

## **VILLAGE MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the La Farge Village Board will be held on Monday, June 8, 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 using Vernon Communications Coop On-Demand Conference Calling. Anyone attending the conference call will need the Conference ID to access the call. Attendees dial-in phone number: 634-6666 or 888-366-4316 and enter ID 14048. Any questions on how to participate can be directed to Clerk Kim Walker at 608-625-4422

#### **AGENDA:**

Call to order/Roll Call  
Verification of Meeting Posting/Publishing  
Approval of previous meetings minutes  
Public Hearing on CDBG Planning Grant PLNG 19-06  
Public Hearing on Application for Proposed CDBG-PF Program Funds  
Review and approve Main Street project scope and funding plan  
Decision on an option to pursue for the Main Street CDBG-PF application (from last month)  
Resolution to Commit Matching Funds for the CDBG Application  
Resolution Authorizing to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-PF)  
Application  
Correspondence  
Public Comment

#### **UTILITY BUSINESS:**

Regular Utility Business

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Any old business

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1). Dave Fish regarding VFW Honor Guard
- 2). Discussion on FEMA buyout grant
- 3). Discussion/action to share sponsorship, with LAPA, for a Driftless WI Ad campaign
- 4). Action on a Picnic license application - La Farge Volunteers for the 4th of July
- 5). Discussion/action on renewal of business alcohol licenses
- 6). Action to renew current operator licenses and new licenses
- 7). Ordinance violation update
- 8). Police report/update
- 9). Committee reports and updates
- 10). Approval to Pay the Bills
- 11). Adjourn.

Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Posted 6/05/2020

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VILLAGE OF LA FARGE  
Regular Board Meeting      Monday, June 8, 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 reducing transmission of COVID-19, participants were offered an On-Demand conference calling option.

Roll Call - Present at the meeting:

Members: Cheryl Purvis, Terry Jensen, Aaron Appleman, Reggie Nelson, Barbara Melvin, & Frank Quinn.

Absent was Aaron Nemecek.

Also present: News reporter Lonnie Muller, Dale Klemme, Kurt Muchow, Brad Steinmetz, Rachel Clift, Dave Fish, Public Works Manager Wayne Haugrud, Police Chief Jonathon Brown, & Clerk Kimberly Walker.

Joining by conference calling: News reporter Bonnie Sherman.

\*Verification of meeting publishing in the La Farge Episcope and posting at the Bank, Post Office, and Village Office on June 5, 2020 was given.

\*Appleman moved, Quinn seconded to approve the previous meetings minutes: (5-11-20/Regular Village board meeting; 5-14-20/Planning Commission meeting; 5-19-20/Regular Library Board meeting; and 5-27-20/Board of Review meeting). (Carried).

\*Dale Klemme, from CDA, was present to conduct the Public Hearing on the CDBG Planning Grant PLNG 19-06. This is the second required hearing for this grant on the streetscape and economic plan. Vierbichers was hired to lead this planning. At last month's village board meeting, Kurt Muchow and Sarah Pittz reviewed the plan. This hearing allows the board and public to make comments or voice any concerns on how it went. Comments received:

\*\*Cheryl Purvis was very impressed with the final results, which exceeded her expectations. The thoughts and thoroughness that went into it was great, along with the community interaction. There were a lot of public comments from people who have seen the design plan, and they've all been very positive.

\*\*Barb Melvin said she was going to attend the last meeting, but it was cancelled (due to the COVID). She was also impressed with the personalization of it, as it looked at La Farge as to what would work for our village. Impressed with the final proposal.

\*\*Brad Steinmetz was impressed with the effort to reach out and get ideas and thoughts from lots of different groups of people. What they brought in was very visible, showing up on the plans.

\*With no other comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m.

\*Next, Dale conducted a Public Hearing on the application for proposed CDBG-PF program funds. He gave an overview of the CDBG program on how the funds are allocated and reviewed the programs that are available. The village recently conducted a village wide survey, which is good for 5 years, showing La Farge is LMI. He explained what the funds can be used for and the types of activities that are eligible for funding. The village is looking for money for a public facilities grant, for sewer and water replacement, along with streetscape, benches, lighting, engineering, and admin costs. The total project from Mill Street to Maple Street is \$2,632,575. We will be applying for a 1-million-dollar grant to help with costs. This leaves \$1,632,575 as match, which we will be using TIF funds. Other grants are also being investigated. We also have a signed letter from the Bank, to help support us. No one had any questions or comments on the proposed application for Main Street, so the hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

\*Kurt Muchow, from Vierbichers, was present to review and approve the Main Street project scope and funding plan. Last month, 3 options were reviewed for the project scope. Since last month, Kurt has been working with USDA on potential funding. As of now, they are offering loan funds @ 40 years, at 1.375%. He also updated the board on option 2 from last month. The numbers needed to be verified with Delta 3.

It came in about \$60,000 higher, so looking at a \$2,731,515 project. He explained a scenario, where the sewer and water utility would take on an annual debt of \$44,040 if going with a USDA loan. This impacts customers rates with an increase of \$7.90 per month. By using USDA, the amount needed from TIF is significantly less, leaving approximately 1.5 million+ surplus to help with the substation relocation and other downtown projects. The board does not need to decide tonight. What Dale is submitting can be expanded on at another time. If we go with Option 1, we still have time to pursue contracts to the April 14, 2021 TIF deadline. Also, need to check with the PSC to see if they would approve water utility debt for a 40-year term. Will investigate further and put on discussion for next month's meeting.

\*Jensen moved, Quinn seconded to approve Option 2 to move forward with the CDBG application. (Carried).

\*Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve Authorizing the Resolution to Commit Match Funds for the CDBG application. (Carried).

\*Melvin moved, Appleman seconded to approve a resolution authorizing the village president to sign the documents necessary to submit the CDBG application. (Carried).

\*Correspondence: None.

\*Public Comment: Cheryl introduced/welcomed new Librarian Rachel Clift who was present to meet the board. She is really excited to be here and gave a background of herself and education.

\*Utility business: Wayne reported the Silver Street lift station pump sent in for repair is back and in service. Cost was \$4,795. Still waiting to receive the new chopper pumps. Will keep the repaired one for a backup.

\*\*Hired Kellogg Brush Hogging to clear out brush under our lines out along Hwy 82. It's been a few years since this has been done. Will start a rotation of having some of this done every year to keep up.

\*Old business: None.

\*New business:

\*Dave Fish, with the VFW, was present. Their organization heard there is no 4th of July parade this year, but they want to march the route with the veterans and flags. They are asking the village to allow them the use of the Police officer for a short time frame, to lead them, with a fire truck behind. The board said absolutely.

\*Dale Klemme gave an update on the FEMA buyout grant. After the 2018 flood, a pre-application was submitted for the buyout of some properties. Then in March of 2019, a final app was filed. FEMA pays for 87 1/2 % of all costs. That leaves a 12 1/2% match. We applied for the DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant.

They required appraisals on all 9 properties, which the village had done and paid for. We recently received a letter that we were denied. Not enough money for all the requests. We

have another possible option for the match of Vernon County CDBG-EAP funds. When FEMA finally decides if we get any funding, we can check with the county on our needs. Dale also said there maybe some disaster recovery money. When it's announced, an application can be submitted. This could help with the substation relocation, housing, etc.

\*Driftless Wisconsin has inquired if we would be a sponsor again this year for an ad campaign promoting area businesses in major areas. Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve sharing the \$500 sponsorship with LAPA, each paying \$250. (Carried).

\*Jensen moved, Melvin seconded to approve a picnic license for the La Farge Volunteers for July 3rd thru July 4th (4th of July celebration if still on). (Carried).

\*For the renewal of business alcohol licenses, we had one late license renewal application come in, so it didn't meet the 15-day requirement for the board to act on it. There needs to be some discussion, and it wasn't ready, so we are tabling all the approvals until June 22 at a special board meeting, at 6:30 p.m.

\*A list was reviewed of 40 renewal operator licenses and 4 new licenses, for Nikki Lewis (schooling completed 5-21-20), Ashley Walker (schooling completed 12-27-18), Alyssa Matthes (schooling completed 7-9-18), and Morgan Alexander (schooling completed 8-20-18). Quinn moved, Appleman seconded to approve them all. (Carried).

\*Ordinance Violation update: Chief Brown said he's getting more complaints now going into the summer, and all get looked into. A dozen notices were sent for tall grass. Nine are complying, 3 are not. The village will be mowing them tomorrow. Cheryl thanked him for the follow ups.

\*Police report/update: Chief Brown reported he had 77 calls for service in May. Circuit court is back on this month, and Municipal Court is starting back in July.

\*Committee Reports:

\*\*Library: Barb reported the library board met and decided to semi-open. It is limited to 5 patrons at a time, along with the staff. Keeping things clean and safe.

\*\*Park: The Friends of the Library are asking about having Music in the Park. Who makes the decision? The board felt it's a good idea. People are being a lot safer. Up to people if they want to attend. It's a big outdoor space. Post extra signs, have hand sanitizer, wear masks, and when serving food, have designated people doing the serving. Up to each individual group if they want to do it.

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

\*Jensen moved, Appleman seconded to adjourn. (Carried). Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer