**VILLAGE OF HILLCREST**

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM

The Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Hillcrest was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present and answering roll call were Trustees A. Dan Potter, Timothy Ball, Eileen Braski, Joe Thompson, Jose Huerta, Pamela Pittman, President Richard Rhoads, Clerk Dawn Bearrows and Attorney Paul Chadwick.

Motion by Trustee Potter, seconded by Huerta to approve the minutes from October 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Minutes approved.

Trustee Braski reported cash on deposit as of October, 2023 as follows: General Fund $3,178,976.73; Motor Fuel Tax Fund $254,236.00 and Utility Fund $19,701.55, for a total of $3,452,914.28. Motion made by Trustee Potter, seconded by Pittman, to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Treasurers report approved.

Motion by Trustee Pittman, seconded by Thompson to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Bills approved.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Trustee Braski – Nothing at this time.

**WATER:** Trustee Potter reported that the water tower repairs are mostly finished. Hydrant flushing has been completed and water ordinance changes/updates are being prepared for review.

**ORDINANCES:** Trustee Huerta stated that there are several violations and is concerned about residents’ lack of concern for ordinances.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Trustee Thompson reported mowers have been serviced, snow equipment is ready for the season, property on Jeffrey has been mowed, wash out repairs need to be done on River Rd.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Casper Manheim stated building code books will need to be updated by January 2025.

**HEALTH & WELFARE:** Trustee Ball asked for cameras throughout the village to monitor traffic. President Rhoads asked for estimates and costs of monitoring. Trustee Ball asked about barriers at the park entrances and will talk to the park district for more information.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Trustee Pittman reported that Halloween was a good turn out and is coming up with things to do for the holidays.

**ATTORNEY:** Attorney Chadwick, reserves comment for closed session.

**ADMININSTRATION:** President Rhoads is looking into upgrading the security camera system from Walters Security. Treasurer Payton has saved the village $600 by filing with the state for grant acceptance rather than paying a 3rd party to do the same. Clerk Bearrows has been elected President of the local clerk’s association – NIMCA - and hosted the bi-monthly meeting in Hillcrest in October.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Solar Ordinance: Postponed until further notice.

Leaf River Communications: President Rhoads and the board discussed the new contract and fees. Motion by Potter, second by Thompson for formal approval of the newly accepted contract. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Motion Passed

Baxter & Woodman: Recap and review of the water main and sewer projects. The Priority 1 A Water Mains plans have been updated. The Lead service line survey is due April 2024, the $30,000 grant pays for the inventory only. This application was submitted on October 8th, 2023. The Source Water Protection Plan application submission is due July 2024. Plans for the next round of chip seal will be presented at the December board meeting. ARPA approval for water main work has been postponed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Audit Report: The Fiscal Year Ending in 2023 audit was presented by Newkirk & Associates.

2024 Tax Levy: Motion by Ball, second by Potter to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Levy. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Motion Passed, Levy approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion at 8:05 PM to move to closed session by Trustee Potter to discuss pending litigation and personnel, seconded by Braski. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Motion Passed

Motion to reconvene in open session at 8:42PM by Braski seconded by Pittman. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; yes, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Motion Passed

After closed session, the board reconvened to approve the hiring of Jonathan Rhoads as the new maintenance employee. Roll call vote: Braski; yes, Huerta; yes, Pittman; no, Potter; yes Ball; yes, Thompson; yes. Motion approved

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM by Trustee Huerta, seconded by Pittman. Meeting adjourned by voice vote.

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Dawn Bearrows

Clerk, Village of Hillcrest