**VILLAGE OF LA FARGE**

**Special Board Meeting Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

1). Village President Frank Quinn called the special meeting of the La Farge Village Board to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Emergency Services building, at 201 S. Cherry Street.

Roll Call – Present at the meeting:

Board members: Karen Leis, Barbara Melvin, Dave Fish, Aaron Nemec (arriving shortly after roll call), newly elected Trustee Jill Stoltz, and Frank Quinn. Absent was Terry Jensen.

Also: News reporters Lonnie Muller and Bonnie Sherman, Public Works Manager Wayne Haugrud, Utility Clerk Greg Lawton, Police Chief Steve Palmer, and Clerk Kimberly Walker.

2). Verification was given of meeting posting at the Bank, Post Office, and Village Office on Monday, April 22, 2024. Quinn welcomed new board member Jill Stoltz, and re-elected members Dave Fish and Terry Jensen.

3). Opened 2 bids received for Village Attorney.

\*\*The Law Offices of Jacob Menn bid a flat monthly retainer of $800, and $200 per hour fees, billable in 5-minute increments for all court actions, etc., and $120 per hour for support staff time. These rates will increase with the prior year’s annual rate of inflation or at 5% per annum, whichever is less, with the first increase to take effect on 1-1-2026.

\*\*Abt Swayne Law, LLC (Nikki Swayne), bid all legal services at an hourly rate of $125 per hour through May 2024, and $150 per hour commencing June 2024. And $75 per hour for paralegal time through May 2024, and $80 per hour commencing June 2024. Time will be charged in increments of one tenth (1/10) of an hour. No charge for in-county travel time. Rates are good for 2024 and 2025. Abt Swayne Law also filled out the RFP questionnaire. Their law office is in Westby.

\*Melvin moved, Fish seconded to go with Attorney Nikki Swayne (Abt Swayne Law, LLC). (Carried).

4). President Quinn read thru his appointments for this years’ committee recommendations.

**Finance & Personnel Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Karen Leis, Terry Jensen, Barb Melvin

**Streets and Utilities Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Aaron Nemec, Terry Jensen, Karen Leis

**Police Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Terry Jensen, Barb Melvin, Aaron Nemec

**Parks, Grounds, Buildings and Cemetery Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Karen Leis, Dave Fish, Jill Stoltz

**Emergency Services** **Building Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Frank Quinn, Bonita Dorschied, Dave Sarnowski, Wayne Haugrud,

Kimberly Walker

**Medical Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Dave Fish, Aaron Nemec, Jill Stoltz

**Library Committee:**

*\*Chair*- Barb Melvin, Gail Muller, Carol Persons, Donna Niles, Kimberly Walker

Georgia Everson, Gwendolyn Hatfield

**Zoning Board of Appeals:**

*\*Chair*- Terry Jensen, Dan Gremban, Mike Donovan, Dean Steinmetz, Jill Stoltz

**Planning Commission:**

*\*Chair*- Karen Leis, Jim Hanson, Shawna Nelson, Meaghan Gustafson, Jason Leis,

Dan Gremban, Dave Fish

**Main Street Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Aaron Nemec, Deb Nelson, Crystal Hanson, Kathy Appleman, Nick Burnard

**Flood Recovery/EDA Committee:**

*\*Chair-* Brad Steinmetz, Dean Steinmetz, Greg Lawton, Kris Gabrielson, Barb Melvin

**\*Municipal Court representatives:** Frank Quinn-Primary/ Karen Leis-Alternate

**\* President Pro-Tem:** Aaron Nemec **\* Health Officer:** Chief Steven Palmer

**\* Emergency Coordinator:** Frank Quinn  **\* Weed Commissioner:** Chief Steven Palmer

**\* Attorney:** Abt Swayne Law, LLC **\* Assessor**: Chimney Rock Appraisal

**\* Official Newspaper:** La Farge Episcope **\* Bank:** FarmersState Bank/La Farge

**\* Building Inspector/Zoning Commissioner:** Wayne Haugrud

\*Nemec moved, Fish seconded to approve the new committee appointments (for the April 2024-April 2025 time frame). (Carried).

5). Barb reported LAPA’s project this summer is to update the 4 Village entrance signs. They’re peeling and in need of repair. Aaron Nemec made these years ago and has said he will update them again. The cost is around $800 a sign, for a total of $3,200+. Greg applied to Dairyland Power for their matching grant of $1,200 and it was approved. The Lions agreed to $500, and LAPA is donating $1,000. Barb is asking the village for $500+ to cover the remaining cost. Leis moved, Fish seconded to approve paying the remaining costs of the signs. (Carried 5-1, with Nemec abstaining).

6). Nemec moved, Leis seconded to convene into closed session, in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes section 19.85 (1)(a), for deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body. (Carried).

\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\*

7). Leis moved, Melvin seconded to reconvene into open session and adjourn. (Carried). Adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer