**VILLAGE OF LA FARGE**

**Regular Board Meeting Monday, June 10, 2024**

1). Village President Pro-Tem Aaron Nemec called the regular meeting of the La Farge Village Board to order at 6:31 p.m. at the Emergency Services building. (President Frank Quinn was at a Municipal court meeting). Roll Call - Present at the meeting:

All Board members: Dave Fish, Karen Leis, Terry Jensen, Barb Melvin, Jill Stoltz, Aaron Nemec, and

Frank Quinn (arriving at 6:42 p.m.).

Also: News reporter Lonnie Muller, Public Works Manager Wayne Haugrud, Utility Clerk Greg Lawton, Brad Steinmetz, Police Chief Steve Palmer (via phone), and Clerk Kimberly Walker.

2). Verification was given of meeting publishing in the La Farge Episcope, and of posting at the Bank, Post Office, and Village Office on Friday, June 7, 2024.

3). Melvin moved, Fish seconded to approve the previous meetings minutes: (5-13-2024/Regular Village board meeting; 5-29-2024/Board of Review meeting; 5-30-2024/Streets & Utilities committee meeting; and 6-4-2024/Regular Library Board meeting). (Carried).

4). Correspondence: None.

5). Public Comment: Brad Steinmetz mentioned he is putting out a press release for the 4th of July celebration next week, and if the board has anything they’d like to add, to please let him know.

6). Utility business:

\*\*On the proposed 2024 Infrastructure Improvement project, for Main and Mill Streets, we are looking at funding through the DNR Clean Water Fund program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan program. As part of that, they require us to secure loans by using revenue bonds. We need bond counsel to do this. We’ve used Quarles & Brady in the past and they’ve submitted an agreement for both. Estimated cost is $9,000 for the Sewerage revenue bond, and $8,500 for the water revenue bond. Jensen moved, Leis seconded to approve the Bond Counsel Agreement for the Sewerage Revenue Bonds. (Carried). Fish moved, Melvin seconded to approve the Bond Counsel agreement for the Water Revenue Bonds. (Carried).

\*\*Sable was back to put the clarifier together, and discovered their supplier sent the wrong chain.

\*\*The substation is complete. Ran the generator, had a few issues, but worked through them. MP Systems submitted their final payment. Holding $341,000 for retainage, as a few items need addressed.

\*\*In the past, Earl Nelson, then Maverick Nelson mowed and baled the hay in the field across from the ESB. Phil Campbell and Jori Campbell will be doing it now. This helps us keep it mowed down.

\*\*Greg reported on an application with FEMA he worked on for stormwater work, specifically Adams Street by the school and on South State Street. Senator Baldwins office has included $93,000 in the appropriations for the work, which now will go to the committee. Wayne had Delta 3 do a plan on this, which goes from the intersection of Lakeview Drive to Hwy 131, to help with issues in the Village Park.

7). Old Business: None.

8). Fish moved, Jensen seconded to approve a picnic license for the La Farge Volunteers for July 3rd and 4th, for the beer stand, and for the 4th of July Committee for July 5th, for a Beer and Wine Walk. (Carried).

9). Leis moved, Jensen seconded to approve the 4 business alcohol license renewals: Phil & Deb’s Town Tap, Jam’s 2 LLP, Zzip Stop (Toor Easy Stop), and the Twisted Raven Lounge, LLC. (Carried).

10). A list was reviewed of 42 renewal operator licenses and 1 new license, for Holly Hysel (Held a license in 2023, no training required). Jensen moved, Leis seconded to approve them all. (Carried).

11). Driftless Wisconsin inquired if we’d be a sponsor again for a Driftless WI ad campaign. Jensen moved, Fish seconded to approve sharing the $500 sponsorship with LAPA, each paying $250. (Carried).

12). Frank arrived. He reported the Streets & Utilities committee met and have 2 recommendations. One is to have the village brush hog the lots (on the South end of town), once per year, weather permitting, and more if needed. And #2, to repair the existing road tube and discontinue Franklin Street. Karen asked who

owned what on each side of Franklin. The village owns on both sides when entering Franklin off from South Pearl. Dale Clements owns some after that. He does have electricity to his property, so it was questioned about an easement, as we can’t land lock property. It was felt this was a question to ask our Attorney before proceeding. Fish moved, Melvin seconded to brush hog once per year, or more if needed, repairing just the road tube, and talking with the Attorney on the discontinuation of Franklin Street. (Carried).

13). Police Report/Update: Chief Steve Palmer called in as he was in Virginia at a conference. His monthly report was emailed to the board last week. He gave an update on the proposed chronic nuisance ordinance and fee schedule he’s been working on with Attorney Nikki Swayne, which she has approved. He pointed out a few key items. If there’s 3 or more activities within a 24-month period, people can be cited for a chronic nuisance. The first page of the ordinance includes everything within the WI Criminal code, drug related offenses, and our La Farge Village ordinance. If something is drug related, this will be abated immediately, instead of going through the 3 separate calls. First citation for a chronic item is $150, then subsequent offenses, nothing less than $250, nor more than $900. Also in the ordinance, the sheriff’s department or other agencies that need to respond, can bill for their services.

\*\*Fee schedule: Used the Town of Menasha’s for a guide. Steve also added a 25% fee to the hourly rate for a hazardous call. He reviewed the numbers for his hourly rate, squad charge, fringe of 25%, and administrative fee, for a total of $95.00 an hour, plus the additional for a hazardous call. Then add in the government mileage rate. The impound rate is $150 per vehicle for a one-time cost. Jensen moved, Leis seconded to approve the Chronic Nuisance ordinance and Fee schedule that Steve discussed. (Carried).

\*\*Discussed Axon Draft One Software. In May, Steve attended a webinar on this. It uses artificial intelligence from his body camera to generate rough drafts of police reports. The goal is to reduce the administrative workload by 50% for writing police reports. Testimonials from officers say 80-90% of the report is written before the officer gets started on it. The quote received was for 45 months, at a cost of $3,324 (through 2027). In can also be paid in yearly costs. He feels the cost will easily pay for itself. Leis moved, Jensen seconded to purchase the software for the full amount for the 45 months. (Carried).

14). Committee Reports and Updates:

\*\*Utilities: Jill mentioned the facilities tour Wayne gave to her and Dave Fish was interesting.

\*\*Community Center: School is out for the summer, so the framework won’t get finished until Fall for the Veterans display.

\*\*Library: Barb reported they had a meeting. The summer program for kids and adults is starting. Becky Hooker is filling in, while Dane Yearous is on leave with her new baby.

\*\*Daycare: Frank said it’s moving along. Doing concrete work this week, temp walls are going up, the painter is finishing, and doing some final cleaning, before the inspection time. A lot of items are still to build, so may put out a community ask for people to help put the items together.

\*\*Clinic: The building is full. (Just one little room is left). The newest renter is “The Power House” (serving teas, energy drinks, etc.).

\*\*Thursday, June 13th, at 6 p.m. at the ESB will be a meeting with the VCED (Vernon County Energy District). This is a public meeting to review the feasibility study for the solar.

\*\*Frank was at a municipal court meeting earlier. They met with Judge Scott Horn from La Crosse. He gave us 2 options. He can appointment someone or refer our cases to the Circuit Court. The committee agreed to have him appoint a Judge, which will be Judge Marque. This is on a short-term basis, until a long-term plan is sorted out. We currently require our Judge to be a licensed lawyer, but it’s not a state requirement. An interim clerk was appointed, the Village Clerk of Cashton. Still lots of details to get worked out.

\*The root beer stand in the village had a State inspection, and were told they couldn’t operate and be open until the village allows them to run with a porta potty, since there’s no permanent restroom there. They’ve asked if the village would consider this. A special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th.

15). Jensen moved, Leis seconded to approve payment of the bills. (Carried).

16). Jensen moved, Nemec seconded to adjourn. (Carried). Adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer