

**VILLAGE OF TURTLE LAKE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16TH, 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, November 16th, 2009.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Tarman, Flottum, Koenig, Hall, Becker Itzin and Pabst. Others present were Administrator Gary Hanson, Clerk Danielle Maxwell, Village Attorney John Schneider, Police Chief Al Gabe, Public Works Director Cory Davis, Dave Slack of Halco Press, Rick Phillips, business owner, Tom Ludy – GreenWhey, Tom Engel, Marlin Baillargeon, Tim Peaster, and Tom Messicci.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Library Board met on October 14th.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration – Administrator Hanson reported on his meeting with the St. Croix Tribe and that the Tribal Council is also meeting tonight. He continued stating that the Rongstad family of the Prosser Properties, LLC is working toward capping the wells.

Legal – Attorney John Schneider looked into regulating gaming equipment and does not feel the Village is able to impose regulation due to statutory gaming commission that separates Indian gaming. There was a brief discussion. Administrator Hanson requested for Schneider to continue to research the concept and to meet with Hanson with the findings to report back to the Board at their next meeting.

Police – Chief Al Gabe reported that the Department would be back to normal/full shifts and that he is recovering from surgery. There had been a few traffic drug busts recently which recovered large amounts of controlled substances. The Department has been busy with the Casino and fraudulent computer generated checks. There was a question regarding what is done with confiscated drugs and he explained how they are held and disposed.

Public Works – Director Cory Davis described the various projects his department has been involved. foliage debris had been cleared from streets, a portion of Industrial Avenue and Apple Street had been paved, and that there had been recent tree trimming to clear for plowing. He reported that the wells at Elizabeth Court had been abandoned. An update of Torgerson's Concrete schedule and time was provided for Well House #3's completion. There were questions regarding contract penalties for delay and inability to complete the project on time. Hanson recommended keeping the contract open and retaining payment until the project is complete. Davis continued that the sludge building is empty and contents were spread on fields. The WWTP is in well-working order now and that there had been recent improvements in industrial waste resulting in centrifuge usage going down to four days a week versus five days a week. Davis contributed this to various factors with each industry.

ENGINEER STATUS REPORT: Report was covered in the Public Work Departmental Report; there is nothing new at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: 2010 Census Proclamation and Letter of Intent – Hanson explained that the US Census Bureau wants communities to form committees to help promote and educate the public on the importance of the upcoming census. It was determined that no committee is necessary and that Hanson will publish a notice of the Census.

NEW BUSINESS:

GreenWhey – Presentation & Clean Water Fund Program – Tom Ludy addressed the Board and referred to a letter that was previously submitted to them. He explained that GreenWhey requests a letter from the Board to the WI DNR expressing their support of a digester and that the Village would like to see the project completed. Ludy stated that it is GreenWhey's intent to construct a digester to eliminate the Village's need to add onto the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Ludy explained GreenWhey's intent, how they intend to use energy and explained the process of the digester comparatively to the WWTP. He said that he simply requests a letter and signed by the Village Board; the floor was then opened for questions. There was mention of possibly using a committee to handle the letter. Hanson asked what role/ownership of the Village is needed to qualify for the Clean Water Fund 20 year Loan and clarified what GreenWhey is looking for which is not necessarily money or funding but possibly a committee. Ludy said that GreenWhey will remain a privately owned entity and not owned by the Village. President Tarman further clarified the separation and asked if the DNR is requesting such a letter to express that the Village is in support of this project. Ludy responding saying that the State wants to make sure that the project is realistic.

It was noted that private entities cannot apply for Clean Water Fund loans. It was requested that the Village apply on behalf of GreenWhey and that the application deadline is July 1, 2010. Ludy said that, at some point, GreenWhey will apply on behalf of the Village. There was a question of similarity of this situation to the Beaver Dam Municipal Digester. Ludy stated that there would be no commitment and the letter would be only to open the door for the project. Hanson expressed that the Village would not want to be involved with design, schematics, etc. since the facility would not belong to the Village. There was discussion of the Village's involvement, application and possible responsibility or liability that may occur eventually. There was discussion of the Village's view and support of a digester with concerns to protect the assets of the Village. It was determined to have legal assistance when drafting the letter and advisement as to who oversees funds when and if they are generated. It was asked what type of involvement Kraft had in Beaver Dam's municipal digester. Ludy stated that they are looking to have an operational plant by November 2010. Davis recommended the Village to meet with the DNR themselves to discuss plans and options prior to the Board signing a letter. Tarman offered to have Hanson contact the DNR representatives and then meet with Attorney Schneider to draft a letter. Hanson stated that he has already spoken with SEH. He also asked if the application deadline was December 31st. Hanson recommended that GreenWhey start the application process and he will work on getting the letter. It was suggested to continue utilizing the Finance Committee as the digester project progresses.

Library Expansion Project – Hanson and Tarman explained what was determined by the Library Board regarding the expansion project. The grant of \$610,000 in matching funds from the Department of Commerce was officially declined. Various factors contributed to the decision which included ground breaking was to commence by April 2010. There was no further discussion.

Resolution 09-08 Appointment of Village Clerk – It was moved by Flottum and seconded by Itzin to pass Resolution 09-08, Appointment of Village Clerk, appointing Danielle E. Maxwell to serve as the Village Clerk and to carry out all functions and duties associated with this position as described under Wisconsin Law.

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

2010 Budget – Hanson explained that the majority of the \$120,000 shortfall was due to lack of PILOT payments from the St. Croix Casino & Hotel of the St. Croix Tribe. Hanson stated that there may be a possibility of a new agreement but suggested that the Tribe honor what was promised in 2009. He continued by reviewing items that could be cut and each Department also discussed possible cuts. There was discussion of cuts which would have severe implications more than others in 2010 and in coming years. Gabe stated that 130 shifts were cut in 2008, 87 shifts were cut in 2009, and that it costs the Village \$14,000 for a part-time officer for Almena. It was determined by the Board to include \$10,000 for a police squad in 2010.

It was moved by Hall and seconded by Becker to enter Closed/Executive Session at 8:30pm as allowable under WI State Statute 19.85 (1)(c).

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

It was moved by Becker and seconded by Tarman to exit Closed/Executive Session at 9:42pm as allowable under WI State Statute 19.85 (1)(c).

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

It was moved by Becker and seconded by Pabst to provide a 3% raise increase for 2010 non-union employees.

Roll call vote: Yeas – Tarman, Pabst, Koenig, Becker, and Flottum. Nays – Hall and Itzin. Motion carried.

BILLS AND CLAIMS:

It was moved by Becker and seconded by Tarman 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 Tarman to adjourn this meeting of the Turtle Lake Board of Trustees at 9:47 p.m.

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

Prepared by:
Danielle E. Maxwell
Village Clerk