

Village of Bloomington
Regular Board Meeting
December 4, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board was called to order by Village President Robert McLimans at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge Allegiance to the Flag was said.

Roll call was taken, present: Robert McLimans, Dennis Moris, Tim Senn, Bob Fox, Dawn Drew, and Chasity Allen. Absent was Scott Daentl.

Motion was made by McLimans and seconded by Moris to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting for November 6, 2023, as read in e-mail. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Senn and seconded by Drew to approve the accounts payable reports for November 2023. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Officer Small was present to give his report. Officer Small advised that a warning notice had been given to the residents at 732 Fourth Street for unlicensed dogs. Officer Small has been working with the Grant County Health Department regarding the number of dogs and the sanitary conditions of the residence. Officer Small explained the criteria required for making a complaint. Officer Small discussed issuing citations for parking violations and made suggestions for citation fees. Discussion was had.

The motion was made by Moris and seconded by Senn to grant a Land Use Permit to Jason Fuerstenberg for a 12x24 pre-built unattached garage at 432 4th Street. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Bets Vorwald was present to discuss her concerns regarding the variance requested by Krissy Custer. Vorwald had a copy of her ownership deed and stated she had contacted Austin Engineering. Clerk stated she has not received any correspondence from Austin Engineering regarding this matter. McLimans read email from Attorney Wood advising the Village cannot grant a variance if the owner is unknown. Discussion was had. McLimans suggested Vorwald contact Custer to reach an agreement. Custer arrived late. McLimans explained the discussion that was had and suggested Vorwald and Custer come to an agreement.

Joe Walsh was present to give the maintenance report. Walsh gave an update on the training he attended last week and he will be able to take his test at the end of March. Walsh reported that some curb stops will need to be dug up this Spring because of leaking. There is a fire hydrant by the water tower that is missing. Discussion was had on replacing it. A bearing went out on the blower at the Sewer plant, and Walsh received a quote from B&M. The John Deere loader isn't working properly, and he would like to take it to Sloan's Implement. Moris suggested looking into getting a new loader than can better meet the Village's needs. Walsh reported that the dumpster at the Sewer plant was not getting dumped. Driver of Town & Country told Walsh that it's not getting dumped because Village is not paying for it. Clerk will contact Town & Country. Walsh asked about fire hydrant training. The Board suggested asking Larry Gates if it would be beneficial. A Rescue Squad member asked if Village could plow the parking lot at the Rescue Squad Building. Walsh reported that the traction control warning light on the Ford F-250 came on and needs repairs. It is currently at B&M.

McLimans read minutes from Ordinance, License & Permits Committee meeting held on November 29, 2023. Motion was made by Senn and seconded by Allen to approve the minutes as read. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Ordinance, License, & Permits Committee made a recommendation to limit the number of dogs per residence to no more than five dogs over the age of five months, and any person who wishes to have more than five dogs over five months of age must present a written request to the Village Board. Motion was made by McLimans and seconded by Senn to amend the Village Ordinance per the Committee's recommendation. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clerk will contact Attorney Wood's office regarding revision of ordinance.

Discussion was had on issuing citations for violations of the Village's parking ordinance. Clerk will contact Attorney Wood's office regarding revision of ordinance for Board to review at January's meeting. Clerk will request a copy of parking ordinance violation notice from Deputy Small. Clerk will draft letter to landlords requesting they make their tenants aware of parking ordinance.

Motion was made by McLimans and seconded by Senn to accept the Resolution to approve the 2024 Budget and set the 2024 Levy, payable in 2023-2024. All were in favor. Motion carried.

McLimans gave update on meeting with Loren Alderson and reasons for increase in costs of property insurance.

Jordan Fure, from Delta 3 Engineering was unable to attend meeting to discuss Village shop and salt shed, Wastewater Treatment Facility, and 2024 Infrastructure Improvements Project. Those items will be discussed at January's meeting.

Caucus date is set for 6:45 pm on January 2, 2024.

Motion was made by Moris and seconded by Drew to increase sewer rate by 10% to be effective July 1, 2024. All were in favor. Motion carried.

McLimans gave update on contract renewal with Building Inspector, Brad Smrcina. Clerk reached out to Josh Copsey regarding services provided by General Engineering Company. McLimans updated the Board on the phone meeting he and Clerk had with Mike Parrot, from GEC. Discussion was had. Motion was made by Moris and seconded by Allen to approve General Engineering Company to provide building inspection services for the Village starting January 1, 2024. Clerk will reach out to Mike Parrot to set up meeting.

Clerk gave update on progress with Workhorse, the new payroll and accounting services. Clerk discussed payroll proposal from Johnson Block to provide payroll services for beginning of year until Workhorse is set up. Motion was made by Allen and seconded by McLimans to approve proposal. All were in favor. Motion carried. Clerk gave an update as to the reason the employee's insurance deductions need to be deducted post-tax.

McLimans was informed that Library employees will be receiving a 4% wage increase in 2024. Discussion was had on Alliant Energy cutting trees down at 221 Prospect Street and distress it is causing the resident. Alliant Energy has agreed to wait until next Spring. McLimans gave update on repairs on the red truck done by Ernie Struntz. Discussed having Struntz do repairs on blowers.

Moris received a call from Lona Oates. She is retiring from taking care of the Bloomington side of the cemetery. Lona is going to ask Scott Daentl to take it over. Moris offered to help for the first year. McLimans asked Moris to reach out to Scott. Clerk will send a thank you to Lona Oates.

Motion was made by McLimans and seconded by Moris for council to go into closed session Per Statute 19.85 (1) (c). Following sessions, motion was made by McLimans and seconded by Moris to come out of closed session.

There being no additional business to come before the board, McLimans moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Moris. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer
Shawna Atterbury