

**Village of Holmen  
Board Proceedings  
September 14, 2017**

President Proctor called the Holmen Village Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm on September 14, 2017, at the Holmen Village Hall.

Board members present: Nancy Proctor, Doug Jorstad, Steve Johnston, Dawn Kulcinski, Rich Anderson, Chuck Olson and Bill Ebner. Also present were Dan McHugh, Roger Staffaron – WXOW news, Bill Bulawa, Kevin Olson, Frank Garrow, Mike Durkin, Lance Truggestad, Angela Davies, Phillip Davies, Tony Kropelin, Administrator Heinig, Public Works Director Olson, Park & Recreation Director Brogan, Police Chief Collins, Clerk/Treasurer Hornberg, Attorney Brian Weber, Patrick Barlow and Pat McKnight.

**Public Comment**

President Proctor remarked that public comment would be opened and individuals could speak to the Board for an amount of time not to exceed thirty seconds per person, and that anyone being disrespectful or disruptive would be escorted out. Trustees Ebner commented that this was not sufficient time.

Chuck Olson/Rich Anderson motioned to increase time allowed at public comment for this meeting to one minute. The motion carried with Olson, Anderson, Ebner, Jorstad, Kulcinski and Proctor in favor; Johnston opposed.

Mike Durkin remarked that he had provided an advisory memo to the Village Board members in support of Trustees Olson and Ebner to remain on Fire Board; he appreciates both of their efforts in support of the Fire Department.

Lance Truggestad stated that he is the President of the La Crosse Area Professional Fire Association and that he is in support of Trustees Olson and Ebner remaining on the Fire Board. He made comment that the financial picture which is provided by Trustee Olson is welcome and necessary and that Trustee Ebner was instrumental in union negotiations.

Tony Kropelin stated that since Olson and Ebner have been on the Fire Board, the budget has been balanced, capital outlay has been included and he feels there is peace of mind with them here.

Phillip Davies spoke in full support of Ebner and Olson and stated that they have a difficult task.

Angela Davies remarked that Ebner and Olson are very involved and she supports their continuation.

Frank Garrow commented that the department is running smooth and efficiently.

Dan McHugh spoke in support of the excellent job done by Ebner and Olson on the Fire Board and stated his full support.

Patrick Barlow remarked that he was in support of the Fire Board Committee staying as is with Ebner and Olson; he feels it would be a disruption to replace them and that currently there is a good budget in place and things are running smoothly. He feels that a change prior to budget discussions will thrust chaos into the system.

**Minutes**

Steve Johnston/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2017, Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Planning Commission**

Doug Jorstad/Chuck Olson motioned to approve Preliminary Plat for Seven Bridges Industrial Park in TIF 2, north of Hwy 35. The motion carried unanimously.

**Park, Recreation and Library Committee**

Informational items only.

**Law Enforcement Committee**

Informational items only.

**Public Works Committee**

Rich Anderson/Chuck Olson motioned to approve Change Order #1 – miscellaneous sidewalk replacement project with Steiger Construction for a time extension from September 5<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>; no additional cost applies. The motion carried unanimously.

Rich Anderson/Bill Ebner motioned to approve contract amendment for the WWTP Design with S.E.H. in the amount of \$31,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Rich Anderson/Steve Johnston motioned to approve Change Order #5 with Chippewa Concrete Services in the amount of \$40,575.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Rich Anderson/Doug Jorstad motioned to approve Change Order #6 with Chippewa Concrete Services in the amount of \$10,430.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Chuck Olson/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to consider action item outside of Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Chuck Olson/Steve Johnston motioned to approve Change Order #9 with Chippewa Concrete Services in the amount of \$9,737.50. The motion carried unanimously.

**Finance and Personnel Committee**

Doug Jorstad/Steve Johnston motioned to recommend payment of the claims as presented for a total amount of \$2,765,960.61. The motion carried unanimously.

Doug Jorstad/Rich Anderson motioned to approve Retail License Transfer – Premises to Premises; for both Class A Retail Combination License as well as Cigarette and Tobacco License: Festival Foods; new location at 123 Hale Drive, Holmen, WI effective October 6, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Doug Jorstad/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to approve Operator's Licenses for Doreine V. Young and Matthew R. Erickson – Holmen American Legion and Tanner A. Underberg – Festival Foods. The motion carried unanimously.

Doug Jorstad/Steve Johnston motioned to approve Operator's Licenses for Alana Bilskemper and Jennifer M. Neumann – Smokey's Bar and Grill. The motion carried with Anderson, Olson, Proctor, Ebner, Johnston and Jorstad in favor; Kulcinski abstained.

Doug Jorstad/Rich Anderson motioned to approve contract with Hawkins, Ash, Baptie & Company, LLP for 2018-2020 audit services. The motion carried unanimously.

**Shared Ride Committee**

Trustee Kulcinski reported that ridership decreased by 127 (from 1011 to 884 from July 2016 to July 2017).

### **Municipal Court Update**

Administrator Heinig reported that a meeting was held to discuss the 2018 budget; allocations for the year are being debated. A closed session was also held to discuss personnel issues.

### **Fire Board Report**

Trustee Ebner shared information regarding the addition of a new truck and Trustee Olson reviewed financials to date. Olson commented that Chief Menches was in the process of holding budget discussions with the Towns and with Administrator Heinig.

### **County Supervisor's Report**

County Supervisor Barlow remarked that he was pleased that the Household Hazardous Materials program will be moving forward, and stated that the County recently received an award for building projects in the downtown La Crosse area.

### **President's Report**

Informational items only.

### **Other Items before the Board**

President Proctor read a statement regarding the changing for Committee members for the remaining 2017/2018 term. She stated that the changes would be as follows: Public Works Committee, Trustee Dawn Kulcinski will replace Trustee Chuck Olson. On Park & Recreation Committee, Trustee Rich Anderson will replace Trustee Doug Jorstad. On Fire Board Committee, Trustees Doug Jorstad and Steve Johnston will replace Trustees Olson and Ebner. Shared Ride Committee, Trustee Chuck Olson will replace Trustee Dawn Kulcinski.

Steve Johnston/Doug Jorstad motioned to approve Committee changes as listed.

Trustee Ebner inquired as to a detailed explanation for why Committees are being changed.

Proctor explained these changes were in response to decisions being made without the Village Board getting a chance to discuss them.

Trustee Olson remarked that he takes offense that these Committee changes were kept private prior to this time; he reminded President Proctor that during the time that she was on the Fire Board Committee that many financial issues occurred including a reduction to equity due to overspending. He feels at the time he was appointed to the Committee, he began a path to work together and to put together a solid budget. Olson commented that during Proctor's term, the chief provided himself significant raises, hired his spouse, let equipment become outdated and lost the relationship with partnering municipalities. He feels the current Fire Board corrected those things. Olson believes that the Village Board had adequate time from Chief Menches' January arrest to his conviction to ask for a discussion. He asked that before members place their vote tonight that they consider if the vote is for what is best for the Fire Department or because they don't like the decision made by Ebner and Olson in regards to Menches. He feels in the past there were many items decided within the Fire Board Committee without Village Board discussion and asks what has changed.

Trustee Johnston expressed his appreciation for Olson and Eibner's efforts and the great progress made financially with the Fire Department. He outlined Menches' previous OWI conviction, as well as his 2017 OWI arrest and outcome. He reminded Olson of their conversation where Johnston asked for Menches' suspension, and that he was told by Olson to be patient and wait for a court outcome. Johnston stated that the Fire Department should have the same rules and discipline as the Holmen Police Department. He also remarked that the Chief doesn't meet the minimum requirements for the job; he offered to share information in regards to that issue. Johnston agreed that Olson and Ebner have worked hard on the Fire Board but that they do not have autonomous power to make decisions without discussing with the Village Board. He stated that they are representatives of the Village and that public safety needs to be the first consideration always.

Trustee Olson exclaimed that Menches is not an employee; he is a private contractor and, therefore, does not need to meet the same qualifications as the Police Department or any other staff.

Trustee Ebner stated that a court decision was made in August and that from February to August, the Village Board sat on their fingers and now Olson and Ebner are the fall guys for the ineptness of the Board. He mentioned the public statement made at the August meeting, and said he had hoped that was the end of the story. Ebner stated that the Chief has a wealth of knowledge, has done an excellent job, has the respect of employees and that this is a witch hunt.

Trustee Jorstad stated that it can be confirmed with the Village Clerk that at the April closed session regarding the Chief's OWI, and that he asked to be updated once court proceedings had occurred. Clerk/Treasurer Hornberg confirmed this statement.

President Proctor remarked that when she was on the Fire Board, she was one of six members and did not make decisions on her own in regards to the Fire Department.

Trustee Ebner read a statement made by Proctor while she was on the Fire Board which stated that the Fire Board was there to advise and to make sure the Department had money in the budget, and that the Fire Board oversees the Department including the Chief.

Question is called to approve Committee changes. Motion is approved with Proctor, Jorstad, Kulcinski and Johnston in favor; Olson, Anderson and Ebner opposed.

Chief Collins stated that they had received a \$6,000.00 donation from ALM Charity's event today which was a fun and well-run event.

Director Olson mentioned that Holmen Drive construction would see changes soon and that signs will provide information on these changes.

Director Brogan mentioned that the last "Movie in the Park" would be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Trustee Olson asked the new Fire Board members to please do what is in the best interest of the Committee and Department, and do not take marching orders from the Village President.

Trustee Anderson thanked Chief Collins for assistance on a recent incident.

Trustee Ebner stated that he would attend only Village Board meetings from now on.

Trustee Jorstad inquired as to how the Smokey's outdoor event went; Trustee Johnston stated that it was very well organized, and he appreciated how they operated.

Trustee Johnston addressed the media about the August 7<sup>th</sup> tragic accident on Sand Lake Road and the posting of the accident in full which was available for viewing by the public; he asked that the media use greater discretion when a life is lost.

**Closed Session**

At 7:55 pm, Bill Ebner/Doug Jorstad motioned to convene into closed session.

Authority: §19.85(1) (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Purpose: Adult Family Homes and Wisconsin Statute 62.23(i)

and

Authority: §19.85(1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Purpose: Joint Municipal Court

The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:20 pm, Steve Johnston/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to reconvene into open session per Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(2). The motion carried unanimously.

Steve Johnston/Dawn Kulcinski motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Angela A. Hornberg, Village Clerk/Treasurer