**VILLAGE OF LA FARGE**

**Regular Board Meeting Monday, October 11, 2021**

\*Village 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. (Meeting was posted for using Zoom or attending in person).

Roll Call - Present at the meeting:

All Board Members: Aaron Appleman, Karen Leis, Frank Quinn, Aaron Nemec, Terry Jensen, Barbara Melvin, and Cheryl Purvis.

Also present: News reporters Lonnie Muller and Bonnie Sherman (Zoom), Public Works Manger Wayne Haugrud, Police Chief Jonathon Brown, Utility Clerk Greg Lawton, Bart Nies with Delta 3, and Clerk Kimberly Walker.

\*Verification was given of meeting publishing in the La Farge Episcope, and of posting at the Bank, Post Office, and Village Office on October 7, 2021.

\*Held a Public Hearing regarding the proposed application for the CDBG-DR (Disaster Recovery) funds.

Notice was published in the Episcope and posted on 9-16-2021. An attendance sheet was circulated for part of the record. Vierbichers were unable to attend, so President Purvis led the hearing requirements. First reviewed the potential funds for 2022. A list of the grants available, which the village has used some of, were presented. Cheryl went thru the Citizen Participation Certification checklist, identifying eligible activities for funding, housing needs, and different community needs.

\*Cheryl discussed the 7-unit apartment building application the village is applying for. The good news is with wood prices down, the per unit cost went from $98,650 to $89,795. The investments, interest rates, and funding structure all remain the same from the previous meeting. No public comments were received, either in person or on Zoom. The public hearing was closed.

\*Cheryl read thru the “Authorizing Resolution to Commit Match Fund”, #10-112-2021, regarding the 7-Unit apartment building. Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve the resolution. (Carried).

\*Melvin moved, Leis seconded to approve the “Authorizing Resolution, #10-113-2021, for “Submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for – 7-Unit Apartment Building”. (Carried).

\*A previous Development Agreement (for the 7-unit apartment building) between the Village and CDA was revised with the new numbers that brought the per unit costs down. Quinn moved, Nemec seconded to approve the Development Agreement. (Carried). November 19th is the grant application deadline.

\*Melvin moved, Appleman seconded to approve the previous meeting minutes: (9-13-21/Regular Village board meeting and 9-29-21/Emergency Services Building Committee meeting). (Carried).

\*Correspondence: Trick or Treating is October 31st, from 3-5 p.m., with a party at the school afterwards.

\*Public Comment: None.

\*Utility business: Wayne had none.

\*Main Street Project: Bart Nies, with Delta 3, was present to give an update on the project. They’re putting in underground conduit for the street lighting and doing prep work for the curb and gutter. Looking to pour this Thursday and finish up on Friday, weather dependent. Next week the electrical company will work on installing the streetlights behind the curb and gutter, then the concrete contractor will put in sidewalks and driveways. The week of October 25th is tentatively set for street paving. Hopefully by the end of October, things are done.

\*Jensen moved, Quinn seconded to approve pay request #4 to Gerke Excavating for $260,955.00. (Carried).

\*Bart congratulated the village on receiving a DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan award. In June, we applied for $664,495. Of this amount, $398,697 was given as a grant and $265,000 is loan from the DNR. It’s a locked in interest rate for 0.891% for 20 years. The first estimated loan payment, in May of 2022, for principal and interest is $14,515.00. In November, you pay interest only. Twice a year payments. The total project is $1,664,495 million, of which the village also received a $1 million grant. The TIF makes this payment. In 2029 the TIF ends but can escrow for future payments. Jensen moved, Quinn seconded to accept the DNR Safe Drinking Water loan award for the Main Street project. (Carried).

\*Update on Grants: Still nothing on the EDA grant.

\*Dollar General Update: Greg had sent them some sites we had identified. They’re still reviewing them.

\*About 2 weeks ago, Kurt Muchow (Vierbichers) contacted Cheryl on a developer still interested in submitting a plan for the CDBG-DR grant, to develop a 16-unit apartment building. They looked at it before, and when the developer told the investor he couldn’t get the units under a certain dollar amount, the investor said he would put up the funding himself. He needs an acre of land. Is the village interested in pursuing a second application? Board agreed we could use housing. Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve submitting a second application from a developer for a 16-unit apartment building using the CDBG-DR grant. (Carried).

\*Old business: A bid was received for fencing along the retention pond by Oak Drive that was discussed last month. TW’s Fencing, La Farge, gave 2 prices for a galvanized fence. One was $6427 and the other $9,065. Prices are only good for 5 days, with the metal prices fluctuating. This will be taken to committee for a recommendation to see if we want to put one in, use mesh fencing again, or just fence along the top.

\*Every 10 years, following the census, the county does a redistricting map, re-drawing the boundary lines.

The are looking at dropping from 29 to 19 districts. La Farge is still in 1 district, #17. Cheryl read thru the resolution. Jensen moved, Melvin seconded to approve the Resolution, No. 10-11-2021, for the County Redistricting. (Carried).

\*Nemec moved, Appleman seconded to approve the Animal Care Provider Agreement with the Driftless Humane Society for the 2022 year, for the per animal dogs only plan. Cost is $200.00 per unclaimed dog, and an initial fee of $250.00 due in January. (Carried). (Cost was $228.51 last year).

\*Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve an ad in the Driftless Wisconsin map for 2022, for $251.00, along with LAPA’s $100.00 contribution (total of $351.00). (Carried). Their website increased 105% from 2019 to 2020, and they had over 100,000 visits. They have over 35,0000 for their e-newsletter.

\*Police report/update: Chief Brown reported 71 calls for service in September. Nothing new for court. Had 1 arrest. Something that just happened is 2 car thefts in town. So be aware.

\*Committee Reports:

\*\*Library: Meeting tomorrow night. And Librarian Rachel Clift handed in her resignation today. Will also discuss this and get the advertising out there. Barb remarked she was a good librarian.

\*\*Parks: Aaron Appleman reported we are getting a check from the League of WI Municipalities, to use only for park items. This is a grant program they have, and we don’t have to do anything. The amount is based on the premiums we pay, but at least $500, so not sure what we’re receiving yet.

\*\*Finance: Set budget meetings: All at the Village office.

Wednesday, October 20th – 6 p.m. Finance & Personnel and 7 p.m. Police Committee

Monday, October 25th – 5:45 p.m. Clinic Committee, 6 p.m. – Streets & Utilities Committee,

6:30 p.m. Parks, Grounds, Buildings, and Cemetery Committee

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

\*Quinn moved, Appleman seconded to convene into closed session, in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes section 19.85(1)(e), to deliberate on the possible land proposal from last months meeting. (Carried 6-0, with Aaron Nemec leaving the room). Closed Session.

\*Jensen moved, Quinn seconded to reconvene to open and continue the meeting. (Carried 6-0).

\*Cheryl informed Aaron the board has accepted his offer to purchase. Closing is any time before December 31st, 2021. Aaron is responsible for all the closing costs. Quinn moved, Jensen seconded to approve the offer to purchase to Aaron Nemec. (Carried 6-0, with Nemec not participating in the vote).

\*Jensen moved, Quinn seconded to adjourn. (Carried). Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Kimberly Walker, Village Clerk/Treasurer