

**VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, of the Village of Wrightstown, was held at Wrightstown Village Hall, 352 High St., Wrightstown, WI, on **Tuesday, April 18, 2023**, following the Committee of the Whole meeting.

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 Hermsen; 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

Village Board meeting opened at 6:32 p.m.

**MINUTES** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve the Wednesday, April 5, 2023 Village Board Meeting Minutes, as submitted. **Motion carried.**

**VOUCHERS** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve the vouchers from March 30, 2023 through April 12, 2023 totaling \$178,467.80. **Motion carried.**

**SCHEDULED APPEARANCES:** Jon Cameron, Senior Municipal Advisor from Ehlers, presented the Sale Day Report for the 2023A General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonding.

Bids were taken this morning for \$2,545,000 in General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds. The following (3) three bids were received:

- Northland Securities, Inc. out of Minneapolis, MN, with a true interest rate of 4.0395%
- Baird out of Milwaukee, WI, with a true interest rate of 4.0606%
- BOK Financial Securities, Inc., out of Milwaukee, WI, with a true interest rate of 4.0847%

The pre offering premium allowed the debt issuance to be down sized by \$35,000, reducing the total interest, over the life of the loan, from what was presented as part of the pre-sale report on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Congratulations to the Village on a successful bond sale!

Projects planned for with this borrowing include:

- Poplar Street reconstruction
- Village’s portion of the HWY 96 resurfacing
- Well #2 abandonment and Well #4 rehab
- Purchase of land and improvements to the new public works facility

- Rail spur construction project
- Plum Creek Trail construction project

With this borrowing, the Village of Wrightstown will be at approximately 68% of its debt capacity.

### **WALK INS:**

Resident Kathryn Lich expressed how disturbed she was at the disrespectful treatment the Village Board Members received at the Wrightstown School Board Meeting on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Trustees Sue Byers and Mark Leonard for the work they did presenting an opposing viewpoint on the School Board's decision to accelerate debt service payments.

She is concerned in the lack of transparency of the School Board and believes there may be another project that the District would like to undertake once the current bonding is paid in full.

Ms. Lich asked the Village Board what taxpayers can do about getting responses to their increasing concerns, in light of the fact that no answers are forthcoming and if there is anything that the Village Board can do to assist.

President Dean Erickson responded that it is very important for tax payers to be involved in the voting process and who they choose to represent them on the School Board, since board members have the right to discussion and to ask for roll call votes so the public can be aware of where each member stands on an issue. Continued attendance at the meetings, and asking repetitive questions, should continue as well. The Village Board has done as much as they can in trying to educate property owners on what is happening. Unfortunately, though, the Village Board has no control in helping the School District's set their levy and "final" mill rate.

Ms. Lich is concerned that they will be unable to sell their home when they are ready to retire, due to the high tax rate and also feels for families already struggling to make ends meet day to day.

Trustee Sue Byers believes that the rate increases will continue for a few more years until the tax payers have enough and start appealing to the School Board en masse.

Trustee Mark Leonard noted that discussion outside of closed session indicated a need to pay down the borrowing within 10 years due to additional facility needs.

Trustee Terry Schaeuble has been a Wrightstown School District employee for 47 years and was part of the referendum committee for the wellness center project at the High School. His experiences have always been positive and he stated that the school board members and administration staff are good people. This leaves him torn over the rate issue and he has held his comments due to this struggle.

Trustee Julie Sigmund stated that this issue became a Village Board concern when complaints were expressed to Village Staff and Trustees over the extreme rate increases since the passage of the referendum in 2020. This is NOT a School Board vs. the Village Board situation. Everyone is just trying to understand how the Wrightstown School District rate got to this point.

Trustee Dan Segerstrom agreed that this discussion is not actionable by the Village Board and that there may be differing opinions by Trustees on this issue, so a representation of unity amongst all Village Board members should not be conveyed.

Trustee Mark Leonard made a last comment indicating that he believes the School Board Members do not understand the effect their decisions are having on the taxpayers and that they are too trusting of what they are being told by School Administration.

On another note, Trustee Dan Segerstrom shared concerns received, and passed along to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, about CTH U/HWY 96 safety. The CTH U/HWY 96 intersection was recently evaluated due to the resurfacing project planned and there was found to be no future need for a roundabout in that area. Trustee Segerstrom also contacted Outagamie County to request safety flags be placed to address additional concerns stated, and will be following for a response.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

- Alliance Rail project will be going out for bid by month end
- DNR approval, for portions of the Plum Creek Restoration Project, is expected shortly. Plans will then be brought to the public for comment, in anticipation of requesting final Village Board approval
- Working with developers on more NEW manufacturing, residential and retail development
- NEW building permit software is currently being set up with Civic Systems. Once done, permits will be applied for and tracked online
- NEW performance evaluation software has launched!
- In June, a new game (similar to geo caching) will be launched online, to get the community involved in government! Badges and prizes can be won! Libby Falk and Forward Labs is assisting with game development
- Administrator Coenen and Public Works Director Andy Vickman are working with Wrightstown High School on an internship program which highlights government jobs and will assist with recruiting local talent
- A request for speed reduction on CTH U will be presented for action later in the meeting due to the number of traffic incidents reported in the past few years. With reconstruction being completed as part of the HWY 41 expansion project, and slated to begin in 2025, concerns have been raised about how additional vehicles and location of the off ramp(s) will affect future safety. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is currently reevaluating the need for noise barriers because recent plan design changes have been made. The only potential cost to the Village for the CTH U project is for sidewalk installation, if they are decided upon
- Broadway Street resurfacing will be coordinated with the rail project in 2025. Off road trail grants are being investigated to possibly tie in with this update
- Hwy 96 resurfacing is scheduled for completion in 2024

**ADDITIONAL WALK IN:**

Janet and Todd Coenen, owners of the Hair Canvas located at 430 Washington St., requested an improvement loan to allow them to purchase and modernize the current Grit & Furrow property at 210 High St. This location allows for better customer parking and includes an upper rental unit. It is a goal of the Coenen’s to have a mural painted on the Broadway Street retaining wall.

Administrator Coenen asked for a presentation and plans that can be attached to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> village board meeting agenda item.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FINANCE/PERSONNEL

- **Resolution 04182023** - Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve Resolution 04182023 Awarding the Sale of \$2,545,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2023A. Call of roll: 6 yes votes. **Motion carried.**
- **State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Invoice #19461** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee J Sigmund to approve State of Wisconsin Department of Administration Invoice #19461 for \$726,231.58 for principal and interest payments on the Village's:
  - Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 (Safe Drinking Water Fund Loan) Project ID 4942-03 for \$79,374.48
  - Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 (Safe Drinking Water Fund Loan) Project ID 4942-04, paid via Certificate & Direction, dated April 19, 2023, requesting that the Associated Bank escrow agent disburse \$366,846.44, from the Village's escrow account, on Friday, April 21, 2023, to the State of Wisconsin Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, for payment of debt service on the Village's Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015, due May 1, 2023, per the June 24, 2015 Escrow Agreement
  - Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2009 (Clean Water Fund Loan) Project ID 4356-04, for \$280,010.66

Call of roll: 6 yes votes. **Motion carried.**

- **Greenleaf Bank Statement for Loan 810132003** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve Greenleaf Bank Statement for Loan 810132003, for \$34,455.88, for principal and interest payments on the Village's \$337,619 Sewer Revenues Bank Note. Call of roll: 6 yes votes. **Motion carried.**
- **Greenleaf Bank Statement for Loan 810132004** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve Greenleaf Bank Statement for Loan 810132004, for \$44,630.92, for principal and interest payments on the Village's \$437,320 Water Revenues Bank Note. Call of roll: 6 yes votes. **Motion carried.**
- **Ehlers Bond Trust Services Statement 78863** - Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee J Sigmund to approve Ehlers Bond Trust Services Statement 78863, for \$217,795.00 for principal and interest payments on the Village's \$2,990,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012A. Call of roll: 6 yes votes. **Motion carried.**
- **Resignation from Water Utility Operator/Public Works Laborer Aaron Goldschmidt** – Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve resignation received from Water Utility Operator/Public Works Laborer Aaron Goldschmidt, effective Tuesday, April 14, 2023. Aaron accepted a hometown position in Neenah. Best of luck in your new endeavor! **Motion carried.**

Because the Department of Public Works currently has two open positions, Director Andy Vickman met with Wrightstown School District's graduating seniors to let them know about these opportunities!

- **Fire Department Application from Simon Kenneth Leiterman** – Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee S Byers to approve application from Simon Kenneth Leitermann, 431 Prairie Way, Wrightstown, WI 54180, to join the Wrightstown Fire Department under cadet status, until his 18<sup>TH</sup> birthday on 06/26/2023, in which he will move to probationary status. Mr. Leiterman has the support of his family and is enthusiastic about joining! **Motion carried.**
- **Land Offers to Purchase – VW-188-2 & VW-188-3** – Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve offers to purchase for Village of Wrightstown parcels VW-188-2 and VW-188-3. This current compost site will be developed to hold an offloading rail spur and potential storage for Fox Valley Wood Products, Inc. **Motion carried.**
- **Committee Appointments** - Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve the following committee appointments:
  - CDA
    - (appointment needed by Village President Dean J. Erickson)
  - Planning Commission
    - Gary Kaster
  - Board of Appeals
    - Brad Bosma
    - (appointment needed by Village President Dean J. Erickson)

**Motion carried.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PARKS, RECREATION AND REGIONAL PLANNING

- **Municipal Treasurer’s Week Proclamation was read**
- **NEW Operator’s License Applications** – Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee J Sigmund to approve the following NEW Operator License Applications:
  - Alanna C. Sullivan, N508 Kingfisher Ct., Appleton, WI 54915, for Royal St Patrick’s Golf Links
  - Kaylee M. Pieschek, 4030 Towne Lakes Circle #1103, Appleton, WI 54913, for Royal St. Patrick’s Golf Links

**Motion carried.**

- **Wrightsie Development Plan Review Application** - Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve the Site Plan Review for Wrightsite Development LLC, 731 Steffins St., Parcel VW-W177-1, Village of Wrightstown. To be added to the property:
  - A privacy fenced enclosure for outdoor storage
  - Enclosed parking
  - Parking to the rear and front of the building

Plans were approved at the April 10, 2023 Plan Commission meeting.

**Motion carried.**

- **Wrightsite Development Sign Review Application** - Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to approve the Sign Review for Wrightsite Development LLC, 731 Steffins St., Parcel VW-W177-1, Village of Wrightstown. Sign plans were approved at the April 10, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting. Location map and renderings of the proposed sign were presented. **Motion carried.**
- **CTH U Speed Reduction** - Motion made by Trustee T Schaeuble to approve the speed reduction request on CTH U from 55 mph to 35 mph. Outagamie County requires approval by the Village Board since a speed study will be necessary. Trustee Dan Segerstrom feels that a speed limit of 45 mph would be appropriate since this is still a predominantly rural area and there may be speed differentials for this reason. Director of Public Works Andy Vickman noted that he does not like sending staff to cut grass along CTH U because speeding vehicles make it very dangerous. Motion amended by Terry Schaeuble to approve the speed reduction request on CTH U from 55 mph to 45 mph, with a second made by Trustee S Byers. **Motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Fire Department**
  - Second Integrated Training event held at the High School with outlying Outagamie County fire agencies
  - Gearing up for summer!
- **Police Department**
  - “Community Conversation” event at Wrightstown High School went well!
  - NEW Officer Zach Schultz already made a drug arrest in his short time on staff

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- River docks are in. A few thousand dollars was saved by using the NEW “crane” method. Thank you to Administrator Travis Coenen for assisting since the Department of Public Works is short staffed
- CCR has been completed and it will be published this week
- Two full time DPW positions and seasonal staffing is currently being advertised for. Summer helper Bernie Vickman is returning for his 19<sup>th</sup> year! Thank you to Jason Krueger and Brent Bouchonville for stepping up to get it all done due to these staff shortages.

**ADJOURN** – Motion made by Trustee S Byers with a second made by Trustee J Sigmund to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Michelle Seidl

Clerk/Treasurer

*Posted: 05/03/2023 MS*