholtz.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approve Minutes**

Minutes of the February 2, 2012 village board meeting were approved as presented on a **MOTION** by Edbauer, seconded by Dohrwardt, and carried.

### **Approve Payment of Bills**

With the additional list presented the general fund, water, and sewer bills were approved for payment on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Bertram, and carried.

### **January Treasurer and Utility Reports**

The January Treasurer and Utility reports were approved as presented on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Edbauer, and carried. Preliminary year end budget comparisons were also provided. Dohrwardt noted that he would like the Finance Committee to review possible use of the Economic Development funds.

### **Operator's License**

An operator's license for Helen Mueller was approved on a **MOTION** by Edbauer, seconded by Dohrwardt, and carried.

### **Open Session for Citizen Questions and Comments**

None

### **Disposition of Celebrate Fredonia**

Becky Baughman stated that it saddens her to see the end of Celebrate Fredonia. She realizes it is difficult to run an event with limited volunteers but she enjoyed what she did. It was a good event, affordable, and for the family, but she cannot run it by herself. Lapicola stated that the Lion's Club is not interested in running the event. Edbauer noted that the event could be brought back in a different form or capacity in the future. Baughman noted that the event does help lots of organizations in the community. We need things to offer our kids. Edbauer stated that people do not get involved. It is hard to get volunteers. Other communities have events but they are not organized by the municipality. Lapicola thanked Baughman for the work she did and stated he enjoyed the talent contest at the last Celebrate Fredonia. Edbauer agreed Baughman did an outstanding job. A **MOTION** was made by Edbauer, seconded by Dohrwardt, to shelve Celebrate Fredonia for the foreseeable future due to lack of volunteers. Motion carried.

### **Report from Village President on Operations of Village**

Lapicola noted that some of the undeveloped land north of the Village Green subdivision may be sold to a farmer. Edbauer noted that this land has continued to be used as farm land. A CSM will need to be submitted to the Plan Commission.

Informational meetings on the Fredonia Avenue project were set for March 1, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. and March 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

### **Report from Work Leader on Operations of Village**

The report was reviewed. Sheppard stated the tree at Stoney Creek Park is coming down slowly but surely. WE Energies has been contacted to see if they will remove the tree. Sheppard questioned if employment for Gruenke could be extended through April or May. He would be able to help prep the baseball diamonds and work on the disc golf

course. He is a hard worker and is available to work longer. Lapicola questioned if this would be taking work away from other employees. A decision will be made after the Director of Public Works is hired.

### **Report from Fire Chief on Operations of Village**

The report from the Fire Chief was reviewed. Schommer noted that the purchase of a vehicle is “dead in the water”. The owner was asking more than twice the blue book value. He thanked the board for considering the purchase of a vehicle. Lapicola noted that there may be other alternatives – either the GSA or the Forest Service auction in Rhinelander. Schommer stated that starting July 18, 2012 the fluorescent bulbs used at the fire department will no longer be manufactured. He questioned if the village will stock up on bulbs or change the fixtures. Grant possibilities will be checked for changing to a high output, low energy fixture. Schommer also noted that the woman’s bathroom at the Fire Department is in need of a paint job. He also requested that when WE Energies is in the village they also take a look at the tree branch that is hanging over the power line north of the Fire Department. Schommer reported that all ladders were tested on Monday and passed.

### **Report from Village Marshal on Operations of Village**

The report from the Village Marshal was reviewed. The 2011 report will be available at the next board meeting.

### **Report from Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager**

The report from the Wastewater Treatment Plant manager was reviewed. (Schommer left) Buntrock noted that some changes are coming in the operator certification program. This will require every operator to have additional training and a sub class in collection system. Depending on when the WWTP permit comes due, five years will be given to get everyone certified. In the past there were Grade 1/2 and Grade 3/4 certifications. Under the new program it will be beginner and advanced. An operator will need 10 points to be advanced. You receive 6 points for 6 years experience. You receive 4 points for a college degree. Online training will also be available.

**PHOSPHOROUS REMOVAL TRAINING COURSE:** Approval was given for Auer to attend a two day Phosphorous Removal training course on April 23 and 24 including registration, food, and mileage one way on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Edbauer, and carried. Buntrock noted that the board had requested that all employees have their current certification displayed including expiration date and number of continuing education credits obtained.

### **Report from Clerk-Treasurer on Operations of Village**

The report from the Clerk-Treasurer was reviewed.

**LOAN PAYMENT:** Early payment of the principal amount of \$92,997.98 on the Village Hall loan was approved on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Bertram, and carried. This will save approximately \$1,900 in interest expense this year.

### **Increase in Sewer Rates**

Lapicola noted that the 2012 sewer budget included an increase in sewer rates as there are some major projects on the horizon. The sewer utility has some developer’s money that is allocated toward certain projects. The affect of a 3% to 6% increase in sewer rates will be reviewed at the next meeting. Dohrwardt noted that work on the collection system is also needed.

### **Community Garden**

It was noted that there are flyers around town advertising a community garden. Edbauer noted that the garden is on private property and is between the group sponsoring the garden and the property owner. Lapicola noted that they may request water from the village. Bertram stated we should wait until they come to the board. Lapicola noted that the village should check to see what other communities do regarding a community garden and should check if any have an insurance requirement for the group sponsoring the garden. Lapicola noted that if it is on private property it is up to the property owner to

regulate. Dohrwardt noted that the garden plots should not extend into the road right of way. Lopicola will contact the property owner regarding the community garden.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence received and reviewed include

- Email from insurance agent regarding possible non-renewal of workers compensation insurance and options available. Consensus of the village board was to look at other options including the state pool program.
- Letter from MATC regarding appointment to district board and requirements for candidates.

### **Personnel Committee – February 2 and 9, 2012 Meetings**

Bertram reported that the Personnel Committee interviewed and discussed candidates for the Director of Public Works position.

### **Closed Session**

Per Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) the village board convened into closed session to consider employment and compensation on a **MOTION** by Edbauer, seconded by Bertram, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote. (Buchholtz arrived at 8:10 p.m.)

### **Adjourn Closed Session and Reconvene into Open Session**

Closed session adjourned and the village board reconvened into open session on a **MOTION** by Dohrwardt, seconded by Bertram, and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **Director of Public Works Job Offer**

A **MOTION** was made by Dohrwardt, seconded by Edbauer, to authorize the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee and the Village President to extend an offer of employment to Roger Strohm as discussed in closed session. Motion carried.

### **2012 Wages**

A **MOTION** was made by Dohrwardt, seconded by Edbauer, and carried to authorize 2012 wages as discussed in closed session.

### **Items for Future Consideration**

Dohrwardt asked that the Personnel Committee review the pension plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. on a **MOTION** by Edbauer, seconded by Dohrwardt, and carried.