

VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

November 6, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

Village Hall, 105 E. Main Street, Twin Lakes, WI

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT SKINNER AT 6:30 PM/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL

CALL: Present: Trustees Barb Andres, Bill Kaskin, Kevin Fitzgerald, Ken Perl, President Howard Skinner. Absent: Trustee Aarow Karow, Sharon Bower. Also Present: Administrator Laura Jager, Police Chief Katie Hall, Captain Jacob Bauer, Village Engineer Greg Droessler.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ronald Tashoff, 2050 Matthew Ave, requested an ordinance to ban feeding birds and wildlife due to issues with a neighbor who feeds wildlife excessively. He reported having over 400 birds in his backyard, causing property damage. Despite contacting the DNR 12 times, they found insufficient evidence to act, as only remnants of food are visible by the time they arrive. President Skinner stated that if the DNR cannot take action, the village cannot either and will not pass an ordinance prohibiting bird feeding.

PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEE KEN PERL - POLICE, FIRE, LAKE CONTROL, PARKS AND BEACHES

Discussion regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for investigation of all law enforcement-involved fatalities/great bodily harm.

Captain Bauer stated Kenosha County has established an organization called "CREATE," which benefits our Police Department by aiding investigations. Joining would require approval from the board.

Discussion regarding creating full-time positions for the Twin Lakes Fire & Rescue Department.

Laura shared an example from East Troy to draft a document for the TLFRD to onboard staff. Consensus was to have a meeting with the village, attorney, and TLFRD to discuss the agreement. Fitzgerald stated the department is already interviewing and has candidates they would like to hire.

Other – Trustee Perl noted that our Election Inspectors have been doing an excellent job. President Skinner agreed, adding that the election went very smoothly.

TRUSTEE BARB ANDRES - SEWER, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH, LIBRARY

Discussion regarding a proposal received through the Wisconsin Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse.

Engineer Droessler stated five years ago the board decided not to install filters at the wastewater plant due to the \$3 million cost. By February that cost had risen to \$5 million. Trading credits is a more cost-effective solution, offering the best value for the village. We have a potential trade partner for a stormwater retention pond. The partner is a farm near Burlington, which has 141 credits—56% of the total we need. He explained the proposed price, including the initial payment for the first five years and an escalation charge. We can counter with a different price, a lump-sum payment, or an alternative contract term. The clearinghouse for such trades began in March 2023 and is still establishing its processes, with only a handful of trades so far.

The Village currently discharges about 400 pounds of phosphorus per year into the creek. We are required to reduce this to about 150 pounds per year. Instead of filtering the water ourselves, we would pay for stormwater reduction elsewhere in the watershed, where phosphorus can be reduced at a lower cost. Typically, the DNR requires the removal of two to three times the amount of phosphorus we are trading for. If we trade for 141 pounds, the partner might remove approximately 400 pounds per year.

Droessler believes this is a very fair price. The cost would result in an \$8,000 annual increase. Due to our low sewer rates based on the median household income, we are no longer eligible for the program we previously used. The impact on users would amount to about 50 cents per quarter per household. Fortunately, the current rates are set such that no rate increase would be necessary to accommodate this program. The board's consensus was to authorize the Engineer to meet with the trade partner to negotiate further terms.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT HOWARD SKINNER

2025 Budget Workshop #2

Administrator Jager stated that the budget is short by \$555,000, with \$450,000 of the deficit resulting from the failure of the referendum. The board discussed options to address the shortfall, including borrowing for capital items such as roads, vehicles, and equipment to free up levy capacity, as well as cutting the Public Works Laborer position when it opens in January. Bryan Neal, 142 W Park Dr, suggested the board cut three village positions. However, it was noted that cutting positions within the Police Department would result in financial penalties under state law. Additionally, the department was recently fully staffed after significant efforts. Village Hall is already operating with minimal staff, having reduced from 5 employees to 3 ½ employees over the past few years.

The board also discussed cutting the donations budget and explored the possibility of raising various fees and fines. Suggestions included increasing the current \$10 fee for Pier, Raft, and Buoy permits to \$60 or \$70, and extending the permit duration to three years instead of one. The Police Department proposed increasing citation fines and implementing a winter overnight parking ordinance or an alternate street parking ordinance. Raising zoning fees was another option considered. The board emphasized the importance of cutting costs as much as possible to avoid borrowing funds to cover the deficit.

Bryan Neal wanted the board to entertain the idea of informing the community that the village would not salt roads this winter as a cost-saving measure of \$105,000. He acknowledged that this could lead to more accidents and injuries. In response, Skinner noted that the board had already taken steps to reduce salt usage due to environmental concerns about chloride, and the board is responsible to salt the roads for public safety.

Another budget item discussed was a \$40,000 transfer from the Lake District to fund water patrol.

ADJOURN – Skinner/Andres motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

/s/Sabrina Waswo, Village Clerk