

Village of Sheridan
Board Meeting
November 8, 2021

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board of Trustees met on the above date with the following members present: Peggy Arneson, Tom Wehner, Jamie Skalic, Darin Naggs and Shelly Figgins. Jeff Wilhelm was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING: Property Tax Levy

Mayor Strothman opened the public hearing for the proposed tax increase. Shelly Figgins stated the proposed increase of 9.01% would cover additional funding for IMRF and liability insurance for the village. Mayor Strothman opened the floor up for Public Comment. Donley Larson stated that with all the money the village has in the bank, to think about the residents in the current tough times and who elected them to their positions. He would like them to vote their conscience. Don McNelis asked how much higher the tax rate proposal was. Shelly replied 9%. Peggy Arneson hopes for future growth of Sheridan with the appeal of lower taxes. Ken Thompson believes the current EAV will be going up this year, so that would also increase what each resident would pay. He inquired what the tax money would be used for. Shelly replied they are divided into six categories, being Corporate Fund, Audit Fund, Police Fund, Street & Bridge Fund, Liability Insurance Fund and IMRF Fund. He also asked if the village would be taking advantage of the 4.99% increase allowed without a hearing in addition to the 9% increase. Shelly stated no they would not. He felt they could reach the desired outcome within a few years by only increasing the 4.99% with no hearing then. There were no other comments. The public hearing was closed.

Bills for October 2021 in the amount of \$58,595.53 were presented for payment. Shelly Figgins motioned to approved payment. Tom Wehner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Minutes from October 2021 were presented for approval. Jamie Skalic motioned to approve the minutes. Darin Naggs seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Shelly Figgins gave the Finance Report for October 2021 with an ending balance of \$2,079,233.57. Peggy Arneson motioned to approve the Finance Report as presented. Tom Wehner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried. She also mentioned filing 8 liens on properties for unpaid sewer fees from 2009-2016. The filing fee totals \$464.00.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk Grimwood reminded of the upcoming E-Waste Collection on November 13th from 8-12PM. She stated the Village Hall would be closed from November 18-28th. She also announced the official village counts from the 2020 census was 2,431 with a resident population of 765 and prison count of 1,666. This is down 436 from when the Special Census was done in 2014.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Strothman spoke on upcoming scheduled court dates for Mr. Vardijan with continued hearings of the CCDD sites.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jeff Wilhelm, Streets Committee, was absent. Darin Naggs mentioned the seal coating has been completed and touch ups to the recent street work will be needed.

Darin Naggs, Sewer Committee, had no issues to report. He is still awaiting our sewer jetter to be completed.

Jamie Skalic, Zoning Committee, mentioned the permit issued to the fire department for the concrete slab to which he waived the fee. There were no other permits issued in October.

Tom Wehner, Parks Committee, has been looking into options for the memorial markers for the trees in Centennial Park. He has found several ranging in price from \$250.00 to \$750.00 each. He will continue looking and report again next month. James Helling recommended markers for the ground to match the others currently there. He also mentioned the electrical work has not yet been started.

Peggy Arneson, Police Committee, gave the police report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Don McNelis spoke on behalf of the Sesquicentennial Committee regarding their 2022 celebration they are planning. The plan is to have a weeklong celebration beginning June 26th and run to July 4th. The theme for the event will be "Searching the Past, Embrace the Future" with many events being planned. They are coming to the village for monetary assistance in putting on the event and are requesting a donation of \$25,000.00 in total. They would like to ask for \$5,000.00 up front. They asked the board if there were any events they would like to see happen. The committee spoke of several events that are in the works for the week. Shelly inquired on who would hold the insurance for the weeklong events. Stephanie Schmoker replied that the Committee would try obtaining their own policy to cover what they were able to. Mayor Strothman also mentioned a Special Events Rider to the Village policy. This will also be investigated. Shelly Figgins motioned to approve the \$5,000.00 upfront donation to the committee. Tom Wehner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Mayor Strothman introduced the Tax Levy Ordinance to which a hearing has been held earlier in the meeting. After further comments from the board, Jamie Skalic motioned to keep the taxes the same taxable dollar request as last year, with no increase. Peggy Arneson seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken:

Peggy Arneson-yes

Tom Wehner-yes

Jamie Skalic-yes

Darin Naggs-yes

Shelly Figgins-yes

All were in favor of no increase to the Tax Levy. Ordinance 2021-54 was approved.

Mayor Strothman stated the salt shed is still incomplete. Maintenance employees will not go inside the salt shed in its current state. Jeff Wilhelm is asking to have H & H Builders come in and complete the project for their time and materials.

Mayor Strothman introduced an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3-The Village Clerk/Administrator of the Municipal Code of Sheridan. Shelly Figgins stated that she would like to add Crossing Guard and Maintenance employees and their duties added to the Municipal Code, also changing the title to Village Employees to update. Shelly Figgins motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-55. Peggy Arneson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried. Donley Larson would like to see village maintenance employees' wages increased above McDonald wages.

Mayor Strothman introduced the annual School Choice Week Proclamation, recognizing January 23-29, 2022, as School Choice Week. Shelly Figgins motioned to approve the proclamation. Peggy Arneson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Mayor Strothman introduced an Intergovernmental License Agreement between Serena Community Unit School District No. 2 and the Village of Sheridan for the Placement of a Telecommunication Signal Repeater on District's Antenna. Chief Bergeron stated having been to the school districts meeting for approval. He also stated all work has been completed on the Village Hall tower and repeater now located on Sheridan Grade School's tower. Jamie Skalic motioned to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement. Tom Wehner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Mayor Strothman announced at this time the board would enter EXECUTIVE SESSION as authorized under Section 2(c)(21) for approval of Executive Session minutes and review of minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act and as authorized under Section 2(c)(5) to discuss the "Purchase of Real Property".

Upon return to regular session, a Roll Call vote was taken:

Peggy Arneson-yes

Tom Wehner-yes

Jamie Skalic-yes

Darin Naggs-yes

Shelly Figgins-yes

Mayor Strothman introduced an Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property. She stated the property they are looking at is the Old Bank located at 125 W Si Johnson Avenue. This Ordinance would authorize the Mayor and Village Clerk to potentially execute a contract for purchase. Tom Wehner motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-56. Peggy Arneson seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken:

Peggy Arneson-yes

Tom Wehner-yes

Jamie Skalic-yes

Darin Naggs-yes

Shelly Figgins-yes

All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Stephanie Schmoker introduced Nathaniel Greene from Representative David Welter's office, whom she says is considering being a part of their 150th parade next year. Nathaniel spoke on behalf of Representative Welter's office inquiring on if there were any questions, comments, or concerns of the village that he could take back to Representative Welter. The board had none at this time.

Ron Schmoker asked the board for a copy of a letter that had been circulated within the village regarding Chief Bergeron a year and a half ago. Attorney Burton would treat the request as a FOIA request.

There being no further business, Tom Wehner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jamie Skalic seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Grimwood

Village Clerk