

VILLAGE BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS  
1/15/19

REGULAR MEETING-CALL TO ORDER: President Truttman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. PRESENT: Roger Truttman, Barb Anderson, Petra Streiff, Chuck Phillipson, Anthony Edge, Peggy Kruse and Shaun Dow. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Bell, Briana Lenzlinger, Karen Rodeghier, Bradley Beal, Public Works Director Joe Cockroft and Clerk-Treasurer Lynne Erb.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ANNOUNCEMENT: President Truttman announced that cell phones shall be silenced for the duration of the meeting.

AGENDA: Motion by Shaun Dow, second by Anthony Edge to approve the 1/15/19 agenda. Motion carried. (7-0)

PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND CITIZEN COMMENTS: Briana Lenzlinger asked to speak in opposition to a room tax increase. She noted she had emailed the Board with her concerns and presented signatures of local businesses in opposition to the increase in tax. She indicated she had spoken with a bus company again this morning who indicated the cost of the hotel stay is an important piece for them in determining where they will stay when doing tours.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Shaun Dow for approval of the consent agenda, second by Chuck Phillipson. Motion carried. (7-0)

Approval of minutes of 12/18/18 Regular Meeting: The minutes are attached for your consideration.

Approval of Claims: ACH for payroll expenses, health and life insurance, and credit card, journal entry for utility bills totaling \$87,150.57; 2018 Checks 36826 to 36879 totaling \$33,898.23 paid on 12/31/18; 2019 Checks 36926 to 36981 totaling \$134,843.39 and payroll vouchers 13515 to 13539 totaling \$36,696.43 and 13540 to 13563 totaling \$27,412.78.

Approval of Operator License(s) to expire 6/30/2020: To Anthony Isensee, Andrea Tway, Logan Wettach, Jennifer Huebner and Alexi Markgraf

Approval of Park Use to New Glarus Lion's Club for Village Park Gazebo on May 24, 2019 for Chicken BBQ: This annual application is for the Chicken BBQ held by the New Glarus Lion's on Memorial Day Weekend. It includes the use of the Village Park Gazebo for the event. The Certificate of Insurance is on file.

Update: Monthly Police Report: The November and December reports are included with the agenda packet for review.

Update: Monthly Building Inspector's Report: The monthly Building Inspector's Report for December was included with the agenda packet.

Update: Monthly Utility Financials: The monthly Utility Financials were attached to the agenda packet.

Update: Monthly Budget to Actual Report: Attached to the agenda packet was the monthly Budget to Actual Report for December for review.

TREE BOARD:

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION: AWARD OF 2019 TREE PRUNING/REMOVAL CONTRACT:

The Village received three (3) bids for Pruning, Removal and Stump Grinding with a base proposal and two (2) options for both the removal and stump grinding. Bids were opened on Friday, January 4, 2019. Low bidder was Limbwalkers Tree Service, LLC of Muskego, WI with a total pruning, removal and stump grinding bid of \$10,452.30 for the base; \$9,322.76 for Option #1 and \$3,279.14 for Option #2.

Public Works Director Cockroft has indicated Village employees are able to complete the work outlined for the removal of the downtown trees [Option #2 under removal at a cost of \$2,136.14).

The Tree Board voted to recommend award of the 2019 Tree Bid to Limbwalkers Tree Service, LLC for the following: Pruning Option #1 = \$300; Removal Base and Option #1 = \$14,957.06 and Stump Grinding Base and Option #1 and #2 = \$5,661.00 for a total bid cost of \$20,918.06. The total 2019 budget for the work is \$25,850. The appropriate Certificate of Insurance naming the Village of New Glarus has been received.

Motion by Petra Streiff, second by Shaun Dow to approve a contract for tree pruning, removal and stump grinding with Limbwalkers at a total bid of \$20,918.06, with the Public Works Department removing the trees listed under removal option #2. Motion carried (7-0).

Trustee Phillipson asked for clarification on which of the downtown trees are being removed. Public Works Director Cockroft noted he had been informed that all the trees located on First Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenue would be removed and replaced due to some type of blight.

FIRE DISTRICT:

UPDATE: FUTURE TRUCK PURCHASE:

Fire District Board representative, Bradley Beal appeared before the Board to update them on the anticipated future purchase for a fire truck. He reported the Fire District is looking at replacing the current Engine 2, a 1996 Pierce. They currently anticipate delivery of a new truck sometime in 2020 and estimate the cost of the truck at approximately \$500,000 to \$550,000. The department is currently working on the specs. He further noted that normal replacement for that type of vehicle is twenty (20) years but the purchase had been pushed back due to the expansion of the building. He reported that the expansion of the building is going well and currently under budget.

OLD BOARD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION: ORDINANCE 18-04 AMEND HOTEL-MOTEL ROOM TAX:

Staff had drafted Ordinance 18-04 which includes the two (2) proposed amendments to the Village's Room Tax Ordinance: 1) changing the current room tax percentage from 5% to 7%; 2) adjusting the distribution percentages from 90% to tourism promotion to 75% to tourism promotion (to Chamber), and 15% for historic preservation building maintenance and promotion for the December 18, 2018 meeting. At that meeting, the Board voted to table until the next meeting (1/15/19) to provide an opportunity to look into alternative funding sources.

Trustee Anderson commented that after listening to residents on this topic, she believes there may be some misinformation that the entire increase would go to the Chalet of the Golden Fleece and Swiss Historic Village. Trustee Dow reiterated the plan to initiate a process wherein any Village historic property could apply for assistance with review by the Historic Preservation Commission and approval by Village Board.

The Board noted the last time the room tax was increased was 2009, and that it had been discussed in 2016, but no increase occurred at that time. Trustee Kruse noted two (2) components to the ordinance: 1) an increase in tax, and; 2) a change in percentages for distribution of the tax. She asked if it was possible to not increase the tax, but to decrease the amount allocated to tourism and increase the amount allocated to the Village? Trustee Dow noted that would be a possibility, but it would decrease the annual amount to the Chamber of Commerce, so the increase was included to accommodate that issue.

President Truttmann noted levy dollars being used for the Chalet of the Golden Fleece totaling approximately \$101,932 between 2001 and 2018, with an additional \$23,652 in fund balance being utilized between 2005-2013. He questioned whether it makes sense to continue to levy funds for the operation and maintenance of the Chalet. Trustee Dow commented that operations of the Chalet of the Golden Fleece is separate from the proposed room tax increase.

Trustee Kruse provided research information indicating a market range of room tax at 10.5% to 18.27% that included information indicating room tax does not have an impact on tourism.

Trustee Dow reviewed with the Board his calculations on possible increases to the room tax noting 2017 estimated total taxed revenue of \$1,530,720 at five (5) percent provides a total tax collected of \$76,536 [90% Chamber= \$68,882]. Utilizing an increase to seven (7) percent would provide \$107,150 in collected tax, an increase of \$30,614. If Chamber were to receive 75% = \$80,363, or at 70% = \$75,000. He noted that the Board could consider a smaller increment increase: .5% = \$7,654 increase; 1% = \$15,307 increase; 1.5% = \$22,961. Trustee Dow suggested a compromised increase of one (1) percent and re-examine the impact to businesses in a year's time with possible adjustment at that time. The Board expressed some concern that a one (1) percent tax increase with a change in distribution from 90% to 70% or 75% to the Chamber would result in lost revenue to the Chamber.

Trustee Phillipson commented he doesn't believe one (1) business should bear the brunt of the additional tax especially to address the Village's responsibilities in operating and maintaining the Chalet. He noted room tax was set up by the State to provide for marketing opportunities and he doesn't see any reason to break away from that. He added he doesn't believe the increase to room tax is urgent, adding the Chalet of the Golden Fleece is funded through 2019. He asked about the Friends group and what finances they might have available. Trustee Streiff noted the Friends are a non-profit through Vision and the accounting of their funds would be included there.

The Board further discussed making the connection between the increase in tax and the funding of the Chalet, with Trustee Phillipson indicating there are really two (2) questions; 1) the increase in tax, and; 2) the operation and maintenance of the Chalet. He suggested tabling to provide time to address each of the issues individually.

Motion by Chuck Phillipson to table, second by Peggy Kruse. The Board continued discussions and suggested the need for adding some goals for moving this item forward. Shaun Dow commented that without an increase in funding for Historic properties, the Board should consider disbanding the Historic Preservation Commission. Peggy Kruse questioned if we

didn't have concerns with operation and maintenance of the Chalet of the Golden Fleece, would we be having this discussion? Vote on original motion to table: ROLL CALL: Barb Anderson-no; Shaun Dow-no; Anthony Edge-yes; Peggy Kruse-yes; Chuck Phillipson-yes; Petra Streiff-no; Roger Truttman-yes. Motion carried. (4-3)

Trustee Edge questioned the statute language on the percentage of tax that can be retained by the Village, asking if the Village could retain up to thirty (30) percent. Trustee Dow indicated his conversation with DOR indicated the Village could.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Truttman updated the Board members on results of the nominations for Board positions for the April, 2019 Election. The ballot will contain two (2) names for Village President: Roger Truttman and Mark Hawley and one (1) name for Village Trustee: Peggy Kruse. Trustee Phillipson asked about the process for write-in.

President Truttman asked Public Works Director Cockroft to update the Board on the fire at the WWTP. Public Works Director Cockroft reported there had been a fire in a waste container at one of the buildings at the WWTP that was discovered by the WWTP Operator on January 2, 2019. Insurance has been contacted and clean-up is currently being completed. The Fire Department and insurance company could not determine a cause.

President Truttman reported that approximately 14 applications for Administrator have been received by PAA. The final date for submission is January 23, 2019. The Finance-Personnel Committee will be reviewing those applications on January 31, 2019.

Trustee Dow presented his resignation to President Truttman and the Board Trustees noting the resignation is effective immediately. The Board members thanks Mr. Dow for his service.

ADJOURN: Being no further business before the Board, President Truttman adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

–Lynne R. Erb, Clerk-Treasurer