

VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO BOARD MINUTES

November 16, 2022

President Bob LaBarre called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Bob LaBarre, Dan Pederson, Tere Dunlap, Don Schneider, Julie Garrison, Rene Nicholson and Aaron Bittner

Absent: None

Also present: Kevin Komprood, Brian Grossen, and Linda Kuhlman

Citizens: 5

Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call taken.

Motion by Pederson to approve the agenda. Seconded by Bittner. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion made by Pederson to approve minutes of special board meeting of August 29, 2022. Seconded by Bittner. Motion carried by voice vote. August 17 and November 2 minutes were postponed.

Hearings, public appearance & citizen comments:

- President LaBarre convened the Public Hearing on the Budget at 7:08 p.m.
- Kuhlman presented the levy for the 2022 payable 2023 year will be \$775,765. This is a decrease from the previous year due to approximately \$25,000 of debt being paid off in 2022. General Fund budget for 2023 is \$1,038,044.96, which is lower than last year due to \$71,000 from the referendum money going into the Capital Fund for a new fire engine in the future. Library budget is \$171,500. The mill rate for the Village is \$8.18, which is a decrease from last year of 43 cents from last year. The County mill rate is \$5.61, which is an increase of 45 cents; Monticello School District is \$10.99, an increase of \$2.08; and Blackhawk Tech is at \$1.07, an increase of 2 cents. The total mill rate for 2022 payable 2023 is \$25.85, which is an increase of \$2.12 from last year.
- There were no questions from the audience. LaBarre thanked the board and staff for working on the budget.
- A motion was made by Pederson to close the Public Hearing on the Budget. Nicholson seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
- Motion was made by Nicholson to approve Resolution #2022-1116 Adopting the 2023 Operations Budget and Setting the 2022 Local Tax Levy. Seconded by Schneider. Roll call vote. Dunlap aye; Nicholson aye; Garrison aye; Schneider aye; Bittner aye; Pederson aye; LaBarre aye. Motion carried.
- Several citizens asked about dedicating a portion of the pond for ice skating use. In the past they've cleaned the area, but then others will use it for fishing holes, etc. They are asking if the village would clear an area and put up a sign that it's dedicated for use as a skating area. Pederson said years ago it was discussed at Parks & Recreation meeting and the school actually did it. Komprood confirmed that the school did it for years until their maintenance person fell through the ice. He said the fire department used to do it also. The citizens asked if at least some equipment could be put by the boat launch area for when they do use it. Lots of kids use the pond. It will be put on a Public Works Committee or Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to discuss and bring back to the board.

Committee Reports

Finance:

- Motion by Nicholson to approve the November 18, 2022 Payroll Vouchers 4084-4106 in the amount of \$13,768.25. Seconded by Dunlap. Motion carried by voice vote.
- Motion by Nicholson to approve November 16, 2022 Checks Manual 20232-20233 and 20241-20268 in the amount of \$261,726.44. Seconded by Dunlap. Motion carried by voice vote.
- Motion by Nicholson to approve operator license for Claudia Ends. Seconded by Schneider. Motion carried by voice vote.

Park and Recreation: Rene Nicholson

- Nicholson asked to replace a committee member who never comes to the meetings. Board agreed she can look for a new member. LaBarre said he might have some interested people.

Public Safety/Fire Report: Bittner

- Bittner reported Public Safety has no reservations about businesses putting advertising signs on the ball diamond fence, but felt it was more in line with Parks and Recreation Committee.
- Motion by Bittner to approve Chief Conway attending the Wisconsin Chief's Conference next year for \$552. Seconded by Nicholson. Motion carried by voice vote.
- Public Safety discussed installing a camera system mounted on the village hall that would face down Main Street. Police Department has had problems with car thefts, break-ins, fights, etc. The cost is \$12,500, but Chief Conway would use a \$7,000 grant from Department of Administration and the rest out of the budget. Bittner agreed it would save time when following up on complaints. Public Safety unanimously approved. Motion by Bittner to approve a camera system for \$12,500 mounted on village hall, with \$7,000 coming from DOA grant and the remaining from operations budget. Seconded by Garrison. Schneider asked if the committee discussed privacy. Dunlap said it is on a public street, and you can film on a public street. She expects the Chief knows where privacy ends. Motion carried by voice vote. Schneider abstained.

Library: Julie Garrison

- Garrison wasn't able to attend the last meeting. Clauss will email the newsletter to Garrison. Dunlap said their minutes, budget and newsletter are on their website.

Public Works: Dan Pederson

- Committee will be meeting next week.

Personnel:

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- Schneider reported the committee conducted interviews last night and have more scheduled for early next week. They did have a few cancellations. The goal is to have someone hired to start the first of the year.
- LaBarre reported the committee discussed the personal and vacation hours change in the new manual that was approved earlier in the year. They first discussed keeping banked hours in a separate file for future use, but the employees wish to be paid out but will carry over some hours of each into the next year to decrease the amount. The new manual allows for 40 hours of carryover for each. The intent now is to start new at the beginning of the year and allow the employees to be paid their banked hours. The total will come to about \$35,000 for all employees. Employees are okay with carrying over 40 hours of personal and 40 hours of vacation to next year. Schneider said there are some other inconsistencies in the manual and the committee will have to look at it from beginning to end so it makes sense for all involved. Komprood said it would help to get input from the different departments. Board discussed options.
- Nicholson said it's easier to start new and pay out. Motion made by Nicholson to allow employees to carry over 40 hours of vacation and 40 hours of personal time from 2022 and pay out their banked hours as of the end of the year from undesignated reserves and go forward with what's in the manual for next year, and it includes library personnel. Seconded by Dunlap. Roll call vote taken: Dunlap aye; Nicholson aye; Garrison aye; Schneider aye; Bittner aye; Pederson aye; LaBarre aye. Motion carried.

Clerks Report

- Election went well. Kuhlman thanked Bob Voss and Tere Dunlap and the rest of the poll workers for their hard work. There were no major issues on election day. There is a possibility of a recount on the Secretary of State race.
- Village received the quote for the 2023 insurance. Coverage will be the same. There is a \$560 increase in liability and auto premium, a \$531 decrease in workers compensation premium, crime premium is the same, but there is a \$3,296 increase in property premium. Motion made by Dunlap to approve the 2023 insurance quote. Seconded by Nicholson. Motion carried by voice vote.

President's Report

- LaBarre received an email from the attorney regarding the forensic audit. There were no egregious errors found in the audit. There were some minor errors. He forwarded the report from Johnson Block to all board members. They found no wrongdoing by former employees.
- Baker Tilly has started their annual audit. LaBarre has spoken with them briefly.
- The noncompliance of the wastewater treatment plant is still being reviewed by the DNR.
- Followed up with the developers of the vacant land on north end of village, and the engineer and building inspector. The engineer has heard no response back from the DNR about the two retention ponds that will be required, but they weren't going to look favorably on the developer's plans. Otherwise, there is nothing new to report.
- LaBarre thanked everyone for their help going through the budget

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- Schneider asked if the forensic audit is finished. LaBarre confirmed it is. Komprood asked how much it cost and why was it done. LaBarre said the audit went through the attorney's office. It was done on the recommendation of the former president and board's suspicions at that time. Kuhlman stated approximately \$10,000 was spent in attorney's bills regarding the audit, and the auditor was paid by the attorney. LaBarre stated it was his second meeting when the process started. His suggestion is for the committees to do more due diligence and try to avoid situations that put people in a bad light.

New Business:

- Dunlap suggested the board look at debt restructuring in the future. Kuhlman agreed it should be done in the next few years.

Motion made by Pederson to adjourn. Seconded by Bittner. Motion carried by voice vote.

Adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Kuhlman, Interim Village Clerk