

VILLAGE OF MARATHON CITY, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING – HYBRID **VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM** **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025 – 6:00PM**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:03 pm

ROLL CALL: K. HANDRICK, C. RUPLINGER, M. AHRENS, K. SORENSON, K. PAUL, B. PARLIER, J. LAWRENCE

The meeting was called to order by President Kurt Handrick with Roll Call. Absent from the meeting were Trustees Ruplinger and Ahrens. Attending the meeting in person were Kevin O'Brien from the Record Review and Andrew Goergen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- a. Virtual Meeting Guidelines
- b. Public Participation at Government Meetings

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Discuss and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes for January 15, 2025 Special Village Board Meeting

MOTION – Approve Minutes from January 15, 2025 Special Village Board Meeting

Motion made by Paul second by Lawrence. Motion passed by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- a. Discuss and Possible Action on Approval of Operator License for Renee Crotteau – Home Bar & Grill

The Board reviewed the Operator License Application. No motion was made for approval; therefore, the Operator License Application for Renee Crotteau was denied.

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustees had questions on the following bills:

Check # 48449 – Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (TID2 bond payment)

MOTION – Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Lawrence second by Sorenson. Motion passed by voice vote.

7. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Administrator Cherek began his administrator's report with the various permits issued by the Village for the month of January. He stated there was 1 residential building permit for some new flooring and wall updates, 1 utility permit issued to WPS and 1 temporary sign permit for the MABA Barrel Drop

fundraiser. The barrel drop signs will be placed at the 400 Block and by the pond on the corner of Highway 107 and Maratech Ave, where the barrel will be placed.

Cherek reported that the Fire and EMS Department had a busy January, with 21 EMS calls and 5 Fire calls, 1 being a total structure loss. He presented the Board with a new spreadsheet showing all the calls for the month for both Fire and EMS combined. The spreadsheet is included in the agenda packet.

He went on to inform the Board of the activities that the Village Clerk's Office has been working on for the month which includes receiving and processing both utility payments from the 4th quarter of 2024 and 2024 property taxes. The Administrative staff completed their in-house audit with Kerber Rose and will be receiving Audit books for the Board to review before the Audit presentation that will occur at a future meeting.

Cherek made note to the Board that the fire hydrant that was hit on Chestnut St over Thanksgiving weekend as been replaced. While the Police Department is still investigating who did the damage, the Village has received the insurance check for the cost to replace the hydrant minus the \$1,000 deductible that the Village was responsible for. The total cost to replace the hydrant was \$14,470.62.

The Board was presented with a copy of the December release of "The Clarifier" magazine which featured the Village's Waste Water Treatment Plant. A copy of this can be found on the Village website under the Water & Wastewater Department section. Administrator Cherek informed the Board that the Village has finalized a settlement agreement with KC Industries in a dispute over the fluoridation system and the Village attorney has the settlement check in their possession for the Village to pick up at its earliest convenience.

Cherek will be continuing to work with Ehlers on the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan to see where the Village levy limits are at and will plan to present projects to the Board at a later date. He is also in the process of generating Recreational License Agreement drafts with Attorney Shane VanderWaal for use of Veterans Park and the new Ballpark Complex and will meet with the different groups that will be using the fields in the near future.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Baseball / Softball Park Budget Phase 1A & 1B

Administrator Cherek opened this discussion with an update on the budget status for Phase 1A & 1B of the Ballpark Project, stating that the Village has a shortfall of \$19,704.18 of its \$3,859,732.18 budget. This shortfall is due to the fact that the Village has \$4,015,028 in pledged donations but \$175,000 of that pledged amount is to be solely used for Phase 1C, the construction of the pickleball courts and playground. That leaves \$3,840,028 in donation money to be used for Phases 1A & 1B.

He stated that after the Lions Club donation match campaign, the Village raised \$24,375 in additional funds, along with \$2,500 settlement from Sunrise Trucking, making the new total pledged donations amount at \$4,041,702.50.

Cherek went on to discuss the items needed still to complete Phases 1A & 1B. Items included concession stand sinks, signs for the complex and each field, bases, anchors, padded backstops and grass to be planted in the open area which could turn into a future fourth field. Total amount of these items to be purchased is estimated to be around \$24,000.

Cherek suggested to the Board to increase the budget of Phase 1A & 1B \$24,000 to complete the project. Raising the budget to \$3,883,732.18 making the shortfall at \$17,029.68. This shortfall may be able to be reduced more depending on how well the final project goes.

Motion – Increase Phase 1A & 1B Budget by \$24,000 and purchase items needed to complete ballpark

Motion made by Paul second by Lawrence. Motion passed by voice vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Baseball / Softball Park – Phase 1C

First in new business, Cherek continued with the Ballpark project in moving to Phase 1C which is the construction of the pickleball courts and playground. He informed the Board members that \$175,000 of the overall pledged donations received were to be used solely on the pickleball courts and playground. He has been working with a playground designer and the donation source to come up with a design that would suit the needs of the community and children of all ages. He included pictures of the design layout in the agenda packet.

In the process of designing the playground, the vendor informed Cherek of a 50% grant that is expected to start in March-April. Cherek intends to apply for the grant when available. That being said, he feels confident that the Village can start the bid process for construction of both the playground and pickleball courts and stay within the \$175,000 donation budget. The budget would include the purchase of the equipment needed and the installation.

Motion – Approve up to \$175,000 in Donation Funds and Start the Bid Process for Pickleball Court and Playground at the Ballpark

Motion made by Lawrence second by Paul. Motion passed by voice vote.

b. Discuss and Possible Action on Insurance Service Office Report

Administrator Cherek reported on the Public Protection Classification report (included in agenda packet) that ISO (Insurance Services Office, Inc.) did in November 2024. This report tests the Village's ability to put out fires in its district. The lower the rating the better the Village's ability to put out fires in a timelier manner. The last time ISO did this analysis was in 2018. Our rating went from a 4 in 2018 to a 6 in 2024.

After some discussion that Cherek had with Water Plant Operator Aaron Martin and Vierbicher Associates over the ISO Fire Hydrant test results, we feel the readings were drastically lower than expected. One person that was with the ISO person conducting the test believe they did not have a proper testing gauge when they did the flow test in November. Vierbicher suggested testing the hydrants to compare to the ISO findings and the ISO representative confirmed that with an engineer report of the same hydrant sites that they would be able to adjust the Village ratings if there proves to be significant discrepancies.

Motion - Approve Vierbicher Associates to Test Fire Hydrants and Verify Flow Volume Compared to ISO Report Findings

Motion made by Paul second by Sorenson. Motion passed by voice vote.

c. Discuss and Possible Action on Edgar Ambulance Contract

Cherek presented the Board with the Edgar Ambulance Contract, included in agenda packet. The contract price went up to \$10,913.00, an increase of \$2997.80 from 2024, which is shared with the 4 other municipalities that the Village has EMS contracts with. The contract will run from April 1, 2025 to April 1, 2026.

Motion – Approve Edgar Ambulance Contract

Motion made by Parlier second by Paul. Motion passed by voice vote.

10. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Amending Ordinance Section 3.2.9 (B) of the general code entitled *Separate Volunteer Accounts*.

Cherek noted to the Board that he is still in the works of amending this Ordinance with Attorney VanderWaal and that it should be ready to discuss full at the next meeting. Action was tabled until March 5, 2025.

**11. VILLAGE BOARD WILL GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PER WIS. STAT. 19.85(1)(e)
“DELIBERATING OR NEGOTIATING THE PURCHASE OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES, THE
INVESTING OF PUBLIC FUNDS, OR CONDUCTING OTHER SPECIFIED PUBLIC
BUSINESS, WHENEVER COMPETITIVE OR BARGAINING REASONS REQUIRE A
CLOSED SESSION.”**

**MOTION - VILLAGE BOARD WILL GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PER WIS. STAT.
19.85(1)(e) at 7:08pm.**

Motion made by Sorenson second by Paul. Motion passed by roll call vote.

C. RUPLINGER – No, M. AHRENS – No, K. SORENSON – Yes, K. PAUL – Yes, B. PARLIER – Yes, J. LAWRENCE – Yes, K. HANDRICK – Yes.

- a. ST. Matthews Use License
- b. TID 1 Development
- c. TID 2 Development

**12. VILLAGE BOARD WILL CONTINUE IN CLOSED SESSION PER WIS. STAT. 19.85 (1) (C)
“CONSIDERING EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, COMPENSATION OR PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION DATA OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVER WHICH THE
GOVERNMENTAL BODY HAS JURISDICTION OR EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY.”**

- a. Employee Handbook Update

13. VILLAGE BOARD WILL RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

MOTION – Village Board will return to Open Session at 7:58 pm.

Motion made by Sorenson second by Paul. Motion passed by roll call vote.

M. AHRENS – No, K. SORENSON – Yes, K. PAUL – Yes, B. PARLIER – Yes, J. LAWRENCE – Yes, K. HANDRICK – Yes, C. RUPLINGER – No.

14. TAKE ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION IF NECESSARY

No action to be taken from either closed session.

15. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS & SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- a. Regular Village Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – 6:00 pm

b. Special Meetings as Needed

16. ADJOURNMENT at 7:59 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Sorenson second by Paul. Motion passed by voice vote.

Cassie Lang
Clerk, Deputy Treasurer