

## VILLAGE OF SOLDIERS GROVE, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting held November 4, 2024.

Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Present: Shayne Chapman, Steve George, Vicki Campbell, Howard Arndt, and Harrison Heilman.

Public Hearing for 2025 Budget: Sarah, Village Library Director, stated she understands the allocation requested was not given. The library did not ask for an increase, just asked to keep the Village portion of their budget allocation the same as 2024. Did not ask for an increase because 3 libraries in the county went to the county board and asked for an increase in their County budget. County funds are determined by circulation and municipal funds, the county decided to up their portion from 70 percent to 78 percent for 2025, which caused an increase in the library budget. Everything at the library is free, so the library has to pay for things like new computers, tablets, etc... The last few years, the library has had to cut costs on certain line items to be able to stay under budget. Some Village residents came to support the library during the public hearing. Campbell stated that Soldiers Grove is a small Village and has to make a budget work for all of it. 72 percent of the library budget is wages and benefits, the county pays 48 percent, and the remaining 52 percent is the Village. Campbell asked how many of the Village residents use the library compared to people who do not live in the Village limits. Sarah stated that last year 35 percent was Village residents, and the remaining 65 percent was outside limits. Campbell stated we have to cut from places to be able to put money in other places, we have to support our equipment fund as most of our equipment is old and we need to start replacing it. Health insurance will be going down in 2025 so that it will give the library money to take out of their benefits line and put somewhere else that is needed. Campbell also stated that we can lower the percentage the Village pays towards the employee's benefits, which then the employee will have to pay more, and the Village will pay less. Village budget increased due to more Shared Revenue coming in for 2025. Di Padova, Lottig and Coleman spoke on library's behalf on their support for the library.

Public Input: Diane Coleman asked about what is happening with the chickens on Tavern Road (East Street). The owners did receive a ticket as they did not comply with the chicken ordinance. Campbell stated we can change the ordinance back to there will be no chickens allowed again in Village limits if people want to continue to disobey the ordinance.

Country Gardens, Gabe Williams: Doing updates at Country Gardens and want to update the steps to the motel rooms on the back side of the building. He wants to move the steps to strengthen them but does not want to encroach on Village property. Campbell wants to propose letting Williams make the structure and just give the little land to Gardens. Heilman stated he would prefer to sell it, and it will have to be surveyed. Motion by Heilman to sell the chunk of land to Gabe Williams for \$500, second by George. All present aye, motion carried.

Fire department: Meeting this coming Wednesday. Got the 8 MSA air packs and fit testing done. Did fire prevention days at the school. Tanker 1 was taken to La Farge Truck Center for repairs. Have 7 members in Hazmat class and 2 in entry level class. November 9 is the Fall Fundraiser at the Legion 2-6pm. Payroll: Motion by Heilman, second by Arndt to approve Fire Department Payroll at \$10,960. All present aye, motion carried. Chapman abstained.

Public Works: Getting everything ready for snow. Got the new sander and installed it, works well. Water tower cleaning is set for November 7<sup>th</sup>, as well as a meeting with the DNR water rep. Getting the new meters installed, have done about 150 so far. Had the start up at the sewer plant for the UV disinfection and alum feed.

Motion by Chapman, second by George to approve the 2025 budgets for General, Water, Sewer, and Fire. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Arndt, second by George to approve operator's license for Erika Gutherie. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Heilman, second by Arndt to approve donation of \$250 to the Legion for their Thanksgiving dinner. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by George, second by Chapman to approve minutes of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by George, second by Heilman to approve bills General \$13,458.59, Fire \$781.12, Sewer \$1,864.24, Water \$471.32, and Library \$5,725.27. All present aye, motion carried.

Motion by Chapman, second by Arndt to adjourn meeting at 7:01 pm. All present aye, motion carried.

*Kaitlynn R Ott*