

## VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

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

### CALL TO ORDER AT 6:32 PM BY PRESIDENT SKINNER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL:

Present: Trustees Barb Andres, Kevin Fitzgerald, Sharon Bower, Ken Perl, Bill Kaskin, Aaron Karow, President Howard Skinner. Also Present: Administrator Laura Roesslein, Police Chief Katie Hall, Clerk Sabrina Waswo.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: The Village Board will receive comments on agenda items.

Bill Poetker, 1607 East Lake Shore Dr., asked why is this a Special Board meeting, and the Committee of the Whole was canceled. President Skinner replied there are items that need to be voted on, which cannot be done at a Committee of the Whole.

Theresa Porter, 1906 Sunset Dr., requested the village board create an ordinance that trees must be planted so many feet off the property line. Her neighbor has a tree that's planted on the property line. If it grows to maximum size it will grow onto her property. This requires the property owner to plant a new tree/bush in a manner where the maximum growth size would not encroach on the property owner's neighbor without their consent.

**Discussion regarding records requests at the Police Department with Deputy District Attorney Carli McNeill.** Attorney McNeill praised our Police Department's outstanding work, citing recent successes in a jury trial and a homicide case. She credited the board's support for these achievements. With the increasing data in investigations, she stressed the need for a dedicated records person to handle information sharing with the DA's office, especially given the surge in open records requests. McNeill highlighted a concerning trend of judges in Racine County dismissing cases due to discovery delays from other police departments. She expressed concern about the current situation, with the Police Department diverting time from sworn officers and the Police Chief to perform administrative tasks, which she argued is not the best use of funds.

Trustee Fitzgerald pointed out that our Police Department is well funded, more than any other police department in the state. The board did designate someone full time for this position, but whatever the reasons we have fallen behind. Fitzgerald noted we have a surplus budget in the PD but we can't hire people. We added an extra officer, but now we can't eliminate the position, even though it's not filled. If we could eliminate one officer, then we would have the money to create this second records position.

Trustee Karow inquired about any existing issues, to which Attorney McNeill responded that a Kenosha County Judge is seeking an explanation from Twin Lakes about the delay in providing discovery. Defense attorneys have complained to the Judge, who is now questioning the situation. McNeill emphasized this issue is fixable in early cases, and a reasonable timeline for discovery should ideally be 2 or 3 weeks, not 2 months.

### Discussion and possible action regarding a contract with Ehlers for levy limit referendum assistance.

This was discussed at the joint meeting. It would be a not-to-exceed dollar amount, allowing the village to choose specific items; we would not need to spend the full \$6,000. This referendum is for funding and staffing for EMS services. Ehlers would assist in educating the public about the financial impact this has on taxpayers. This does not replace the consultant hired for the marketing aspect. Karow believes it makes sense and finds it worthwhile to provide our community with good information, enabling them to make an informed decision.

Karow/Fitzgerald motion to approve the proposal from Ehlers for \$6,000 and \$1,000 for the website. Motion carried 7-0.

### Discussion and possible action regarding an Event Permit from Kim Adcock for a market on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Kim Adcock is requesting to utilize Central Park and the parking lots for 65 vendors during the Thanksgiving weekend. She is withdrawing the request for carriage rides. She intends to use the Farmhouse parking lot and downtown area. Concerns have arisen regarding the potential disruption of neighboring businesses as vendors

occupy the sidewalks. Two business owners spoke stating their approval for the placement of vendors in front of their stores, anticipating to be just as busy. Kim proposed closing off the street for vendor booths. The board has emphasized that Kim must arrange for personnel to direct traffic during the road closure, and the parking lot should be kept open for parking. In the event of snow, the street will be unavailable and needs to remain open. Kim is required to reach out to the police department about the status of the road closure.

Skinner/Bower motion to approve the event permit for November 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm, with closure of the street, use of the grassy area in Central Park, keeping parking lots open, sidewalks to remain open, and Kim to provide staffing of the closed road. Board encourages vendors to park farther away in Lance Park or Main Street parking lot. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Discussion and possible action regarding the date launch piers are removed from the lakes.**

Fitzgerald feels that October is a beautiful month to be out on the lake and believes that removing the pier at the beginning of October makes no sense. Launching or retrieving a boat without a pier is very difficult for a single person. He proposed moving the date to November 1st. Kaskin and Andres agree. Fitzgerald suggested the Lake District discuss the item. Public Works is not in favor of the extended date. Bill Poetker will raise the issue at this Saturday's Lake District meeting and provide a recommendation.

#### **Discussion and possible action regarding purchasing two computers from Baycom in the amount of \$6,076.00.** Police are requesting to purchase 2 new computers for the squads with grant funds.

Skinner/Andres motion to approve the purchase of the 2 computers. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **Consideration of actions taken at previous Plan Commission meetings:**

Skinner/Fitzgerald motion to approve a CSM for parcels 86-4-119-282-3080, 86-4-119-282-3075, 86-4-119-282-3070 with contingency that Lot 11 is also included and a new survey map is provided. Motion carried 7-0.

President Skinner noted Twin Lakes Park has granted their approval.

Skinner/Fitzgerald motion to approve the Design Review for Randall School (37101 87th Street-Parcel #85-4-119-162-0902. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Administrative Roesslein reported a \$50,000 levy increase in this budget, equivalent to 1.2%. The state levy limit is \$58,000. The village's assessed value has notably risen. The proposed budget anticipates a mill rate decrease from \$4.54 to \$4.49, potentially leading to a slight reduction in the village portion of the tax bill. Discussions covered donation amounts, and capital projects outlined, including a new squad, sidewalk improvements, employee wage study, express vote election equipment, and Fire Department upgrades (portal radios, lights, and thermal image cameras).

Within the General Government budget, there is a \$73,000 increase for the Village Assessor for a 2024 revaluation and a rise in the Zoning Administrator's fees to allocate 4 hours per week for zoning issues. Public Works has no scheduled road project for 2024 but earmarked \$50,000 for road patching and crack sealing. Salt prices have increased. Movies in the Park was removed from the budget due to low attendance. The board approved a \$100 uniform allowance increase for the Public Works and Sewer Department. The Police Department's worker's compensation increased by 9%, and health insurance rose by 8%. Notably, worker's compensation surged by 21% for the fire department and 35% for the rescue squad.

Sewer rates remain unchanged this year, with ongoing funding for repairs to reduce groundwater in the sewer plant. Anticipated reductions in sludge costs are expected due to sewer plant upgrades. A \$30,000 budget has been allocated for the chloride reduction program. The Lake District approved a \$150,000 budget. In the

sanitation fund, refuse/recycling costs are increasing by 5% as per the contract with Groot. The Public Hearing and adoption of the budget are scheduled for November 20th.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Skinner/Fitzgerald motion to go into closed session for the following reasons: pursuant to Wis. §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 in regards to a Board of Appeals for 200 W. Park Drive.

Roll Call: Trustees Barb Andres, Kevin Fitzgerald, Sharon Bower, Ken Perl, Aaron Karow, Bill Kaskin, President Howard Skinner voting “aye”. Motion carried 7-0 to go into closed session at 8:36 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

Skinner/Fitzgerald motion to return to open session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) and take action on any items discussed in closed session. Motion carried 7-0 to go into open session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURN – Skinner/Bower motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

---

/s/Sabrina Waswo, Village Clerk