

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Winnebago held a Special Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m. with President Franklin J. Eubank, Jr. presiding in the Village office.

Because of the continued disaster declaration and the Village Office being too small to accommodate the public, trustees and employees were invited to join via computer or telephone.

Trustees: GRAHAM - KIMES– MCKINNON – O’ROURKE – PEARSON – present; LEFEVRE – absent

Guests: Attorney Gaziano, Sally Bennett, Sergeant Haff, Chief White, Chad Insko, Seth Gronewold

A quorum was established.

There was no conflict of interest stated.

No one requested the opportunity to address the Board.

X. DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A motion was made by MR. GRAHAM, seconded by MRS. O’ROURKE to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

- b. The Board discussed the fact that the water rates should cover the costs associated with the department including wages, machinery, equipment etc.
- c. Mrs. Bennett provided a spread sheet outlining the grants available at this time and what they include. To date we have received \$203,304.57 which is half of the ARPA Grant, and we will receive the other half, \$203,304.56 in 2022. As of now, there is no specific grant available to cover the broadband expansion, there may be a Connect Illinois grant for that purpose in the future.

It is hoped First Midwest Group will share in the cost of \$130,000 to provide broadband to the Willingham Subdivision. It is thought this will help to stimulate growth in Willingham. It was decided that \$130,000 of the ARPA Grant should be set aside for the extension of broadband to Willingham.

- b. It was suggested the sewer should be a flat fee rather than based on consumption in case usage goes down. After discussion it was decided to keep it as is with part a flat fee and partially based on consumption.

A motion was made by MR. GRAHAM, seconded by MRS. O’ROURKE to increase the fixed water rates and the water usage rates for residential and non-residential with all size services based on the schedule provided by Mr. Gronewold using 50% of the ARPA Grant funds which will be ten percent year 1, eight percent year 2, eight percent year 3, and five percent year 4, and three percent year 5. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Mr. Gronewold noted Fehr Graham’s review did not look at any other parts of Ordinance 2017-01.

A motion was made by MR. MCKINNON, seconded by MR. GRAHAM to authorize the Village Attorney to draft the water rate ordinance for the next five years. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

- c. Other possible grants were discussed. A motion was made by MR. GRAHAM, seconded by MR. KIMES to spend up to \$8000 from account 17-47-701 to have Region 1 Planning apply for a Rebuild Downtown Grant. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.
- d. Previously a petition was received to allow off-road vehicles on village streets. It was discussed possibly forming an Ad Hoc committee to look into this. It was then decided it would be better to offer two public hearings to get input on this. It was decided to have Mrs. Symonds send out a poll to ask Board Members for dates in the last of January and mid-February to hold these hearings at Winnebago High School. When the dates are set they should be added to the community page and the newsletter if possible. A motion was made by MR. KIMES, seconded by MRS. O'ROURKE to go into Executive (closed) session at 6:49 p.m. for the following:

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

The board returned to Regular session at 7:20 p.m. with the same trustees present, and guests Attorney Gaziano, Chief White, Officer Haff and Chad Insko.

A motion was made by MR. KIMES and died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by MR. GRAHAM, seconded by MR. KIMES to accept the three appraisals dated May 4, 2021 by Value Pros as reasonable in valuation. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

IX. DISCUSSION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AND WHICH ONES TO PUT ON FUTURE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OR REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

- e. In a future meeting it will be necessary to discuss possibly allowing a cannabis dispensary in the Village. More information will be needed to make a decision.

A motion was made by MRS. O'ROURKE, second by MR. MCKINNON to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote of those present.

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sally Jo Huggins, Village Clerk