

**VILLAGE OF DRESSER
VILLAGE BOARD PROCEEDINGS**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Village Board meeting was held on Monday, January 7, 2019, in the Municipal Office, 102 West Main Street. Bryan “Fatboy” Raddatz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Raddatz called for Roll Call: Elina Kuusisto, Jeff Gutzmer, Karen Andrie, Grace Bjorklund, Richard Durand, Wayne Moberg, and Bryan “Fatboy” Raddatz were present. Also present Attorney Tim Laux, Jodi A Gilbert-Clerk/Treasurer, Robert Thompson, Arik Mahler, Ryan Haass, Gene & Sharon Hendricks, Bryan Beseler, Beth Cunningham and Michael Pearson. The InterCounty Leader(Arrived Late), The Standard Press and The Osceola Sun newspapers were present. Salute to the Flag was given.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Kuusisto/Durand to dispense with the reading of the minutes. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Motion Bjorklund/Moberg to approve the minutes of the Village Board Meeting, December 3, 2018. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Motion Durand/Andrie to approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting, December 12, 2018. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Motion Durand/Moberg to approve the minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting, January 2, 2019. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Raddatz called for citizen comments. Bryan Beseler made two comments – one about future committee appointments and one regarding the Dresser Ice Skating Rink. No other comments were made. Raddatz closed citizen comments.

PREREGISTERED: Beth Cunningham and Michael Pearson – Wisconsin Department of Transportation were present to give the Village of Dresser an introduction to the State Highway 35 Project. Cunningham stated I am a project manager and today we want to introduce this project that is planned for construction in 2020. There will be a public informational meeting on January 22, 2019 at the Dresser Community Hall. This is basically the same presentation that will be given to the public. This is a short project approximately a ½ mile long. County Road F to West Avenue N. The purpose of the project is to address safety. We will be rehabilitating the current pavement. We will be converting the existing 2-lane roadway to a 3-lane roadway. The center lane will be a left hand turn lane. We will be grinding off 2 inches of blacktop and putting back 2 inches of blacktop and re-striping. There are not really any negatives with this project. You should not really see any side road delays. When we put in 3 lanes you will have 5 foot shoulders. We will be asking the council how they want to handle that outside five feet – it doesn’t require stripping, but it could be done. Does the Village want to encourage bicycles? At this point we probably won’t stripe it since the funds are for safety – we may fix some catch basins. Raddatz stated if you stripe it that will keep the trucks in the driving lane. Cunningham stated we don’t need a decision tonight. With the curb and gutter we will be putting asphalt over the top of it. Technically curb and gutter maintenance and storm water maintenance is the municipalities responsibility. The road way will be to the top of the curb on each side. We could have another discussion on that. With it being a State Highway who builds it and who maintains it. Again the stripping is optional - the safety improvements are huge. There is at least one cross walk – Raddatz stated the permit is on record and it is up to date – we just redone it. At the Public Involvement meeting we will take questions from the group and take questions from the public. We want to hear about any specific concerns from the property owners on the highway. In regards to a project time line – the plans are 60% completed and we hope to have them finished by fall of 2019 and construction in 2020. Since

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the project is only ½ mile it should only take a couple of weeks. The inlets take time. We hope within a month to be in and out. Are there any specific festivals or other events we should know about? Trollhaugen has a big event Memorial Day Weekend. They may have other events. We can look at their calendar of events. We will also be checking with MinDot and verifying that they don't have any projects at the same time as ours. We don't want projects overlapping. We need to be aware of what each other is doing. One last thing is the utilities. Water/Sewer we will have to deal with them during construction. The water valves/manholes will have to be adjusted up and down when the contractor goes through. The DOT can put it as part of the plan and the DOT contractor does it or the municipality does it. Either way it is the municipality's expense. We can work on this during the next couple of months. We will be putting together a formal agreement and will need to get that signed. When looking at the meeting on January 22nd Gilbert asked how are you notifying people. We will mail out a letter. We also put out a press release to the media outlets. What time on the 22nd – 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Dresser Community Hall. Gilbert stated she will post so the majority of the board members could be present for the meeting. Raddatz asked for any other questions at this point? Nothing else was stated.

FINANCE: Motion Durand/Bjorklund to approve monthly Vouchers/Payroll Checks #37965-#38041 Payroll \$18,239.22 plus Vouchers \$982,761.56 for a Total of \$1,001,000.78. No other discussion took place. Roll Call Vote. All board members present voted yes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: Discussion was held regarding the recommendation from the Public Works Committee to have public works buy a fridge and have Commercial Testing Laboratories pick up the water and sewer samples at the Village Shop with ½ of the cost to go to the water utility and ½ of the cost to go to the sewer utility. Raddatz stated with the F&A Dairy sale we can't bring our samples to F&A Dairy anymore. We also want to stay with CTL. Buy a cheap small fridge. CTL charges \$12.00 per pick up. This is a minimal cost and split it between the two utilities. Motion Bjorklund/Kuusisto to have the guys buy a fridge and have CTL pick up at shop and to distribute the cost between the water utility and the sewer utility. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion was held regarding possibly televising Sewer Lines on Warren Street and First Street. Thompson stated we did some sewer cleaning and on Warren Street the last 2 years the cutter made it ¾ of the way and then stopped. By televising the line we can see what is going on. One possible option would be to line it and if the line has collapsed we may need to dig up the road. On First Street we have an area that is sinking and the same thing happened several years ago. It could be some type of collapse, but the area that is sinking is right on top of the sewer line. By televising it we can see what is happening. I got prices from two companies. Visu-Sewer came in cheaper. Have Visu-Sewer do both and you get a better price. Raddatz stated whoever does the televising will probably be the company that would do the lining. Bjorklund stated they are reputable and have worked here in the Village. Actually both companies have been here. Mahler stated I have heard good things about both. Raddatz stated tonight we are looking to approve the televising. The lining prices are different because of the laterals. Bjorklund stated this would be a sewer expense. Motion Bjorklund/Andrie to award the televising to Visu-Sewer for an amount of \$2,080.00. No other discussion took place. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

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Discussion was held regarding the elimination of Holiday Decorations on Xcel Energy Distribution Poles and a future plan/proposal to submit to Xcel. Raddatz stated what this boils down to is that this is the last time you will be seeing Christmas Decorations on the poles. We are talking about any pole with a wire. This is not humbug. They are cracking down on safety issues that have always been there. They did a small presentation to us and explained the safety hazard to their guys if they have to service a pole. Any thoughts/comments because Xcel wants a plan. Are we going to hang the current decorations somewhere else or do we do something else. Xcel is willing to do some cost sharing if we come up with a plan. Food for thought – 2 things that have been talked about were scattering the decorations around the Village – we would need to have electricity on the poles we picked. The problem with this is that the majority of the poles we can use are only in Silver Ridge and Thye Trail. Remember on Main Street there are 2 decorations that can't be put back up. Andrie stated what about as you come into town that we decorate those areas. Bjorklund stated there will be a cost to put somewhere else. Raddatz stated the one good thing is that we didn't just buy new decorations. Right now there is no power to both Welcome to Dresser signs. That might be a bargaining chip. Keep those decorations on Main Street – find out what it would take to get power to the Welcome to Dresser signs and light up the signs and flags. Bjorklund stated we could use other forms of decorations in those areas. Keep the Main Street decorations and light up the flags. Andrie stated that she agreed. Raddatz asked what does the board want to do or should this go back to the public works committee? It was stated to have this go back to the public works committee and have them come up with a plan to send to Xcel.

Discussion was held regarding the Dresser Ice Skating Rink. Raddatz stated I did drive by St Croix Falls and they have rink. The Village of Osceola hasn't fired there's up yet, but they are still planning to do it. Andrie stated the reason I brought this up was a former board member wanted to know. We had public works employees that had health issues and it was too much for one person. You provided some information from back in 2013. He said he knows people were inquiring. It is not part of the budget. This could be put back into the budget to discuss. We keep putting money into the Tennis Court to keep that functioning. Bjorklund stated the Tennis Court was a state grant. When you look at our cost you also need to look at the usage. One of the reasons we closed it was because of the hockey in St Croix Falls. There are two bigger rinks around us and it was not being used. Andrie stated if you have kids you are looking for things to do – it doesn't matter whether you are in hockey or using it just to ice skate. When you mention the costs – what did it cost before? He just asked why we don't have it when we now have people that work. Raddatz stated we need to stop bashing our guys. What does the board want to do? Mahler stated Rob and I talked to St Croix Falls and Osceola and Mike Qualle and it takes a pile of man hours to have a good rink. It is also a lot of water and maintenance. If the ice gets scrappy then it is not used. Our warming shack needs some work. Bjorklund stated in the past we had some vandalism and kids used it as a hang out. Osceola has a warming house and the police lock it at night. Durand stated lets set this aside for now and see what transpires at budget time. Raddatz stated maybe we can base some costs on what St Croix Falls and Osceola spend. We know how tight the budget is. Andrie stated I was told to bring it up.

The Public Works Monthly Report for December 2018 was presented to the board. Bjorklund asked if they could change the light bulbs in the front of the hall. Maybe put in some LED bulbs and get rid of the bugs. Raddatz stated nice job on the roads especially since it has been a bit challenging due to the temperatures.

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PUBLIC SAFETY: The Building Inspector Report - Yearly Report was presented.

The Police Department December 2018 Report was presented to the board. Haass stated you have the numbers in front of you. The holidays were quiet. I used some of my vacation time so the numbers are down.

Update from the Osceola Ambulance Meeting – December 5, 2018. Raddatz stated it was a quick one. The big change is our runs which are at 372 – we budgeted for 300. It is a good thing and a bad thing. From the business side it is good. Everyone likes the new ambulance. New LEDs were installed in the hall.

PUBLIC WELFARE: Discussion was held regarding a possible Ordinance change to allow Village Board Members to attend Village Meetings by Telephone. Raddatz stated this came up when trying to work around vacation schedules for board meetings and some committee meetings. I figured lets get the board's thoughts on this topic. Laux stated I have done this for other Municipalities. It is possible because there isn't any prohibition against governing boards to allow under certain circumstances to have members attend and be counted as a part of the quorum by telephone. My advice goes back to the 1980's - Chapter 19 relating to public meetings law. I can tell you it can be done and the Attorney General refers to Chapter 19 from the 1980's. It has been around for a long time. The League has done a legal interpretation. The answer is yes you can, but not really recommended. What is recommended is that if you want to do this then the opportunity is available to do it carefully by way of Ordinance/Policy. From my point of view and doing this research and dealing with situations and having helped organizations conduct meetings in this fashion. It has to be done carefully, done in routine, based on a Policy/Ordinance and typically what an Ordinance or Policy along those lines reflects some type of emergency to have all of the board members present. You already have in Dresser what constitutes a quorum. The other side of the coin is an emergency is not an individual board member. It is typically an emergency to the municipality – there is board judgment and accommodating of schedules to consider. Everybody that is supposed to be there – there is no law against it and in some circumstances allows it or it is necessary. There are a number of versions of the process – Chapters 180-185 where for the purposes of those governing bodies and specific Statute that this allowed and so in an open meeting setting somebody is attending by telephone. Everybody has to be heard. In putting together a Policy/Ordinance there are good templates out there. Discussion could be held by the Public Welfare Committee on what conditions would be allowed. It can be done and frankly it is something that hasn't been used much but the option is there. It might be a good thing to do. We should heed the advice of the Attorney General and consider the circumstances on what would be considered. Nobody does it routinely. Bjorklund asked can you have more than one board member. My recommendation is if this is something you want to do and it keeps coming up you need to put a Policy or Ordinance in place. What the conditions would be used are spelled out. Bjorklund asked what would the perimeters be. Raddatz stated you may not want to do anything. Attorney Laux stated you would want to send this to the Public Welfare Committee. Durand asked what benefit would this give us over and above what we already have. How many times do we not have a quorum? Not very often. Is it worth it? Raddatz stated if it was in place you would have it in the future when you do need it. Do you want to be proactive or reactive? Durand stated is it really needed. Raddatz stated it was just food for thought. Andrie stated it is something that could be used as an emergency situation comes up. Raddatz stated it could be used for committee meetings also. Bjorklund stated the committees already have an alternate.

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Laux stated I will give this to Jodi to scan in so next time the question comes up – last time there was some issues. Municipalities are not rushing into it. Some have adopted it.

LIBRARY: The Library Board Minutes from the December 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed by the board. Kuusisto stated it was a very short meeting. Things are looking good – we were looking at circulation trends. Not a lot to report.

PLAN COMMISSION: Nothing on the Agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion was held regarding Open Meeting Laws and the rules of emails between board members. Laux stated – I have guidance from the state bar publication on public records/open meeting laws. I want to address the implication of open meeting law that has to do with emails without going on and on. The issue comes with record retention where the differentiation between personal email and emails for conducting village business is addressed. If someone requests copies of emails going back and forth between the Village and an individual - a long story short retention rules/copying rules/determination of draft versus business rules leaves the guidance from the bar from the attorney general and case law because of all those requirements the answer is no. Because of the recommendations some government bodies policies and email not used for conducting business of the board. Due to the public records half of the law. The biggest potential is to use emails to do your business instead of calling the office and coming into the office or putting a request in between meetings. You can end up with a rolling quorum. Good people intentionally talk about Village business when you are not in a meeting. Don't do that. You have case law from the attorney general. It doesn't say you can't use emails, but severely restricts them because you have alternatives. When you think about it the day to day operations go through Jodi. Elected officials job is the first Monday of the month. At this meeting in the public where the public can make comments and participate and hear what is going on. You are doing public business in the public. A good practice tip- cautioning you that emails can trigger open meeting law violations. One of the reasons you want to avoid open meeting laws is that you can be personally sued. Why would you want to take that chance? My suggestion is don't do it. 2nd – if you need to communicate with Jodi from the end of this meeting to the next meeting in February call/stop in the office/hand off a note. If have to use an email - don't do it unless the body has written a policy on emails. Durand asked how do you do that? You would have to discuss the pros and cons and know your exposures and have severe guidelines. There you have it. The point right now – just determine whether you want to allow members use email to communicate with each other or the Village during the month outside this meeting. Lay down guidelines everyone needs to follow to protect the Village. Bjorklund stated that sounds like a lot of attorney costs - many hours to do this. Do you allow this or not. Just don't do it. Laux continued I am just passing on what the bar recommends. Based on case law. Andrie stated this was brought up because of me. I just asked to add to the public works committee meeting a discussion about the skating rink. It was a request from board members. Not conducting business. If I just could have gotten an email back. No it won't be on there. If I could have gotten some response that way. I am a board member and I deserve that.

The Village Audit will take place the week of February 4 2019.

Spring Election to be held on April 2, 2019. Nomination papers have been filed as follows: Village President – Bryan “Fatboy” Raddatz. Village Trustee – Grace Bjorklund, Richard Durand, Sharon Hendricks, and Wayne Moberg.

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Monthly update from Village President, Bryan “Faboy” Raddatz. I want to give a thank you to the people who put on the open house. Being someone that argued against it. I am telling you how wonderful it was. Final numbers were over 100 people. It was well attended. It was held following Santa Day – so the Dresser Lions Club did a majority of the decorations. Bjorklund said I want to thank the committee members. Raddatz stated I was impressed with the attendance. Durand stated people will increase over time. Raddatz stated I just want it known that I was impressed. A great job was done.

FEBRUARY AGENDA BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION: Nothing was stated.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Public Works Committee Meeting, Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM

Library Board Meeting, Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Allied Emergency Service, Inc. Meeting, Thursday, January 24, 2019

Village Board Meeting, Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Osceola Ambulance Meeting, Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Kuusisto/Moberg to adjourn at 7:46 PM. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Jodi A Gilbert-Village Clerk

These minutes have not been approved.