



## MINUTES OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION: Combined Locks Civic Center,  
Council Chambers, 405 Wallace Street

### MINUTES

- A. Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Village President Neumeier at 6:30pm.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- C. Roll call: Public comment for matters not on the agenda:** None
- 1. Hear and consider action on request to allow chickens and other fowl in the community:** President Neumeier opened the discussion by telling the audience that the Village Board had considered a request to keep chickens in the Village in 2023. The matter was voted down in a 4-3 decision to uphold the prohibition of chicken & fowl keeping in the Village. The matter is being heard again at the request of a resident. The audience was invited to make comments. Shanna Van Asten addressed the Board. She explained that she was just recently made aware that the ducks she has are not allowed in the Village. Her neighbors have had them for a couple of years so she thought it was legal. She and her family wish to keep the ducks and believe there is not an issue with the neighbors, having 5-6 fowl is reasonable, understands that keeping them in the Village should require a revocable license, and believes that raising your own food should be a human right. Amanda Asplundh addressed the Board with her support for chicken and fowl keeping. She explained that this practice teaches responsibility. She noted several other municipalities that already allow chicken keeping. She also shared information about Senate Bill 912 that is a statewide requirement for municipalities to allow a minimum of 4 fowl per property. Ms. Asplundh stated that the bill is to be reintroduced early in the next legislative session. Alissa Henrickson addressed the Board with her support of chicken keeping in the Village. She also shared information about Senate Bill 912 that she received from Representative Sortwell's office. She and others supporting a revision to the ordinance noted these benefits of chicken/fowl keeping: waste reduction as scraps can be fed to chickens, quieter than dogs, chicken waste can be used for compost, ability to raise your own food – especially with food allergies, and neighboring communities already allow chicken keeping. Supporters also seemed to be in agreement of an annual license and inspection fee. Trustees also discussed Senate Bill 912 and the probability of it being passed, which would leave the Village without a choice to allow fowl keeping. It was noted that in order to vote on the matter again, a trustee who previously voted no, must make a motion to revise the ordinance to allow fowl keeping. The matter will be considered at the 09/17/24 meeting, and the Administrator will share information about Senate Bill 912.
- 2. Review and consider approval of minutes and bills:** M. Rietveld made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. A. Leicht seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. T. Stutzman made a motion to approve the bills as presented. B. Schinke seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously
- 3. Administrator, Public Works Director and Law Enforcement reports – accept and file:** Activities for the previous and current months were reported. Trustee Rietveld asked for DPW employees to paint crosswalks at parks. All reports were accepted and are on file in the Clerk's Office.

- 4. Review cost estimate to treat Ash Trees instead of removing them:** Public Works Director Swick provided information he received to treat Ash Trees instead of removing them due to the Emerald Ash Borer. He received a quote to treat 27 trees for \$6,307 (\$233.60 per tree). The trees would have to be treated three more times for the best possibility of success. The matter was discussed. The consensus of trustee opinion was to continue to remove the Ash Trees instead of treat them.
- 5. Other business, updates and future agenda items**
  - a. DNR CMAR response – 2023 report:** The DNR graded the Village’s CMAR with an “A”
  - b. Tour Fire Department:** Trustees were invited to tour the Fire Department to get an idea of space needs.
- 6. Adjourn:** B. Schinke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Heckner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.