

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 19, 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, Matt Trimmell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Matt Trimmell motioned to approve the January 9, 2024, study session meeting minutes as presented.
Scott Fegett seconded.

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

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Matt Trimmell motioned to accept the bills as presented. Jason Elliott seconded.

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

Motion Carried

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

VILLAGE HALL

Mayor Wright reported that L. Light has provided some information in the shared folder on other options the office has for software. He plans on having this reviewed at the March study session.

PUBLIC WORKS

There were no updates on projects. Several will be presented later in the meeting.

POLICE

The traffic report was reviewed. Jason Elliott will now be the board liaison, and C. Fritz stated she would get J. Elliott up to speed on what is going on. There was discussion on getting a more detailed report that expanded on dates and provided updates on ordinance violations. J. Elliott stated he would talk with Chief Soderstrom.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

C. Darr reported that the billing service is still working and that shifts are still being covered. Over the last month, seven days were not covered, which has been cut down drastically. February 5th, the new unit was picked up, and now they are waiting for the state to come and inspect and approve the unit for use. Call volume was up from January 2023. A plan is being developed for increasing transfers, and once more information is available, it will be presented to the board. The Cadet program is up and running, and currently, there is 1 participant. They will be going to a local career fair and hopefully will pick up several others who might be interested in EMS down the road.

LEGAL

Attorney Miller reported several property purchases have had issues while going through the process. But hopes to have many of them completed within the next couple of weeks.

- 201 Lee Street – has closed on the property.
- 207 Harrison – working with individuals out of state and a title company that is in Chicago. Has made the process much slower and will take a bit more time.
- 246 Lee Street – has had a lost title issue that is now being cleared up.
- Old Fire Station – title has been ordered and will be put up for bid once everything has been received.

SUBJECTS REQUIRING ACTION/DECISION BY THE BOARD

TULIES UPDATE

At the January meeting, the board approved an extension to the tiff agreement for the project. At this meeting, March 12th was given for the opening. S. Fegett stated he considers the project to default if it is not opened by the end of March because the agreement has been extended two months already. C. Fritz stated she wished the representative of the agreement were in attendance so the board could express their concerns. Mayor Wright stated that he had received texts from the lead contractor and business owner that they were on schedule. However, Trustee Parr and Dustin Henderson stated that the construction schedule was behind, and they did not see the restaurant open for business by March 12th. Mayor Wright also stated that he has not gotten any updates from the property owner after multiple requests. Since the in-person meeting with the property owner, his daughter, and the business owner on January 4th, 2024, Mayor Wright has not gotten a timeline for opening the business. The only timeline provided to date has been from Adkisson Construction, and that timeline is for building renovations only. He has not gotten any further details about staffing, inspections, or actual opening for business. Some work is getting done, and they are supposedly creating a menu. He has no further details, and he's not getting answers to his questions about the timeline, nor the status of the small business to the east of the main restaurant. If the board votes to declare the property owner and business owner in default, they have 30 days to correct. Scott Fegett stated that aligns with the latter part of March. That will put the completion on a hard finish date of March 19th which is an extra week longer than they agreed to be done.

Scott Fegett motioned to consider the project in default at the end of March 2024 if the restaurant is not opened. Lindsey Light seconded.

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

ABSENT					X	
---------------	--	--	--	--	---	--

Motion Carried

PICKLEBALL COURTS AT OAKWOOD PARK

Mayor Wright updated the board on the figures that D. Henderson provided for pickleball courts. It is estimated that (1) would cost \$30,000 and (2) \$50,000. This would include the concrete and nets.

Cathi Fritz motioned to approve putting out for bid (2) pickleball courts for Oakwood Park.

Scott Fegett seconded.

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

Motion Carried

S. MAIN STREET ROADWORK

Mayor Wright reported at the study session that Lisa Lashuway reviewed the work that needs to be done on the S. Main Street road work and additional parking. He wanted to see how the board would like to proceed. C. Fritz stated she would like to see this project proceed as it will help with the development of the downtown.

Cathi Fritz motioned to proceed with the S. Main Street parking and road work project and to have it put out for bid.

Lindsey Light seconded.

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

Motion Carried

SCOTT STREET BRIDGE PLANS

Mayor Wright reported that the plans for the bridge were reviewed at the last study session. The board feels the bridge needs to be removed as it is a liability to the village but feels \$100,000 was way more than needed to be spent. Cathi Fritz stated that the new bridge was a nice idea and that maybe it could be revisited in the future, but the small bridge over the creek is not safe and needs to come out.

Lindsey Light motioned not to proceed with the project but to approve the removal of the current bridge.

Matt Trimmell seconded.

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

Motion Carried

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS

Mayor Wright reported at the last study session that a Flock representative presented information on the safety cameras to the board. C. Fritz feels purchasing seven is unnecessary at this point and feels only five should be purchased. J. Elliott asked if there would be an annual cost after the cameras were installed, and Mayor Wright stated that it would be \$21,000/year.

Lindsey Light motioned to purchase seven Flock cameras to be purchased.

Scott Fegett seconded.

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

Motion Carried

SERVE TOGETHER VERMILION COUNTY PROJECT FUNDING

Mayor Wright showed a video of Serve Together Vermilion County during last week's study session. The budget has set aside \$10,000 for certain clean-up grants for seniors, disabled, etc. The board discussed that this program would make this money more visible to residents. Mayor Wright stated that any money the board allocates will be in the form of a pledge, and the funds must be spent on projects in the village. He would make that clear to Molly Goodwin, who oversees the program. He also stated that the Mapping Committee would be a great group to partner with and work on projects in Oakwood.

Cathi Fritz motioned to give the Serve Together Vermilion County Project the \$10,000 currently in the budget set aside for residential projects.

Scott Fegett seconded.

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

Motion Carried

VILLAGE PARK SCOREBOARDS

Three scoreboards were presented at the study session for use in the baseball and softball fields and the youth football field. C. Fritz stated she would favor it if they were mobile in case the park is reconfigured in the future. Mayor Wright explained there are options for them to be mobile.

Matt Trimmell motioned to approve the purchase of the three scoreboards for the village park.

Lindsey Light seconded.

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

Motion Carried

RAIL TRAIL/PAVILION FUNDING

Jeff Yocke was in attendance and came to the board with the estimated costs for the pavilion that is being proposed. He reported the kit would cost around \$70,000 for materials. Installation is estimated at 75% of the kit costs, the flat work is around \$25,000, and it was recommended that some money be budgeted for contingencies. The total cost is estimated at \$170,000 before electrical, picnic tables, or greenery. C. Fritz stated she would like to see the board approve the kit purchase, and the S. Main Street groundwork could be completed simultaneously for the additional parking lot spaces. S. Fegett stated he loved the idea of the pavilion but was not in favor of the amount of money the village would put towards the project for something the village did not even own and have control over. He asked, with the purchase of the kit, where the rest of the money would come from. The kit would sit around somewhere and not be used. C. Fritz stated that this project is important for the *Residents on the Move* committees and that it is needed to start the development of the downtown area. She feels the board should approve as it represents the residents and what they want to see. Mayor Wright feels that putting up a pavilion won't be the thing that develops the downtown area. C. Fritz stated there are grants available that could help with the additional funds that are needed.

S. Fegett asked if a more economical pavilion had been considered. Mayor Wright stated he presented to the board a more standard version of a pavilion as you would see at a park in February. C. Fritz explained that this will draw people to the community and is just part of a larger plan and vision being developed. Jason Elliott stated he is for the proposed pavilion but may wait until grant funding has been secured before purchasing a kit that cannot be used. L. Light stated she is also for the kit purchase but doesn't want the kit to sit there and not be used.

Cathi Fritz motioned to approve purchasing the pavilion kit for not exceeding \$75,000.

There was no seconded motion

Motion Not Carried

Jeff Yocke stated he understands the board's thoughts and that the right of way is still not nailed down on how things should proceed. The partnership and ownership and where it falls are still unknown. But he feels the value of the trail still needs to be realized, and he will take the board's thoughts and take back to the Rail Trail committee.

FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mayor Wright recommended to the board the approval of the resolution for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is reviewed every five years and provides the village with grant funds to help with storm cleanup. Not participating in this resolution would not allow the village to access the funds. There is no cost to the village; all area villages are part of this resolution. He explained that each project would vote on the funds received by each project as needed.

Scott Fegett motioned to approve the proposed resolution for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented.

Lindsey Light seconded.

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

FULL-TIME PUBLIC WORKS POSITION

A full-time public works position was presented to the board for consideration. Mayor Wright explained that this is not replacing any full-time position but providing an additional person for the department. M. Trimmell told the board he talked with Dustin about needing another full-time position.

Lindsey Light motioned to approve the proposed additional full-time position for the public works department.

Matt Trimmell seconded.

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

Motion Carried

VILLAGE CLEANUP DAY

Mayor Wright presented to the board the recommendation to hold the annual cleanup day for 2024 as the first Saturday of June.

Scott Fegett motioned to approve the 2024 village clean-up day as the first Saturday in June.

Jason Elliott seconded.

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

Motion Carried

FIBER OPTIC EASEMENT

Pavlov Media is requesting the approval of a license agreement with the village for part of the ground located next to the public works garage. This would be the central hub for the fiber optic service that is being installed within the village. In exchange for this agreement, they would be leasing the ground from the village for \$1 per year, and the village would be granted free service to all village properties.

Scott Fegett motioned to allow the village president to enter into a 20-year lease agreement with Pavlov Media for lot one block 3 parcels with the village of Oakwood not to exceed the time of 20-years under terms of what is in the best interest of the village.

Matt Trimmell seconded.

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

Motion Carried

AGENDA REQUESTS AND RECOGNITION OF VILLAGE CITIZENS

There was no request from any village citizens. C. Fritz did request to have the items of the handicapped bathrooms at the park and village administrative position to be added to next month’s agenda.

Having no further business, Mayor Wright asked for a motion to adjourn.

Scott Fegett motioned at 8:01 p.m. to adjourn.

Matt Trimmell 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