

**VILLAGE OF PEPIN**  
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Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 11, 2019**

1. & 2. 7 PM President Bill Wroblewski called the meeting to order and roll call was taken as follows:

Bill Wroblewski, President	Damon Ellison	Carrie Arens
Paul Riesgraf	Rob Buntz	Jon Seifert, Attorney
David Brassfield	Mike Michaud	Cindy Fayerweather, C/T
Maggie Schruth, Clerk	Missy Murray, Dep. C/T (Absent)	

3. Future Issues: Joel Anderson is here with some LIW (Laura Ingalls Wilder) Photos- we will have him move to #7. We will add siren and Finance Committee action/discussions to be under #15.

4. Clerks Report: A motion was made by Paul R., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie A. to approve the October 21, 2019 board meeting minutes.

5. Open Items: Bill Wroblewski discussed the UniverCity Projects funding. Looking at having some college students such as UWRF help out with this as they could get credits for it etc. Possibly add a walking Historic Tour to it. We wouldn't start this project until summer or fall of 2020, and nothing would be done until 2021. Mike M. made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave B. to begin a review of the Village's Comprehensive Plan and utilize the UniverCity students with an expense approved of \$5,000 to \$10,000. 4 yes, 3 no, (Carrie A., Paul R., Damon E.); carried.

6. Treasurer's Report: October Financial reports were accepted. A motion was made by Damon E. to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob B.; carried.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Joel Anderson showed the board some photos of a train he would like to replicate (like the one in Stockholm park) and have at the Laura Park to replace the old metal train that is currently there. Joel states that the old one is rusty and kids can get hurt playing on it. Joel also discussed the bathroom issue at Laura Day's. The Board stated they will not be updating the outdated bathroom and in fact will be tearing down that building at some point as it costs too much to fix. Joel was hoping to be reimbursed by the Village Board to add additional satellite toilets at Laura Day's. Damon E. suggested the Laura Day's Committee talk to PACC in regards to that matter. Aaron Meixner, Darren Thompson and Larry Stahl had a discussion during this time regarding when they can and can't ask questions/interrupt the board meeting. Larry S. stated they should be able to have two public comments sections in the board meeting.

They suggested one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end. The board will think about this.

Kim Seipel wanted to speak as well; his issue regards being pushed further back in the meeting to section #17 in regards to the CDBG loan program.

8. Police Report: No Report
9. Ambulance Report: No Report
10. Fire Report: Paul Riesgraf reported that it's been quiet for the Fire Department.
11. Attorney's Report: Jon Seifert discussed 2 items.1) Codification of the Village Ordinances. Jon discussed the purpose of codifying the Village Ordinances. He proposed a cost of \$5000 which is a less expensive option for the Village. He would bring ours up-to-date from 2002 to present and put into a digital format. Discussion was held and determined that the Finance Committee should review and bring back to the Board at the December meeting for a decision. Jesse Van Alstine asked Bill W. to discuss with Jon S. in regards to the 413 Main Street building (Tom Reinhardt's)-the building needs to be removed. Condemnation proceedings need to be started; Jon Seifert will contact the owner.
12. PACC Report: Rob B. discussed the Room Tax collections issues, Missy M. will be working with Jon Seifert in this regard.
13. Harbor Commission Report: Dennis Benish, Pepin Marina, has contacted Cedar Corp about a 90/10 grant for Harbor Improvements. Dennis requested the Board's approval to have a letter drafted for reference to apply for this grant. Dennis would pay the 10%, and the grant would take care of the other 90% if approved. A motion was made by Rob B., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave B. to approve applying for the grant. If the grant is approved, the actual numbers would be discussed at a later date. The due date for this grant is December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Dennis Benish also discussed a concern that if the Village were to remove or cancel his lease, he would expect a prorated return of his 10% funds. A motion was made by Rob B., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave B. to approve Benish's request for a prorated reimbursement of the 10% of the funds for the Harbor Improvement should the Village remove Benish or cancel his lease prior to the lease's expiration. All in favor; carried.
- 14: Zoning Administrator Report: Roy F. stated that the Yacht Club building is not covered by flood insurance. Dennis B. from the Marina is going to check his FEMA maps and insurance coverage info to see what is correct. If we have to survey to establish the yacht club elevation, the cost would be about \$1,000.00 from Johnson/Schofield. Motions to accept the \$1,000 payment to Johnson/Schofield (IF) Dennis B. Doesn't have it on his surveys that were done. Dave B. made the motion to accept, Rob B. 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The surveys could possibly be done Mid-December. All of the board members were in favor, zero were opposed; carried.

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15. Finance Committee Report: 1) Was approved previously in the meeting. 2) Rob B. suggested that we consolidate most of the loans that the Village has which, with additional expenses existing and expected, could equate to approximately \$1.6 million. Currently, the average interest rates of the Village loans are at 4% or above. With the consolidation of the loans at a possible reduced interest rate of 1.75-2.00%, there would be a considerable long term savings to the Village. A motion was made by Rob B., 2<sup>nd</sup> by David B. to move forward with the consolidation of the Village's loans as discussed; carried. 3) Damon E. brought up the need for a long term planning committee. We need to look at short term vs. long term budgeting and planning. A motion was made by Rob B., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul R. to appoint a Long Term Planning Committee; carried. Members will be appointed at the December Board meeting.
16. Proposed 2020 Budget: Discussion was held on the proposed 2020 Budget. A motion was made by Damon E., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie A. to approve the 2020 Budget as presented; carried.
17. CDBG Loan Program: We received a letter from CDBG in regards to the grant that we have had for Low income housing. We have had this program since 1980. The state is recommending that we close the account. The CDBG Program would still be available to area residents, but is now handled through a Pepin/Dunn/Pierce tri-county organization. Kim Seipel (former resident and board member). Kim stated that this program is a good asset to have for the less fortunate and if we can, he feels we should keep the CDBG program going. The board stated that they will refer to the Finance Committee for consideration and discuss again in December.
18. Utilities/Streets/Buildings: 1) Aaron Kallstrom said Xcel Energy is placing street lights by Don Drive. They should start going up this next week and bury underground. 2) Discussion was held on proceeding with the large Street and Utility project, estimated cost of \$1.57 million dollars. The SDWLP (Safe Drinking Water Loan Program) offers a 20 year loan at 1.65% rate. Discussion was held, a motion was made by Rob B., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike M. to proceed with the full project and obtain loan funding through the SDWLP; carried. 3) Jon Seifert and the Board approved of the resolution for the Vacation and discontinuance of Elm Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. A public hearing date will be set not less than 40 days from this introduction. 4) The WWTP replacement mixer discussion/action on a quote of \$5,806.00, funding was approved. 5) The WWTP truck needs new tires, estimated at \$815.00. The truck tires were approved for purchase.
19. Approve Vouchers: A motion was made by Rob B., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Damon E., to approve the vouchers; carried.
20. The next regular Village Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
21. No other action was taken by the Village Board. A motion was made by Rob B. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul R. to adjourn the meeting; carried, meeting adjourned.

**Maggie Schruth**  
Clerk