

## VILLAGE MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the La Farge Village Board will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Services building, located at 201 S. Cherry Street.**

**In an effort to reduce transmission of COVID-19, THIS IS NOT AN IN-PERSON MEETING**

All participants, including the public, can join by calling 634-6666 or 888-366-4316 and entering ID 14048. Any questions can be directed to Clerk Kim Walker at 608-625-4422.

### AGENDA:

1. Call to order/Roll Call
2. Verification of Meeting Posting/Publishing
3. Approval of previous meetings minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Public Comment
6. Regular Utility Business
7. Discussion on Main Street Reconstruction project:
  - \*\*Approval of Contract for CDBG Grant Administration for the Main Street project
  - \*\*Approval of Engineering Contract for the CDBG Main Street project
8. Discussion on the EDA grant:
  - \*\*Present Reports of Assessments
  - \*\*Overview of Current Activities
9. Any old business
10. Discussion/Action on renewing the Connect Communities Agreement
11. Action on a new operator license application
12. Set a date for the 11th annual Fall Village-wide rummage sales
13. Discussion on communication of Halloween events
14. Action to approve an agreement for use of subscription material with Lexipol
15. Police report/update
16. Committee reports and updates
17. Approval to pay the Bills
18. Adjournment

Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Posted 9/11/2020

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## VILLAGE OF LA FARGE

Regular Board Meeting      Monday, September 14, 2020

\*President Cheryl Purvis called the regular meeting of the La Farge Village Board to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Services building. Due to COVID-19, participants were offered a conference calling option.

Roll Call - Present at the meeting:

All Board Members: Cheryl Purvis, Barbara Melvin, Aaron Nemec, Frank Quinn, Terry Jensen, Aaron Appleman, and Reggie Nelson.

Joining by conference calling: News reporter Bonnie Sherman and Nick Burnard.

Also present: News reporter Lonnie Muller, Public Works Manager Wayne Haugrud, Dean Steinmetz, Police Chief Jonathon Brown, Bart Nies with Delta 3, Gary Koch with CDA, and Clerk Kimberly Walker.

\*Verification of meeting publishing in the La Farge Episcopo and posting at the Bank, Post Office, and Village Office on September 11, 2020 was given.

\*Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve the previous meetings minutes: (8-10-20/Regular Village board meeting; 8-18-20/Regular library board meeting; 8-19-20/ESB committee meeting; 8-24-20/ Economic Flood Recovery committee meeting; 8-26-20/Main Street Planning committee meeting; and 8-31-20/Finance & Personnel committee meeting). (Carried).

\*Correspondence: None.

\*Public Comment: None.

\*Utility business:

\*\*We had Forester Engineering do an updated proposal for the electric substation relocation. The first one in January came in at \$1,745,600 and the new proposal is \$1,747,800. The reason for the update was for the MRRPC, as they're applying for a 2019 EDA Disaster Supplemental grant application for us on this.

\*\*The public hearing for the electric rate case was August 17th. It was open for comments/appeals thru August 28th. As of today, no word back yet from the PSC.

\*Discussion on Main Street reconstruction project: Gary Koch, with Community Development Alternatives, Inc. (CDA), was present for approval of a contract for CDBG grant administration for the CDBG million-dollar grant. The state requires an administrator, to make sure federal and state regulations are met. As part of the budget originally sent in, \$20,000 was a line item for the admin. CDA's contract proposal is for this amount. Gary said he has a lot of experience with this, and they also did the library addition admin for us. Purvis moved, Quinn seconded to make a motion, based on the Village of La Farge Procurement policy, that the board waives the bid requirement and approves a contract for the grant administration to CDA, Inc. for \$20,000. (Carried).

\*Bart Nies, with Delta 3, was present to review the engineering part of the Main Street project plan. He congratulated the village and CDA on a successful grant award and gave a brief background on himself and the company. They were the firm that helped CDA with the report for the engineering for the application. If their firm is selected, they have no contract tonight, due to the work the DOT is proposing in 2024. This may lower the engineering costs. They will do all engineering beginning to end, from the bids, construction contracts, observation, etc. They will manage the project on our behalf. The construction will replace sanitary sewer and water mains from Mill to Maple Street. Construction is to start by 7-1-2021 and be completed by October 2022, per grant guidelines. Purvis moved, Jensen seconded to make a motion, based on the Village of La Farge Procurement policy, that the board waives the bid requirement and approves hiring Delta 3 Engineering as the engineer for the Main Street project. (Carried).

\*Discussion on the EDA grant: Part of the grant requirement is to give the board an update monthly, so Cheryl gave an overview of what's been going on so far. An assessment was done on four of our buildings: Library, Community Center, ESB, and Village office. The findings are available if anyone would like to review them. Current activities are taking the planning info and applying it to a development stage, to see what will work for us and what doesn't. Also being looked at is a levy. September 28th is the next economic flood recovery meeting to go thru the preliminary plans.

\*Old business: None.

\*New business:

\*Connect Communities agreement: This is a recognition we received 6 years ago from the WEDC, as a community wanting to grow, promote tourism, etc. This is under LAPA, but it needs to be run under the village. There is a requirement of attending 2 conferences a year, which LAPA reps will do. A lot of the matching grants they deal with are for Main Street projects, which could help us with our projects. Cost is \$200 a year, which is split with LAPA. Quinn moved, Melvin seconded to renew the agreement. (Carried).

\*Appleman moved, Nemec seconded to approve an operator license for Ebonie Lombard. (Carried). (Seller Server course completed 8/13/2020).

\*Quinn moved, Appleman seconded to set Friday and Saturday, October 2nd and 3rd for the eleventh annual Fall village-wide rummage sales. (Carried). On October 3rd, the library board is planning a dedication ceremony for former member Delores Sandmire.

\*Discussed events for the upcoming of Halloween. This is not a sanctioned village event. Agreed people can trick or treat at their own risk. Homes participating can turn on a porch light. Avoid houses with no lights. Will work with the papers on an announcement. The Lions Club and Crafty Cookers are not holding the Halloween party at the school. The Lions may do an on-line costume judging contest.

\*Chief Brown explained an agreement with Lexipol, for the use of subscription material for the police department. They provide professional policies and services across the country for police. Lexipol entered into an agreement with the League of Municipalities mutual insurance on this. As we are a part of this, the insurance company will reimburse us for the cost. Jon feels this will be a valuable tool for him. Cost is \$1,549 annually, to be fully reimbursed. Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve the agreement with Lexipol. (Carried).

\*Police report/update: Chief Brown had 95 calls for service in August. Jon reviewed info on an arrest and there was one new violation on the weed/lawn issue.

\*Committee Reports:

\*\*Finance: Utility Clerk/Bookkeeper Virginia Bilek is retiring after 36 ½ years, on February 1, 2021. The committee has met and put the job opening in the local papers, on the website, and on Indeed.com. The job description has been updated. Application and resume are due September 21st. Then will review and set up interviews. Looking at October 22nd for a start date. Working on benefits and compensation.

\*\*Library: October 6th having the budget meeting.

\*Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve payment of the bills. (Carried).

\*Jensen moved, Appleman seconded to adjourn. (Carried). Adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer