

**VILLAGE OF LA FARGE**  
**Regular Board Meeting**                      **Monday, April 8, 2024**

1). Village President Pro-Tem Aaron Nemec called the regular meeting of the La Farge Village Board to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Services building, at 201 S. Cherry Street.

Roll Call – Present at the meeting:

Board members: Aaron Appleman, Barbara Melvin, Dave Fish, Terry Jensen, Karen Leis, and Aaron Nemec. Absent was Frank Quinn.

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

2). Verification was given of meeting publishing in the La Farge Episcopo, and of posting at the Bank, Post Office, and Village Office on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

3). Melvin moved, Leis seconded to approve the previous meetings minutes: (3-11-24/Regular Village board meeting and 3-26-24/Regular Library Board meeting). (Carried).

4). Correspondence: None.

5). Public Comment: Karen reported on 3 comments she received from people regarding the following:  
\*\*At Sandmire Park, there's a stone "grotto" that used to flow with water. It was thought it got filled in from the last flood. The person asked if it could be cleaned out to have it flow again. Wayne will look at it.  
\*\*The junk vehicles across from the Hardware store on the corner was asked about. Is this legal, is it a business? Chief Palmer will check into this.

\*\*The new shed put up in Lakeview Addition is receiving complaints about the driveway and the mess. Wayne said the permit is good for one year to get it completed, the driveway, etc.

\*\*Dale Clements remarked behind the storage building on South Pearl Street, someone has put 50-60 tires. And speaking of junk, the whole town is full of junk. It needs addressed. Officer Palmer is working on this.

\*\*Lonnie Muller asked if the village was applying for the Vernon County 50/50 matching grant (for up to \$10,000 each). Yes, the village is working on an application.

6). Utility business: Everything is moved in at the substation. The generator was going last Thursday. On Friday, a meeting was held with the engineers and a punch list was made for MP Systems and Fowell & Hammer. Sometime in late May the driveway paving will be done.

\*\*Sable Manufacturing is starting work to fix the clarifier.

7). Old Business: From last month, the board had agreed to proceed with the donation of land (a portion of Lot 4 by the skatepark) to the Free Methodist Church. It has been noticed in the paper for the required 3 weeks, with no opposition being heard. Fish moved, Melvin seconded to donate the land to the church. (Carried).

8). Dale Clements was present on two items. The first was maintenance on South Silver Street from Pearl Street south. He had talked with Wayne earlier in the day on the WISLR rating program for roads we do. The road down by his property is a 1, and the rest of the way up to school is an 8-10. The tube is smashed and has been for 30-35 years. The road is not maintained. It's gravel. A recycled asphalt road doesn't hold up, so he wants it done right the first time. He said everything to the North of him is filled and lifted up (Dollar General). He wants to comfortably drive to his property. He almost wrecked a \$40,000 camper in a hole down there. The road has sink holes on the side and needs a tube done now. He was told to meet with the Street committee on this issue, to address the situation and move forward. Dale will be contacted when a meeting is set. This is a new board, compared to years ago when Dale said he brought this up.

\*The second item was the maintenance of Lots 3-8, Block 2, Thomas Dejean Addition. He said he had to sell his property after the flood. He tried to keep the 4 back lots, as he said they wouldn't be mowed. They were mowed once, and brush hogged twice last year. Aaron said we can do some further investigating into this, as they are old grievances being brought forth.

9). Wayne reviewed four State/Municipal Financial agreements from the DOT on future highway projects. In 2020, we worked with the DOT in relation to the Main Street project. We did curb ramps and storm sewers and were to get credit for them. They won't write us a check back for them but will give us our credit through future projects when they pave roads through town. We are responsible for the parking areas, curb & gutter, and storm sewer. The credit we have is \$72,450. We are not sure of the time frame, but it will be over a few years' time. Our share of each of the four projects are \$24,200, \$23,550, \$24,200, and \$42,800. Delta 3 is helping us with this, too. Our share will come from the Capital Outlay account. Jensen moved, Fish seconded to approve the agreements with the DOT for these 4 projects. (Carried).

10). Opened one bid for mowing/trimming of Chapel Hill Cemetery. Beau Biermann (Beau's Lawn Care) bid \$2,000 for the year. Jensen moved, Leis seconded to approve the bid. (Carried).

11). Fish moved, Leis seconded to approve an operator license for Al Maldonado. (Carried). (He has previously held a license in the village within the last two years, so no training is required).

12). Fish moved, Jensen seconded to set Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. for the re-organization meeting for the Village board. (Carried).

13). Melvin moved, Jensen seconded to set Open Book with the Assessor for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. and Board of Review for May 29<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., both at the village office. (Carried).

14). Jensen moved, Appleman seconded to set the 28<sup>th</sup> annual village-wide rummage sales for June 7<sup>th</sup> & June 8<sup>th</sup>. (Carried).

15). Police Report/Update: Police Chief Palmer reported it's been a busy month. Steve attended his first MEG (Metropolitan Enforcement Group) unit meeting. It's a collection of law enforcement agencies in the surrounding area, getting together to discuss drug related crimes.

\*He also is a member of the RISS (Regional Information Sharing Systems) network. For \$100 a year, they provide you with equipment loans, facial recognition products and services, crime scene diagramming, audio & photo enhancements, digital forensics, etc. There's no charge to use items or shipping things back.

\*Going to a Nuisance abatement class next week. Hopefully get ideas from this.

16). Committee Reports and Updates:

\*\*Community Center: Dave is still working on the frame for the Veterans pictures.

\*\*This is Aaron Appleman's last meeting, as he didn't run for another term. On behalf of the Village Board, Aaron Nemec presented him with a plaque for his 7 years of service as a Village Trustee. Aaron Nemec also welcomed Jill Stoltz to the village board, as she was present. (Her term starts April 16<sup>th</sup>).

17). Fish moved, Jensen seconded to approve payment of the bills. (Carried).

18). Jensen moved, Appleman seconded to adjourn. (Carried). Adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

  
Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer