

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Elliott, Scott Fegett, Cathi Fritz, Bob Parr, Matt Trimmell

Lindsey Light was via phone

PICKLEBALL COURTS AT OAKWOOD PARK

There have been discussions on putting pickleball courts on the Rail Trail. The board does not favor putting money towards something the village does not own. There was discussion on placing these two courts at the city park where the current horseshoe pits are located. The board felt the project should go out to bid to see what amount the project would be projected to cost.

S. MAIN STREET ROADWORK

Lisa Lashuay presented her evaluation of the S. Main Street road to the board. The discussion is to put a paved parking lot on S. Main on the north side of the street from Oakwood St. to Olmstead St. Lisa explained the issue is the street is not in a straight line. The additional parking spots would provide parking for events and car shows, as well as additional parking that is needed downtown. One of the goals is to help bring businesses downtown and expand development. Lisa also told the board there would need to be an agreement between the county and village that would spell out who takes care of what parts. The board felt the next step would be for Lisa to put together a budget that could be made at the next voting meeting.

SCOTT STREET BRIDGE PLANS

Lisa Lashuay provided the board with an idea that could be used to replace the current walk bridge. She anticipated it would cost approximately \$100,000. The board discussed if it was worth spending that much money for a walkway and felt at least the old bridge would need to be torn down to remove any liability on the village.

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS

The police department has requested the board to consider purchasing seven cameras that would catch all license plates coming in or going out of town. They run on solar panels. The system also would be connected to area networks that would work together. The cameras cost approximately \$5,000 per camera to install and \$3,000 per year per camera to be networked with the Flock database and coordinated with Oakwood, County, State, and other municipal law enforcement. The cameras cannot see into vehicles but can read license plates, car make, model, and color. The system will be installed around the village on roads to monitor for vehicles of interest coming into the village.

SERVICE TOGETHER VERMILION COUNTY

Mayor Wright will request the board to consider taking the money budgeted to help residents with projects and giving it to the Serve Together Vermilion County organization. The money would be designated for use in the Village of Oakwood. He explained that projects must meet criteria, and there is a project request link on their website for residents to request help. This is a way the village can still support residents, and Serve Together Vermilion County would provide the labor needed to complete these projects.

VILLAGE PARK SCOREBOARDS

Mayor Wright provided the board quotes and pictures of scoreboards for the diamonds at the park and youth football field. C. Fritz stated there has been talk on getting the park reconfigured, and she would hate to install the boards. Then, more money would need to be put into the boards to have them moved. It was suggested that the east diamond would use a permanent one. But the others could be put on a trailer where they can be moved before being put in permanently. B. Parr stated the utilities would need to be located to see if any power would

need to be ran to the locations of the boards. C. Fritz stated this should be a project that is put in the budgeting and planning for the next budget.

COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH PLAN

Mayor Wright stated he has started a comprehensive growth plan to present to the board as a starting point. He has pulled data, used mapping and FEMA studies, and tried incorporating both into this comprehensive plan. C. Fritz stated she felt this is much needed to start the next budget and develop projects to fund. Mayor Wright told the board that part of this plan would also include continued sidewalk improvements. He also explained that, at some point, roads will require repair. C. Fritz asked if this process would include a community questionnaire to see what residents want. The major asked the board to start thinking of projects they feel are in need. The plan is to be approved in April, which will then be integrated into the budgeting process. Chief Soderstrom stated if the old fire station is being put up for bid, there may be a need to build a police garage to protect the department's vehicles.

RAIL TRAIL/PAVILION

Plans for the proposed pavilion were shown to the board. It was of a train depot motif and was constructed with steel beams. Another town put this structure up three years ago, less than the same one built in Chicago. At the next meeting, the board will be provided with the estimated costs for this project.

Mayor Wright asked the board to go into executive session at 6:22 pm with no further business to discuss.

The board moved back into regular session at 7:14 pm.

Matt Trimmell motioned at 7:14 pm to adjourn.

Scott Fegett seconded.

	ELLIOTT	FEGETT	FRITZ	LIGHT	PARR	TRIMMELL
YES	X	X	X		X	X
NAYS						
ABSTAIN						
ABSENT				X		

Motion Carried

Submitted by,



Village Clerk

Approved 3/18/24