Village of New Milford – Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Timothy H. Owens

IN ATTENDANCE:

Timothy H. Owens, Deanna Rodgers, Eileen Owens, Wendy Roop, Julie Wagner, Dan Wolf, Jim Stevens, Adam Bunge and Jessica Lang in attendance. Trustee, Ron Colvin, not in attendance. Absence approved prior to meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion by Deanna Rodgers, second by Wendy Roop to adopt the agenda, all present voted in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from 12/10/2024 Board Meeting postponed for approval due to typo regarding attendance of board members pointed out by Deanna Rodgers. The village clerk is to correct these and resubmit minutes at next board meeting session on 02/11/2025 for approval.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

A motion by Deanna Rodgers was made to approve the financial statement for December 2024, second by Wendy Roop. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Resident David DeBlaw of 6906 Meadow Song Trail addressed the board to follow up on the previous complaints made by his wife, regarding dumping of various debris across the street from their home. Due to the property being a part of the Rockford township, attorney Jim Stevens is to continue with his investigation into the village's authority. Mark Farbo addressed the board regarding attracting businesses to the strip mall on 11th street, as he was recently approached by the City of Oregon to relocate his business with their assistance. The owner of the strip mall also addressed the board in support of Mr. Farbo, explaining that he has invested a lot to make improvements to the building but does not feel that the village has done enough to help attract new businesses. President Owens offered to set up a meeting to talk further and produce a plan going forward.

REPORTS:

President Timothy H. Owens reports the farm lease agreement for the land at 11th street and 23XX Rotary Road has been signed by Josh Wakley, and the annual rent of $5200 has been paid to the village. The lease is effective as of 04/01/2025 and will expire 03/01/2026. A zoning board meeting will be held on 01/23/2024 at 6:30 regarding appeals for annexations. Terms for the water access to Victory Park from Sunrise communities have been accepted and will be forwarded by attorney Jim Stevens. An extension is in progress for the OSLAD grant for Victory Park, expiring April 2025, to accommodate water access work. The new village signs installed off I-39 are not clearly visible and will need to be repositioned and will also need lighting. An architect hired for the expansion at the gas station reached out to determine if anything further was needed from the board. Attorney Stevens confirmed that they need to obtain a building permit to move forward. A Facebook page has residents complaining about a person in 1915 South Bend trapping animals, primarily resident's pets. Although the traps are intended for

nuisance animals, there is a concern for animal cruelty. Trustee Eileen Owens further explained that this individual had a previous agreement with the owner of the property to hunt there. The POA of the owner has informed her that those traps have been removed and that they are in the process of evicting him from said property. There have also been reports of residents in the village building coops and keeping chickens on residential properties, which is not allowed per village ordinance. President Owens would like the board to consider options for a new ordinance that will allow residents to keep chickens under certain circumstances such as acquiring a permit and limiting the number of chickens that can be owned. This will be forwarded onto the committee. There are also concerns about fencing being put up in the village without inspection or permits. Attorney Stevens suggested that a notice be sent to surrounding fencing companies to notify them that any fencing put up within the village without a permit is subject to fines. Lastly, Doug Curry of Stenstrom Excavation reached out to settle their portion of the purchase of highway salt. An invoice for their portion of $11,286.25 was submitted for payment.

Clerk Jessica Lang requested that the board vote to switch accounting software from CYMA to QuickBooks. All present voted in favor. The clerk also requested that the trustees have all agenda items submitted for meetings by the Thursday prior.

Engineer Adam Bunge reports that the work at the mobile home park, upper and lower staking has been completed and is ready for the next set of homes. Lighting installed by LED has also been completed. Victory Park has been completed by DPI construction. A punch list was provided to them that will be addressed in the spring for project close out. He is also designing an exhibit for the water fountain with the water service from the private water provider, which will be finalized once the terms agreement is signed. He is confident in completion of the project by April. He will contact the sign provider to discuss repositioning and the status of other signs still needing installation. The invoice from Stenstrom for snow removal was received and will be submitted for payment.

Attorney Jim Stevens brought before the board annexation ordinances of agricultural properties to be voted upon. Ordinances No. 2025-1, 2025-2, 2025-3, and 2025-4 were reviewed by the board. A motion by Wendy Roop to accept, second by Deana Rodgers. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Ordinance for the clerk No. 2025-5 was reviewed by the board. A motion by Deana Rodgers to accept, second by Eileen Owens. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID:

A motion to pay the village bills totaling $453,719.99 was made by Deanna Rodgers, seconded by Eileen Owens. All present voted in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS, PULIC SAFETY, & ORDINANCE:

Wendy Roop reported during the month of December the Winnebago county sheriff's department patrolled the village for 40.17 hrs. Fire Chief Scott Schaben that the fire station responded to 1191 calls in 2024. New Milford is currently ranked no. 9 out of the 18 Mavis fire protection districts. They are also working to get all training and certifications completed.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion to adjourn by Deanna Rodgers, second by Wendy Roop. Meeting adjourned.

Transcribed 01/15/2025 by Village Clerk, Jessica Lang.