

**VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole, of the Village of Wrightstown, was held at Wrightstown Village Hall, 352 High St., Wrightstown, WI, on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023**, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Village President Dean Erickson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Village President Dean Erickson; Trustees Sue Byers, Mark Leonard, Dan Segerstrom, Terry Schaeuble and Julie Sigmund. Absent – Trustee Andy Lundt

Also present: Brian Roebke (Wrightstown Spirit); Administrator Travis Coenen; Public Works Director Andy Vickman; Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Seidl; Fire Chief Mike Schampers; Fire Inspector Nathan Helbing; Police Chief Greg Deike; Police Officers Gary DeWinter and Zach Schultz; Police Clerk Leona Hermesen; Ehlers Senior Municipal Financial Advisor Jon Cameron; Wrightstown School Board President Nicole Gerend; from the Town of Kaukauna, Jason Gerend; Business Owners Todd and Janet Coenen; Residents Kathryn Lich, Dalton Rupiper and Brad Sigmund; the Family of Zach Schultz

Motion made by Trustee J Sigmund with a second made by Trustee S Byers to move up the swearing in of NEW full time police officer Zachary Schultz. **Motion carried.**

Police Chief Greg Deike introduced NEW full time officer Zachary W. Schultz. Zach is a 13-year law enforcement veteran who has worked in jurisdictions in Brown, Outagamie and Waupaca counties.

Officer Zachary Schultz was sworn in by Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Seidl.

Welcome Zach!

Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee T Schaeuble to open the Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, April 5, 2023. **Motion carried.**

**Wrightstown School District Letter to Trustee Sue Byers**

Trustee Sue Byers shared the April 3, 2023 letter received from Wrightstown School District in response to her questions regarding their annual tax payment increases, since approval of the project referendum in 2020.

Trustee Byers noted her disappointment over the following, as a result of the Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting that she attended:

- Being allowed only 3 minutes to express concerns to the Wrightstown School Board

- Having to “sign in” in order to be allowed to speak
- The lack of communication, by the District, regarding their plan to making accelerated payments on the 20 year bonds, when rolling out the 2020 referendum
- Being told to “stay in her lane” in regards to School District business, as if District spending should not be a concern to a taxpayer

Trustee Julie Sigmund requested a copy of the rate calculation worksheet presented by Board President Nicole Gerend during the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Upon receipt, she was able to work through the numbers on her own tax bill, and come within a few cents of the School District’s advertised tax rate of \$8.85, when using her property’s equalized value. However, Brown County’s published mill rate for the portion of the School District that lies within Wrightstown Village is much higher than \$8.85 since the final “mill rate” is established once the apportionment for the Village has been calculated onto the school district levy and then divided by assessed value. The end result is a significantly larger tax payment owed.

Trustee Sigmund feels the true impact to taxpayers could have been better communicated.

Trustee Sue Byers shared her concern that as equalized value in the Village continues to grow, the School District will not adjust their rate to lessen the burden on the taxpayer.

Trustee Mark Leonard feels that the School Board fully understood the burden they were putting on tax payers when presenting the referendum, due to the handout provided at the school board meeting. They chose to share only the information necessary to get the referendum to pass, rather than communicating the true tax burden and their plan to accelerate debt service payments. He feels that they are also banking on the surrounding communities continued growth to pay off debt, so future planned projects can be moved up on the calendar. Because debt payments do not count toward levy limit, the School Board could potentially plan to pay the bond in full this next year and charge it to the tax payers all at once.

Village President Dean Erickson stated that had the School Board been honest when presenting their plan in 2020, the referendum would not have passed as rate payers would have been aware of the extreme increases coming.

Trustee Sue Byers noted that the Village Board and the School Board are not working toward the same goal as the Village has turned down multiple requests for new equipment, building improvements etc... to keep mill rates in check, while the School District has not.

### **Burning Permits Required in the Village of Wrightstown**

Last Saturday, Trustee Julie Sigmund was notified of a resident burning yard waste during the state-wide burn ban.

The non-emergency phone number was called and a response was received from Fire Inspector Nathan Helbing. He was able to educate the homeowner about the burn ban and burning permit requirements.

The March newsletter includes a reminder to property owners to check Village ordinances regarding burning in the spring, summer and fall months.

Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to close the Committee of the Whole meeting. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Michelle Seidl

Clerk/Treasurer

*Posted: 05/03/2023 MS*