

**VILLAGE OF DRESSER  
PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 13, 2015  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Grace Bjorklund called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Roll Call: Grace Bjorklund, Elina Kuusisto, and Jim Rochford Jr. Also present Jodi A. Gilbert/Clerk and Attorney Tim Laux. This meeting was posted that a majority of the board members could be present for this meeting. No other public or press was in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting is to draft an Ordinance dealing with Bike Routes within the Village of Dresser. The committee discussed the purpose of this issue. Gilbert went to the Clerk's network and was not able to find any sample Bike Ordinances. Gilbert talked to the Town of Osceola and at this time they have not passed any formal documents regarding this issue. It was brought up that the Stower Seven Lakes Trail Committee nor the Gandy Dancer Trail Committee have not approached the Village on a permanent trail through the Village. At one time the discussion was that a permanent trail would not go through the Village of Dresser. Laux stated that the laws are set up for major municipalities in order to address safety concerns. In Dresser at this time the only road that may be a safety concern would be HWY 35. Rochford stated people can bike anywhere they want to. The committee reviewed the map post card that has been circulated regarding the connection of these two trails and they felt that it is a great tool for bikers to use. Laux stated when dealing with this type of issue you don't want to mess with right of ways. Rochford commented that Amy keeps talking about bike paths – when you look online you have two choices 1. bike routes which run for instance on sidewalks and 2. bike lanes which are designated areas on actual roads. According to the connection map they want to bike through the Village of Dresser - let them bike. Why do we need to go to all of the work to create an Ordinance? Laux stated if you are going to do any type of signage you need to have an Ordinance. Rochford stated they should continue to hand out these postcards and leave as is. Kuusisto asked what was Amy's time frame for having the markings done. Soon was stated. Kuusisto stated when you look at the two current trails and trying to find a connector route isn't really an easy/temporary process – it will probably take a long time before a permanent route would be established. The current trails run on abandoned railroad beds and in this area it is a working railroad. The recreational trails have looked for free right a ways – property not being used. Bjorklund stated I remember when a Bike Club came through Dresser and they used the Dresser Hall. It was a one day event and they right away headed out to County Road S. They were looking for rural roads to ride on. Rochford agreed they want scenic paths to follow. Laux stated as difficult as it needs to be – these postcards are great. Kuusisto asked so why don't we want to create an Ordinance. Bjorklund stated for one thing it is not a permanent trail. There is money and time to develop this Ordinance to get it right. You are establishing a permanent law/ruling for your roads. In some communities in the interest of protecting bikers you actually end up diminishing access to businesses. Again from a safety concern HWY 35 is a prime candidate to consider, but at the same time the Village of Dresser does not have any control over HWY 35. Bjorklund stated when you put up a sign doesn't it have to be on your map. Yes you need to have the Ordinance to back it up to govern those placements. All they want to do is to go from point A to point B. Laux reviewed the Dresser Comprehensive Plan regarding bikes and if the county and the state wanted to have a connector bike route through the Village they could pay for it and we could certainly accommodate them. We don't have an official body asking us to do this. Kuusisto stated Amy was not asking for money from us. Rochford stated I don't think they are willing to pay for signs and in order to do this correct we need to create an

## Page 2 of 2 - Public Welfare Minutes May 13, 2015

Ordinance and sign it correctly. Rochford continued they have a lot of flexibility in giving out these maps and not marking up the streets. If a biker has the map how hard is it too get through Dresser? Kuusisto asked why don't you want to do it. Signage is confusing – Rochford continued this is confusing when all they really want to do is to get from Point A to Point B through the Village. It is not even a mile. Bjorklund clarified we did not pass the resolution at the last meeting. That is correct. Rochford stated the cost of the signs; the cost of creating the Ordinance does not equal how easy this is done with the current map. Laux stated they have done a great printing job on the map post cards. This is not necessary to do. Laux continued they should do themselves a favor and at the information center and at lotus lake blow up this map. Haass was walking through – I do believe they already have them and I believe they are also out at Nye. The parking lot behind the store. We should report back to the board a consensus on what we want to do – Kuusisto so you mostly don't want it. Bjorklund stated we don't need it. Kuusisto stated there is a purpose for it, but I do agree the post cards are great. The markings would be an improvement. Laux stated I remember when St Croix Falls did the connection from the Information Center to the trail. It was a big deal and all of the requirements they needed to go through. These post cards are the best reason not to do this. Bjorklund stated we are also looking at short distances. We should give some type of report to the board regarding bike ways(sidewalk) versus bike lanes(road) – after due consideration the public welfare committee arrived at a consensus not to designate official bike lanes in the Village of Dresser and that this committee recommends that future bikers between the two trails take advantage of the cyclovaxc/gfgoodies post card trail connection map. This should go on the next Village Board meeting as an update.

Haass brought up to the Public Welfare Committee that the Village's Hunting Ordinance and Firearm Ordinances need to be updated. Haass will look into the revisions. State Laws have changed.

Motion Rochford/Kuusisto to adjourn at 9:50 AM. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Jodi A. Gilbert - Clerk/Treasurer

These minutes have not been approved.