

**VILLAGE OF TURTLE LAKE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Laurie Tarman called to order a meeting of the Turtle Lake Board of Trustees at 6:30p.m. on Monday, September 21st, 2009.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Tarman, Hall, Becker, Koenig, Itzin, and Flottum. Absent: Pabst. Others present were Administrator Gary Hanson, Clerk Danielle Maxwell, Village Attorney John Schneider, Police Chief Al Gabe, Public Works Director Cory Davis, Dave Rasmussen of MSA; Trudy Stachowiak, Ruth Morton, Harvey McCann, David and Diane Skrupky, Georgina O'Connell, Ken Ahlberg, Frank Chiodi, and Kris Canton of the Friends of the Library, Tim DeJardin, Dave Slack of Halco Press and Rick Phillips, business owner.

REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Flottum and seconded by Itzin to approve the consent agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim DeJardin of the Turtle Lake First Responders reviewed the number of responses to emergency calls which totaled 105 in the Village, including the Casino.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Fire Board is scheduled for September 24th.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration – Administrator Hanson briefed the Board on the Synergy Conference he recently attended. He also met with William Forrest regarding the budget and will offer a preliminary budget in October or at a Special Board meeting, if desired. Employee reviews will begin in the next few weeks and Hanson requested that Director Cory Davis provide an estimate on the sludge storage building. He continued reporting that he has made more attempts to contact the Casino regarding payment and proposed a pilot program. Chief Gabe explained that the concept arose out of a meeting with Police Chiefs addressing the issue of poker machines in bars. The machines are not illegal by statute but bar owners must comply with IRS reporting. Gabe continued to explain that many communities charge fees for various machines such as pool tables, dart boards, gaming devices and that a minimum amount requires a permit. Non-compliance of such an ordinance would be violation of alcohol and liquor licenses. It further allows municipalities to monitor machines and eliminates concerns of Casino revenue to the Village.

Legal – None.

Police – Chief Al Gabe reported that Ken Berg of WI DOT presented the Department with a donated BPT Intoxi-meter, a tool primarily used for determining underage consumption. Traffic count and DOT audit of Hwy. 8 is being conducted at Norway Street and Martin Avenue. Gabe stated that the head engineer remarked that this is one of the top dangerous highways and sees a raise for concern. Vehicle counts were as high as 10,000 within an eight hour period. Gabe continued to report that the speed board is in for repairs and that he added the portable speed board during Labor Day weekend and found it to be effective. Officers have been occupied with sexual assault cases and a stolen semi; they will also be attending an upcoming training. Trustee Hall thanked Gabe for his efforts to get the portable speed board.

Public Works – Director Cory Davis reviewed working with industries regarding pH levels, discharge and informed Lake Country Dairy of the regulations to which they must conform. He described repairs and replacements at the WWTP; that the sludge building is full and that they are two to three weeks from spreading. He stated that the ballpark estimate for the sludge building addition would be approximately \$40,000; a cost share would need to be determined. The Well House #3 is near completion. Davis explained the water model to provide the Fire Department with a new well and tower. He indicated that they would be flushing hydrants in the next months. He noted receipt of a letter from the DNR regarding the B-Plant wells and that they must be capped and issue resolved. Davis mentioned the upcoming patch work, paving, culvert replacement and alley work. He met with the Barron County Trail representative to alleviate erosion from the Village's storm water on the trail; the County will help with some funding. He concluded stating that there have been some sidewalk repairs and that the street sweeper has undergone some significant repairs this year and that he found a used dual sweeper for \$50,000. The State issued a check for \$17,000 for the past Becker Street project. Davis responded to the inquiry of a completion date for the water tower by saying May or June of 2010.

There was brief discussion of dust complaints from the trail by Elizabeth Court and Barron County trail maintenance and funds for 2010.

ENGINEER STATUS REPORT: Hanson added that Martin Avenue preliminary plans will be ready within two weeks and that Commerce funds are ready.

OLD BUSINESS: Collaborative Digester Status/Development - The collaborative digester will be deferred to the October meeting since new information is not available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Approval of Library Expansion Project Application – Ruth Morton distributed information from the “Friends of the Library” and introduced the newly elected officers. Dave Rasmussen of MSA presented on the new library building of approximately 5,800 square feet and application process. He described the CDBG Block Grant stimulus money of \$610,000, from the project submitted at \$1.3 million dollars. Rasmussen stated that HUD, a government division, needs to know if the funds will be utilized and must be notified by October 1, 2009. He explained that \$960,000 will be for building construction and \$100,000 are for furnishings and fixtures. Land value may be included into project costs and would qualify for matching funds. He added that estimates are high since the funds are matched at 50% but the State needs to know whether or not the funds are going to be used. The floor was opened for questions. There was discussion of how realistic this type of building would be for the Village. The cost projections were based on \$160 per square foot. It was stated that engineer fees are not based on construction. It was asked if the building could be redesigned to fit the Village's needs. The Board requested clarification as to what decision needed to be made by October 1st. Trudy Stachowiak addressed concerns of fundraising efforts and expectations; she explained that the “Friends of the Library” was created as a non-profit organization with the intent to develop large fund raising events. Frank Chiodi, Friends of the Library President, addressed concerns of the Board making a decision prior to an actual plan and final project cost amount is decided; he asked the Board to commit along with the organization. Hanson asked Rasmussen when Commerce expects groundbreaking; he replied that contracts would need to be signed by the end of the year and that an extension into 2011 is possible. It was noted that Commerce would like the project done in 2010. Rasmussen

further explained that 50% funding is rare at this time and refusal of funds will not hinder any future funding. The awarded funds will be 50% of whatever is the total cost of the project. He continued to explain the steps, alternatives and expense associated with moving forward with an option to decline funding in the end. Design fees would be approximately \$80,000. There was discussion of the cost of the project, repaying borrowed monies over time, the needs of the Village, office space, municipal court and library patron needs. There was discussion of the cost of a preliminary plan.

It was moved by Tarman and seconded by Flottum to accept the Department of Commerce's matching funds of 50% toward the new library project.

Roll call vote: Yeas – Tarman, Becker and Flottum. Nays – Koenig, Itzin and Hall. Absent: Pabst. Motion failed due to tie vote.

There was discussion of potential penalties if the Village eventually decides to decline the funding.

It was moved by Tarman and seconded by Hall to accept the Department of Commerce's matching funds of 50% toward the new library project pending legal review by the Village's Attorney.

Roll call vote: Yeas – all present. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Presentation by the Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County – Presenter cancelled and may be included on an upcoming agenda.

Waste Water Treatment Plant – Tabled until next Board meeting.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

It was moved by Becker and seconded by Itzin to approve the bills and claims for the Village as presented.

Roll call vote: Yeas – all present. Nays – none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Becker and seconded by Itzin to adjourn this meeting of the Turtle Lake Board of Trustees at 8:34 p.m.

Roll call vote: Yeas – all present. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Prepared by:
Danielle E. Maxwell
Village Clerk