**VILLAGE OF NORTH PRAIRIE**

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FUTURE STATUS OF NP POLICE DEPT AND VILLAGE BOARD MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 8, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President G. Nickerson at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Municipal Center. Roll call was taken with the following members present:

President G. Nickerson

Trustees: F. Rewasiewicz, J.H. Taylor, D. Stellpflug, A. Pellegrino, D. Hall and D. Nottling

Village Clerk: R. Bagley

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Village Board Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2022 –**

**Motion by J. H. Taylor, seconded by D. Stellpflug, to approve November 10, 2022 Village Board meeting minutes, as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Public Hearing Announcement to receive comments from residents to possibly change the North Prairie Police Department from all part-time to a full-time/part-time Department with information provided to determine if this will be a referendum item for all residents to vote on at the April 4, 2023 election.**

President G. Nickerson explained that this Public Hearing is to determine what citizens would like to have in the Village of North Prairie regarding Police coverage in the future. Money is not the main issue, as the Village would like to make changes without cutting any services. As the 2023 Budget is already set, any approved changes would begin in 2024.

Public Comments:

**C. Wood, 409 Karin Drive**, supports the Resolution for full-time/part-time Police Dept. He is aware of the cuts to the patrols. The patrols are effective and would like to see the Police Chief receiving more support for the safety of the Village. Higher pay incentives for good Officers would be appealing. Mr. Wood loves the sense of safety in the Village and the low crime rate and realizes that money will need to be spent in order to keep the Village a safe place.

P. Shorr, 104 Oakridge Drive, prefers having back-up from the Sherriff’s Department to cover the times when the Village has no patrol. She prefers to have a full-time/part-time Police Department.

C. Schroeder, 208 Prairie View Drive, wonders why the Village has a Police Dept. when neighboring municipalities do not. As a business owner, she supports raising the wages for the Police Officers. The Village could pay incentives to personnel who do not work full-time.

Trustee A. Pellegrino asked where the funds will come from to increase the Police Dept. wages?

Deputy Clerk P. Widgerson stated that the County and State will need to know if the Village plans to have a Referendum regarding the Village Police Dept. by January 24th for the April 4th, 2023 Election.

Trustee D. Hall explained that the Village has looked at increasing rates for the Police Officers.

Police Chief S. Tamez stated that the average wage is $31.00 to $32.00 per hour. The Village wage starts at $27.00 for Police Officers.

F. Heintz Taylor, 318 N Main Street, noticed a shortage of speed control officers on Main Street in North Prairie. The Village offers less than compatible wages, and few incentives to recruit new officers. She supports the Police Dept., and adding full-time patrol for the residents of North Prairie. She recommends a referendum at the Spring Election to increase wages for the Police Dept.

D. Samuels, 515 Karin Drive- does not support a Referendum to increase the wages of the Police Department. The Village does not have training protocols established in the Village, but it could maybe move forward with other options. Many surrounding municipalities do not have officers for back-up coverage, but the Village provides coverage for other municipalities. She needs more information and does not support a Referendum.

K. Bunk, 181 Crooked Stick Pass- supports what D. Samuels just stated. She needs more information and a better understanding and explanation on the additional costs to the Village to expand the Police Department.

L. Nottling, 221 Karin Drive- stated that she does not have enough information and would like to know what discussions have been held with the Sherriff’s Dept. for additional coverage and the costs involved. She would like to increase the part-time pay for Police Officers. The Village needs to look at other alternatives.

Village Board Comments:

Village President G. Nickerson stated that the Village has looked at assistance from the Sherriff’s Dept. and they ask $550,000 annually for two shifts each day, plus a Clerk to complete the paperwork. We need to know what coverage the Village of North Prairie citizens want. Most of the Village officers work full-time somewhere else.

Trustee A. Pellegrino mentioned to look at the non-patrol hours in the Budget for 2022 as 2 positions do not patrol. The Chief and Asst. Chief do not patrol. Trustee A. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending the Public Hearing tonight. She is looking at how the additional Police staff would be funded while working within the current Budget. We need to allocate funds where appropriate. The Village needs to carefully consider the upcoming retirements and to meet the demands of the next generation. Setting realistic expectations for the Village will insure that the best interest of the families is considered.

Trustee D. Hall appreciated the people who came to the Public Hearing this evening. Dollars have to be stretched, so benefits/needs will need to be discussed for the safety of the residents of the Village. As a Board member, she does not feel enough research has been done to consider the safety/issues of the residents.

Trustee D. Nottling suggested getting more information and more options to make it enticing for people to work here.

Trustee D. Stellpflug is looking for more information from the Village residents.

Trustee J. H. Taylor thanked everyone for attending and is looking for thoughts regarding a Referendum regarding Police patrol. Back-up patrol from the Sherriff’s Department is dwindling. Why hurry to put a Referendum on the Spring Ballot? Contracting with Waukesha County would increase the budget. The Village is trying to keep up and stay attractive to qualified officers. The Village currently does not have the staff to patrol the Village and is in favor a binding Referendum by doing what the residents want for a safer community and a Police presence. Informational meetings will be necessary to provide the details.

Trustee F. Rewasiewicz agrees to increasing wages to pay the officers what they deserve, for the ultimate safety of the Village. He would like the Village to continue to be a great place to live and raise children. The Police Dept. needs the ability to hire and pay a good wage.

Trustee D. Hall mentioned that the Village needs direction on writing the question of a binding Referendum so that the Board can take the appropriate action. She is not comfortable with a binding referendum.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by D. Hall, to close the Public Hearing at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Recommendation from Plan Commission on Eden Landscaping, Construction, LLC to rezone the property at 226 Industrial Drive from B-1 (Business) to I-1 ( Industrial) Zoning and to submit for Public Hearing-

President G. Nickerson stated that the Plan Commission approved their Plan of Operation on Tuesday, but any change to the zoning requires a Public Hearing.

Motion by D. Nottling, seconded by D. Hall, to recommend that the possible Rezoning of the property located at 226 Industrial Drive be set to a Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Application from North Prairie Market, DBA Lunch Room, is tabled.

2023 R&R Insurance Total Proposal Packet for the Village, including the Cyber Security Insurance – new requirements and cost increase-

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by D. Hall, to open the meeting to R&R Insurance Agent Paul Lessila. Motion carried. Agent P. Lessila stated that overall the Village will see a $176.00 increase for the renewal in 2023. Most of the units have stayed flat. There is a 7% inflation factor which affects the premium. Cyber Liability Insurance increased from $2,500 to $4,400 in 2023. Workers Compensation rates are set by the State and the mod factor is based on 3 years of claims. The mod factor went from .91 to a 66% increase. Municipalities generally receive a dividend each year from the League. Prime coverage is additional for fraudulent impersonation. The Village has an excellent coverage rate.

Motion by D. Hall, seconded by J. H. Taylor, that the Village Board approve the 2023 R&R Insurance Total Packet Insurance in an amount not-to-exceed $35,862.00, including the Cyber Security Insurance, effective January 1, 2023, with the Village Board holding a Public Hearing for a 2023 Budget Amendment to adjust the 2023 Budget. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 02-2022 to amend Ordinance No. 8-04 regarding parking regulations on Hickory Drive-

This item is a continuation from last month’s meeting to regulate parking on Hickory Drive near Prairie View Elementary School to include “No Parking” on either side of Hickory Drive from CTH E to Chestnut Way, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am - 9:30 am and 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

Motion by J. H. Taylor, seconded by D. Nottling, to approve Ordinance No. 02-2022 to amend Ordinance No 8-04 and the Municipal Code of the Village of North Prairie to include parking regulations on Hickory Drive from CTH E to Chestnut Way, Monday – Friday from 7:30 am – 9:30 am and 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Motion carried.

Recommendation from Public Safety and Protective Services to use the Budget surplus for a new squad car designated from the General Fund-

Motion by J. H. Taylor, seconded by D. Stellpflug, to utilize the 2022 Budget surplus from the Police Department after the annual audit will be designated from the General Fund towards the future purchase of a new squad car. A line item note will be added designating the funds for that specific purpose, along with a note for the funds allocated for the tennis court. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by J. H. Taylor to open the meeting to citizens present for Public Comment. Motion carried unanimously.

Debbie Carrasco Zanini- 212 Corby Drive- Member of Friends of North Prairie Native Gardens- A wooden plaque has been placed on a wooden bench honoring the Boy Scouts who made the bench by the gardens. The two cedar signs are also installed in the Park. No Mow May is gaining popularity by leaving a portion of lawn un-mowed until June in order to protect the bee colonies. Friends of North Prairie Native Gardens would like to expand this initiative and meet with the Parks Committee for the future months of May to begin discussions about participating in “No mow May” for the benefit of the bee colonies.

Resident D. Samuels believes this is a wonderful idea for the Village. She does not believe that the Village has a mowing Ordinance, only for noxious weeds, and hopes that other residents will engage within this community and protect the bee colonies.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to close the Public Comment section of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Village President’s Report- President G. Nickerson mentioned that four Village Board members are up for re-election in April, 2023. All nomination papers and supporting documents needed to be submitted by January 3, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. to the Village Clerk in order to be on the ballot for the April 4, 2023 Election.

The Waukesha County Hazard Mitigation Plan was accepted by 13 Municipalities in Waukesha County.

Village Clerk/Treasurers Report- Village Clerk R. Bagley stated that she plans to retire at the end of 2023. The Personnel and Policy Committee should begin the process to advertise, interview and hire a new Village Clerk/Treasurer.

WI Elections Commission 2022 Election Security Subgrant program- Deputy Clerk Pauline Widgerson stated that the Memo of Understanding for the Election equipment grant was approved by the State for $1,200 and the new election equipment has been purchased.

Operator’s License- Tiffany Wanchak at Sport’s Page Bar & Grill-

Motion by D. Hall, seconded by D Nottling, to approve the Operator’s License request for Tiffany Wanchak at Sport’s Page Bar & Grill as all requirements for licensing have been met. Motion carried.

**Public Safety & Protective Services Committee (Police, Fire Municipal Court)**

**Joint Municipal Court –** Trustee J. H. Taylor is recommending a Public Hearing to amend the Joint Municipal Court Budget to include the cost of a Bailiff under Temporary Help in the Court Budget at an annual cost of $7,500. The decision is left up to the Judge of the Joint Municipal Court.

Public Works, Building & Grounds Committee (Streets & Roads, Parks, Community Center, Civic Pride)-

Trustee D. Stellpflug mentioned that the WISLR report was filed.

2022 Civic Pride Award Recipient- As recommended by the Public Works, Building & Grounds Committee-

Motion by D. Stellpflug, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to approve Joan Smart as the 2022 Civic Pride recipient for 2022 for her many years of dedicated service to the North Prairie Auxiliary. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel and Policy Committee- Trustee A. Pellegrino stated that the next Committee meeting will be in January, 2023. The Committee is working on Noxious Weeds and an Invasive Species Ordinance.

Invasive Species Ordinance- Item was tabled.

Ad Hoc ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee-

The Ad Hoc ARPA Committee will be meeting on January 4th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by D. Stellpflug, seconded by D. Nottling, to approve $21,000 in ARPA grants to be distributed to Village Businesses and Village Residents affected by the pandemic with a maximum payment of $3,000 per applicant. Motion carried.

**FINANCE, FEE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

**Monthly Bills and Payroll-**

**Motion by F. Rewasiewicz, seconded by J. H. Taylor, to approve December payroll checks and Accounts Payable for November and December as recommended by Committee**:

**Payroll checks 17909-17936 for a total of $21,042.63.**

# Federal and State Withholding: $8,375.45 paid electronically

Accounts Payable Vouchers for November and December:

**Regular invoices for the Village:** **Checks 17901-17908 and 17937-17975 for a total of $79,101.00. Grand total for all checks is $108,519.08.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Monthly reports for the Building Inspector, Fire Department, Police Department and Department of Public Works filed for the record.**

**Item #5 on Agenda: Placing the item of possibly going from a part-time PD to full-time/part-time Police Dept. as a Referendum on the April 4th 2023 ballot-**

**Motion by J. H. Taylor, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to place the item of the Village Police Dept. as a Binding Referendum on the April 4th, 2023 Ballot to change from a part-time Dept. to a full-time/part-time Department. The Village will hold informational meetings, as necessary, prior to the April 4th, 2023 Election.**

Discussion: There is not enough time to get the information to the residents to make an informed decision by Election day.

**Vote: 2 yes, 5 no. Motion fails.**

**Motion by A. Pellegrino, seconded J. H. Taylor, to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhoda Bagley

Village Clerk