

**VILLAGE OF TURTLE LAKE  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 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, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT:** Tarman, Hall, Becker, Koenig, Pabst, and Flottum. Absent: Itzin. Others present were Administrator Gary Hanson, Clerk Danielle Maxwell, Village Attorney John Schneider, Police Chief Al Gabe, Public Works Director Cory Davis, Lynn Carlson – Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County, Dave Slack of Halco Press and William Forrest, former interim administrator.

**REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Pabst and seconded by Flottum to approve the consent agenda as presented and to move item “A” under Unfinished Business up before Departmental Reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Library Board met on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration** – Administrator Hanson explained the memo that was distributed to trustees regarding the new TIF District and the need to integrate a marketing campaign. He reviewed a list of items and action that is currently being done and in place and areas for improvement. October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cory Davis and Linda Flottum, treasurer, will be to a Public Service Commission Seminar and Hanson will attend one on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The water rate case is nearing completion. He went on to describe a new protocol to be implemented in regards to utilities. The park restroom quote came in at \$4,000 – 5,000 for some improvements; Hanson stated that he would like to see a small hot water heater go in, as well.

**Legal** – None.

**Police** – Chief Al Gabe thanked Lynn Carlson for the presentation and the organization’s work. Gabe reported of concerns regarding the homeless people within the community as the weather grows colder. Trustees asked where these homeless people have been staying. Gabe replied in the park shelters, residential garages, the B Plant, and foreclosed homes. He continued that the Department has also been dealing with student issues stemming from comments made online. He stated that there may be a possible missing person and report to be filed; no one had heard from a resident for an extended period of time. Gabe reported on varies absences that would transpire within the department within the next month. He concluded saying that he would be attending an E-Tracs training, for issuing citations and reporting them to the Department of Transportation. He explained that the State will implement a mandate within two years to have this system and that he would notify Maxwell of how to integrate the system into Court.

**Public Works** – Director Cory Davis reported that staff would be on vacation throughout the next couple months. He reviewed the Engineer Report and noted that Well House #3 was behind schedule due to Torgerson’s Concrete. The electric is being completed as opportunities allow and that the pump will be installed in November; when the pump is

complete they will then abandon Well #1. Davis commented that he felt the poured in place is not as nice as pre-cast foundations and walls. He continued on reporting that he and Administrator Hanson met with SEH Engineering for preliminary plans for Martin Avenue which will be available at the November meeting for the Board to review.

He stated that they also met with the DNR and SEH regarding the WWTP, digester and their current status. It was agreed that the Village would commence into a holding pattern and wait to see how the waste levels of industries came in and the progress of the digester project. Hanson said that he spoke with GreenWhey recently and that everything is on hold with the Village moving in any direction regarding the collaborative digester project. Davis continued to report on recent maintenance and repairs; one of which was due to Lake Country Dairy's waste that was too corrosive. Meters were read and the process continues to improve with each quarter and new readings.

**ENGINEER STATUS REPORT:** Report was covered in the Public Work Departmental Report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County** – Lynn Carlson introduced himself and informed the Board about the Foundation, which has a 13 member board. He went on to describe how the organization raises community funds to help officers within the department through equipment purchases, needs of officers and their families, etc. He opened for questions and then provided a power point presentation regarding the non-profit organization and why they support law enforcement. They also provide replacement of expenses such as K-9 units so that departments do not have a total loss or need to raise funds for specific items; the foundation has monies available to be distributed. He concluded with describing their upcoming event in 2011, "Unsung Heroes Banquet."

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**"B" Plant Well Abandonment** – Hanson spoke with the Rongstad family, who is handling the Prosser Properties LLC. A quote was in from Layne at approximately \$11,000 to abandon the wells during the same time they are working on the Village's wells. The DNR is pushing the issue and the Village has the option to have them abandoned and place the expense on the tax roll or to continue to contact the family, requesting them to abandon the wells themselves. It was suggested to utilize Layne while they are in town working on the Village's two wells and save the family some additional expenses. The DNR says it is the responsibility of the Village to get the wells abandoned. There was questions regarding accessing the property without permission. The Village's Attorney responded that the Village has enforcement authority. There was discussion of concerns and alternatives. Hanson is to speak with the DNR to discuss the possible alternative of the Village imposing fines on the owners; Hanson to research fines.

**Barron County Economic Development Membership** - It was moved by Flottum and seconded by Pabst to approve the annual membership to the Barron County Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$1,560.

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

There was brief discussion of both the Barron County and Polk County EDC.

**Preliminary 2010 Budget** – Former Interim Administrator William Forrest addressed the Board and reviewed the current status of the Village’s budget, reporting that current calculations show it over \$200,000 over budget, a large portion of which is due to lack of revenues from the Casino’s payment in lieu of taxes. He explained that he is compiling a new budget format which should provide breakdowns that will better explain and monitor true costs throughout the departments. He further described difficulty in matching numbers to go into the new format from the old version. He said that the State shared revenues are down and that the Village should qualify for 2010.

He stated that he and Administrator Hanson are taking care not to increase the levy too much or at all. Forrest explained the options and possible shortfall next year, especially due to the lack of the Tribe’s contributions. There was discussion of preliminary budget, upcoming public hearing, and the Board’s opportunity to review the budget at the November meeting. It was stated that the lack of Tribal payments and new TID are the culprits for creating the issue of 2010 shortfalls.

The Board discussed concerns of budget and financial reports, overtime breakdowns, and monthly budget reports that will be provided in the future. It was requested of Attorney John Schneider to research and return with legal advisory within the next few weeks regarding the process to add fees to all gaming devices within the Village limits. Forrest further explained that the new budget has the State Uniform Chart of Accounts, which was time consuming to establish, and that there is a new procedure and protocol in compiling the Village budget.

The Public Hearing for the 2010 Budget is scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. A special Board meeting will be scheduled if necessary.

**2010 Census Proclamation and Letter of Intent** – Item was not addressed as it is a non-issue at this time.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS:**

It was moved by Becker and seconded by Flottum 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 Flottum and seconded by Becker to adjourn this meeting of the Turtle Lake Board of Trustees at 8:27 p.m.

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

Prepared by:  
Danielle E. Maxwell  
Village Clerk