

## **Village of Ashton Board Meeting – January 10, 2022**

Village President Tim Henert called to order 7:00p.m.

Present: Steve Garrison, David Chapman, Martha Holder, Susan Larson, Tim Henert, Village Clerk Katie Koks, Village Attorney Russ Crull; Absent: Chuck Ellis, Rhonda Cardot

*Motion to approve December Meeting minutes as presented* – Larson; Second – Holder

Voice Vote – 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to approve financial statement and to pay monthly bills* – Chapman; Second – Garrison

Voice Vote- 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

Henert mentioned that the new Neptune water meters have been ordered and they are anticipated to ship at the beginning of March. Installation of the new meters inside homes will begin in the spring.

### **New Business:**

Henert reported that we have been searching for options for a certified water operator to review and sign off on monthly water testing reports as Ron Miller submitted his resignation to the Village in December. Streets & Water Superintendent Blair Crum also submitted his resignation the first week of January with a last day of January 7<sup>th</sup>. There are three candidates to consider to take over signing off on monthly water testing; Willett & Hoffman, Fehr Graham, and Adam Lanning. The three bids were passed around to the board members to look through, but Henert's recommendation was to hire Adam Lanning. The board discussed the timeline for filling the position and Henert said that there would be no gap in the reporting or service if they voted this evening. Garrison asked how challenging the testing process was and the group continued to briefly discuss the process for obtaining water license.

*Motion to hire Adam Lanning as the water operator for the Village*- Chapman; Second- Larson.

Roll Call Vote – Chapman – Aye, Holder – Aye, Larson – Aye, Garrison – Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion Passed.

### **Zoning**

Nothing to report

### **Community Economic Development**

Nothing to report.

### **Streets & Alleys**

Henert mentioned that current streets employee Nathan McBride was appointed as Interim Street & Water Superintendent. He can be reached by calling the Street Phone number 815-453-2195.

Holder asked that the street crew check salt in the alleys. Henert will address it with the street crew tomorrow to get it cleaned up.

### **Water & Sewer**

Chapman asked if we could get details on the numbers produced by Crest Foods on the sewer system. Henert directed Chapman to speak to Willett & Hoffman about effluent numbers and how the system is effected by the changing weather. Chapman asked to schedule a Water and Sewer meeting before the next board meeting with Henert and McBride.

### **Parks**

The tentative schedule for Ashton Camp Programs (Summer 2022) is in works. The next committee meeting is in February to discuss yearly events and to create a calendar to post.

### **Liquor Commissioner**

Nothing to report.

### **Police Report**

Nothing to report

### **Clerk's Report**

Water Bills were sent out January 1<sup>st</sup>. Koks has had several questions from residents about the increase in the garbage and debt service rates. The board approved the increase in those rates at the June 2021 meeting, but due to the timing of the vote and the update to the written ordinance, the new rates could not be implemented until the January 2022 billing. She encouraged residents with more questions to call into the office.

### **Cemetery Board**

Nothing to report.

### **Mills & Petrie Board**

The board did not meet in December. Sherri Stauffer reported that the board received a Blum Foundation Grant for the history center. The next part of the project is mainly archiving.

### **Village Attorney**

Crull had nothing to report. Things have been quiet.

### **Other**

The Blum Foundation sent a quit claim deed for an additional percentage of the 40 acres on the west side of town. Another portion of the property will be deeded over in January and the Village will then own 88% of the property in 2022.

*Motion to enter executive session*- Larson; Second- Holder

Roll Call Vote – Garrison – Aye, Larson – Aye, Holder – Aye , Chapman – Aye ; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

### ***Executive Session – Discussion on Personnel***

*Motion to return to regular session* – Larson; Second – Holder

Roll Call Vote – Holder – Aye, Garrison – Aye, Larson – Aye, , Chapman – Aye; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to reopen regular session* – Larson; Second – Holder

Roll Call Vote – Holder – Aye, Garrison – Aye, Larson – Aye, , Chapman – Aye; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to approve increase hourly wages for Nathan McBride to \$18 per hour for interim position.* – Garrison; Second - Chapman

Roll Call Vote –Larson – Aye, Holder – Aye, Chapman – Aye Garrison – Aye;; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent. Motion passed.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting* – Holder; Second – Larson

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

Submitted by Katie Koks, Ashton Village Clerk