



Village of River Hills
7650 N Pheasant Ln
River Hills, WI 53217

Village Hall: 352-8213
Public Works: 352-0080
Police: 247-2302

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Village Hall, Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 5:00 pm
This meeting was an in person and virtual meeting
through Zoom – Access code 843-7414-1652

1. **ROLL CALL** Roll call was answered at 5:00 pm by President Chris Noyes, Trustee David Fritz, Trustee Bill Walker, Trustee Jamie Evans (via zoom and in person), Trustee Kurt Glaisner and Trustee Peggy Russo were present. Trustee Ike Isaacson was absent and excused. Also present: Village Attorney Bill Dineen, Village Manager Tammy LaBorde, Police Chief Michael Gaynor, DPW Supt. Craig Schroeder (via zoom) and Deputy Clerk Nathan Schafer.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING on the 2025 Budget**

Motion by Fritz, seconded by Glaisner to open the public hearing on the 2025 Budget at 5:03pm. There were no comments. Motion by Glaisner, seconded by Fritz to close the public hearing on the 2025 Budget at 5:04pm; motion carried unanimously.

3. **Discussion and Possible Action to Change Health Insurance Coverage**

Jenni Heiden of HUB International was present for this item.

LaBorde presented information that Chief Gaynor and herself compared the proposed plan with Anthem BlueCross and the current health insurance plan with United Healthcare. There are a total of 11 employees who carry health insurance. There are a total of 8 employees that currently opt out of insurance. The amount of payment they receive was capped in 2024. A chart was included with the Board materials that shows the comparison. The main difference was that some of the items now covered will require a \$200 copay, there were changes to prescription copays and where an employee can get his/her prescriptions. As a small employer the Village tries to maintain staff and bring on new employees in the future, and LaBorde and Gaynor were concerned that the new plan would be a deterrent when compared to some of our neighbors who are in the state plan with a smaller deductible. One of the police employees with a new child would see a significant increase in copays. As part of the discussion it was presented that there would be an increase in the number of copays and cost to the employees. The increase for UHC is 8.4% or \$15,000+ and the reduction was \$6,000+ Both the Chief and the Manager recommend remaining with UHC. There were no increases to included in the budget for 2025. Walker asked if ICHRA had been looked at. LaBorde will be looking into current contract language to see if it would be an option. Ms. Heiden stated that there were ICHRA figures presented in October. The ACA has much higher out of pocket maximums which are governed by ACA and will increase each year; however, the current grandfathered plan does not increase out of pocket maximums every year.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Russo to approve the current United Healthcare plan for health insurance in 2025; motion carried unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action to Approve RESOLUTION 2024-11 to Adopt the 2025 Annual Budget and Establish the 2024 Tax Levy Utilizing the Tax Levy Allowable Increase**

LaBorde noted that there was a tax increment worksheet that was prepared and the TID Fund was updated with the new number. The amount is \$72,370 along with a copy of the worksheet. LaBorde stated that the levy is proposed as \$3,745,720 with a tax rate of \$6.98 per thousand of assessed value

Motion by Russo, seconded by Fritz to approve RESOLUTION 2024-11 to Adopt the 2025 Annual Budget and Establish the 2024 Tax Levy Utilizing the Tax Levy Allowable Increase; motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **The Agenda**
- b. **Village Board Minutes – October 16, 2024**
- c. **Building Board Minutes – September 16, 2024**
- d. **Voucher List – October 2024**
- e. **Approve RESOLUTION 2024-13 Combining Wards for the February 18, 2025 Spring Primary Election**

Motion by Glaisner, seconded by Walker to approve the Consent Agenda; motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

None.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Evans would like to discuss Coyotes. The Police Department recommends Recon Trapping. Trustee Evans would like to discuss the new website. Trustee Russo would like to discuss procedures for solicitors and transient merchant licenses.

8. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Request of Steve Palmer to reduce speed limit on North Upper River Road to 25mph, prohibit commercial traffic over 4 tons, and place stop signs at North Upper River Road and West Greenbrook Road

Steve and Kathy Palmer were present for this item. Kathy Palmer stated that they are interested in creating a safe environment on North Upper River Road. She stated that speed is an issue and there is bike and pedestrian traffic. They would like to see signs prohibiting trucks and reduce the speed for the whole road to 25mph. She stated that people are using North Upper River Road rather than taking Range Line Road. The Palmers sent a letter to their neighbors to find out who agrees. Supt. Schroeder stated that he will contact Mequon to find out about speed limits between communities. The Palmers also noted that County Line Road is bad with semi-trailer traffic.

Dave Oberhofer, 9030 N. Upper River Road agrees to make changes.

Sam Craft, 9155 N. Upper River Road agrees to make changes.

A copy of an email from John Kennedy was presented to not reduce the speed limit.

The item was laid over to the next meeting following President Noyes' request that the Palmer's present a letter signed by those residents living on North Upper River Road supporting the changes.

9. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2025 Refuse and Recycling Rates for Johns Disposal

LaBorde stated that the CPI increase for 2025 is 3.2% and the proposed increase in rates is as is outlined in the current agreement with John's Disposal.

Motion by Fritz, seconded by Russo to approve the 2025 Refuse and Recycling Rates for Johns Disposal; motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposal for Audit services with Baker Tilly for 2025 through 2029

This item will be laid over to the next meeting.

11. Discussion and Action to Approve RESOLUTION 2024-12 Establishing Employee Salaries for 2025

Motion by Glaisner, seconded by Walker to approve RESOLUTION 2024-12 Establishing Employee Salaries for 2025; motion carried unanimously.

12. Discussion and Action to Approve RESOLUTION 2024-14 2025 Fee Schedule

LaBorde stated that she reviewed fees from our surrounding communities and checked with the Building Inspector and Deputy Clerk. A copy of the proposed changes was included in the Board packet.

Motion by Fritz, seconded by Russo to approve RESOLUTION 2024-14 2025 Fee Schedule; motion carried unanimously.

13. REPORT OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT – (President Noyes)

President Noyes stated that he heard from LaBorde that one house was just approved by the Building Board and that they intend to come back with two additional homes shortly. The grand total so far is six homes and the clubhouse. All of the landscaping for the property was approved at the Building Board. Fritz asked about the number of homes that were to be built based on the original agreement. President Noyes noted the work that Tammy and Nathan did on the election. There were 710 absentee ballots requested with 686 coming back with a total of 1,181 voters. The Village had 90% of registered voters vote. The Board thanked them for their hard work.

14. REPORT OF VILLAGE MANAGER – (LaBorde)

- a. **Financial statements for October 2024**
- b. **TID No. 1 Funds Update**
- c. **Joint Review Board**
- d. **2025 Board meeting schedule**
- e. **Health Department Report for October**

LaBorde stated that a copy of the October statement was provided. There are two accounts that are over budget which she will be looking into. A copy of the TID Funds breakdown was included in the packet. The Village will have a Joint Review Board meeting next month to review the fund. The 2025 Board meeting schedule was distributed. A copy of the Health Department Report for October was in the packet. A copy of the Moody's report was provided showing that the Village would retain its AA3 rating. Ehlers stated that there are no refunding possibilities for debt in 2025.

Trustee Evans left the meeting at 6:15pm but remained connected by telephone

15. REPORT OF THE RIVER HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT (Chief Gaynor)

- a. **Summary Report**

Chief. Gaynor stated that they have been busy with a burglary in the Village at the home of Bobby Portis. The Chief reported that Officer McGovern, while traveling in a squad car on Brown Deer Road, was struck by a vehicle from behind at 60mph. While the squad was damaged and had to be towed, the Chief advised that fortunately Officer McGovern was not injured. The person was issued a first offense OWI. There were also two persons issued an OWI who were picking up their children from school. The department will be fully staffed next month. The Department is working with the schools regarding active shooter training.

15. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Supt. Schroeder)

Pheasant Lane is to open up in the next few weeks. The DOT is supposed to repave the area of the culvert replacement where they damaged the road in March. The Department has trapped over 20 deer to date.

16. REPORT OF NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT (Trustee Fritz)

a. Update

The NS Fire Department finished their budget for 2025 and focused on better capital planning process.

17. REPORT ON THE PERCEPTION OF RIVER HILLS PROJECT – (Trustee Russo)

a. Update

Trustee Russo will be attending the River Hills Foundation meeting to request funds for 2025 and look to keep a balance of \$5,000. She requested that the name of this item be changed to “Report on the River Hills Social Committee”.

18. REPORT ON NORTH SHORE LIBRARY – (President Noyes)

a. Update

President Noyes stated that there was information in the packet related to the lawsuit which has not been resolved. Fundraising is currently at 91% and they have a path to 100%.

19. Consideration of potential sale of cell tower leases

No action.

20. CLOSED SESSION – You are hereby notified that the Village Board, staff of the Village of River Hills and the Insurance consultant will convene into closed session upon motion duly made and seconded as required under §19.85(1)(a), Stats. The purpose of the closed session is for the following:

- Pursuant to Sec. 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 specifically regarding potential sale of cell tower leases

You are further notified that at the conclusion of the Closed Session, the Village Board will convene into open session pursuant to 19.85(2), Stats. for additional discussion and action concerning any matters discussed in closed session and for remaining agenda items.

Motion by Fritz, seconded by Russo to move into closed session for the reasons listed on the agenda at 6:40pm; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Russo, seconded by Glaisner to reconvene to open session at 6:49pm; motion carried unanimously.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Fritz, seconded by Russo to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Tammy LaBorde, Clerk on November 26, 2024