



VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE
Board of Trustees
MINUTES

DATE: Monday, January 17, 2022

LOCATION: 250 Elm Street, Thiensville, WI

COMBINED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA

TIME: 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Mobley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT:	VAN MOBLEY
TRUSTEES:	JENNIFER ABRAHAM ANGELINA APOSTOLOS KRISTINA ECKERT ROB HOLYOKE KENNETH KUCHARSKI DAVID LANGE
ADMINISTRATOR:	COLLEEN LANDISCH-HANSEN
STAFF:	FIRE CHIEF BRIAN REIELS POLICE CHIEF CURT KLEPPIN DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES/PUBLIC WORKS ANDY LAFOND VILLAGE CLERK AMY LANGLOIS

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Trustee Eckert to lead the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Eckert led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

A. Open to any resident or taxpayer on items not subject to public hearing: Please be advised per Wis. Stats. 19.84(2), information will be received from the public. Village policy limits a three (3) minute time period per person, with time extension by the presiding

official's discretion or a vote of 2/3 of the Board or Committee; be further advised that there may be limited discussion on the information received, however, no action will be taken under public comments. Written comments on agenda items are encouraged to be sent and addressed to the intended body by noon on the day of the meeting. Comments received timely will be forwarded to all members of the body. If you wish to speak, you must pre-register by emailing the Village Clerk at alanglois@village.thiensville.wi.us by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting or by signing up immediately prior to the meeting.

There was no correspondence received or anyone present to be heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon request of any Trustee, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda for special consideration.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Board of Trustees

1. December 13, 2021 (att)

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Fire Department

1. N/A

B. Police Department

1. December Police, 2021 (att)

C. Public Works Department

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mequon-Thiensville Bike and Pedestrian Way Commission

1. November 11, 2021 (not available)

2. January 13, 2022 (not available)

B. Milwaukee River Advisory Committee

1. March 3, 2021 (not available)

C. Plan Commission

1. November 9, 2021

D. Capital Expenditures, December (Prelim) (att)

Administrator Landisch-Hansen noted the following Thiensville Fire Department capital requests: two video laryngoscopes: budgeted \$5,100 and the amount requested is \$4,986.10; a copy machine: budgeted \$6,500 and the amount requested is \$5,353; and two iPads: \$1,500 budgeted and the amount requested is \$2,648.

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke, **SECONDED** by Trustee Abraham to approve the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BUSINESS AGENDA

IX. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A. Accounts Payable for All Funds

1. Accounts Payable

a. December 13, 2021 through January 14, 2022 (att)

Payments made this month include \$196,617.78 to MATC, \$1,521,965.36 to MTSD and \$291,996.23 to Ozaukee County for tax settlements. Also, included in the accounts payable was payment to MMSD for 4th quarter O&M in the amount of \$56,515.17, \$446,428.00 to MMSD for 2022 capital charges and then \$35,955.00 for annual insurance renewals.

MOTION by Trustee Lange, **SECONDED** by Trustee Eckert to approve the Accounts Payable for the period of December 13, 2021 through January 14, 2022 in the Amount of \$2,927,7610.23. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Financial Report (Receipt)

1. December, 2021 (Preliminary) (att)

The December (Preliminary) report was received.

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Appointments

1. Class A Beer and Class A Liquor

a. NEW AGENT: Walgreen Co., Aaron Mueller, Agent, 278 North Main Street

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke, **SECONDED** by Trustee Apostolos to approve New Agent, Walgreen Co., Aaron Mueller, Class A Beer and Class A Liquor License, 278 North Main Street. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Class B Beer and Class C Wine

a. NEW AGENT: Downtown Pizza, Stacy Lynn Macholl, Agent, 227 South Main Street

MOTION by Trustee Kucharski, **SECONDED** by Trustee Eckert to approve New Agent, Stacy Lynn Macholl, Downtown Pizza, Class B Beer and Class C Wine, 227 South Main Street. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

XI. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Department Reports

1. Administrator's Report (att)

Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared that there will be a primary election Tuesday, February 15, 2022 for the Mequon-Thiensville School Board. There are 5 candidates running for 2 seats. This election will reduce the field from 5 to 4.

December tax collections yielded 47.46% of the total taxes due, compared to 59.3% last year. Final day for Village collections is Monday, January 31, 2022. There is also a 5-day walk in grace period.

Audit is scheduled for the week of February 14, 2022.

Incoming revenues include \$49,923.42 for first quarter General Transportation Aids from the State of WI DOT and \$67,398.93 for the first installment boat launch grant from the State of WI DNR.

2. Building Inspection Department (Receipt)

a. December, 2021 Report (att)

The December, 2021 Building Inspection report was received.

XII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No Attorney's report.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Review and acceptance of Thiensville Police Department 2021 Use of Force Annual Report Presented by Police Chief Curt Kleppin (att)

Chief Kleppin noted that this is the second Use of Force Annual Report presented to the Board. This report indicates how, when and how often force is used. Last year there were 9 uses of force and this year there were 11. There were 4 times that a firearm was pointed. Use of force is described as any force used that is a compliance hold or above i.e. if an Officer places hands on an individual and uses a pressure point or an Officer takes someone in a direction they do not want to go where they are physically moved. This triggers a use of force report. This is then forwarded to Lieutenant Wucherer who reviews the cameras and video and then is reviewed by Chief Kleppin. Chief Kleppin is a certified instructor by the State of Wisconsin. The incident is reviewed and determined if the incident follows policy; if not, was it a policy failure, a training failure or an Officer failure. There were no issues this year. Chief Kleppin used force 3 times this year. If any of this force by Chief Kleppin was at a taser level or above, another agency would review. There were 0 taser deployments in 2021.

MOTION by Trustee Apostolos, **SECONDED** by Trustee Kucharski to accept the Thiensville Police Department 2021 Use of Force Annual Report Presented by Police Chief Curt Kleppin. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Discussion regarding Fire Department

Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared with the Board various operational scenarios in regards to the Fire Department. The low end for an independent professional full-time department was \$1,584,681, the middle range was \$1,686,501 with the high end budget at \$1,748,380. The largest part of these scenarios is salaries. All these scenarios also include supplemental paid on call staffing. Area Paramedic/Firefighter ranges are just under \$55,000 up to \$83,000. In order to be competitive, these types of salaries are what we are up against. Administrator Landisch-Hansen used an 11% operational percentage. Using 11% is close to what the Village currently spends on operational expenses and \$175,000 per year was also added for capital allocation to help keep up the fleet. Currently, there is about \$400,000 budgeted in capital which is split among all Village departments. The \$175,000 would be above and beyond the \$400,000 that is currently added to capital from the levy. Chief Reiels shared that a new engine would cost about total \$1.3 - \$1.4 million and ambulances are about \$250,000-\$300,000.

The Village currently allocates about \$255,000 from the tax levy to the Fire and EMS operations. Administrator Landisch-Hansen figured out what the estimated expenses depending on what level of compensation the Village would like to provide and how that increases the levy. The Village's current tax rate is at 7.31 and could go up anywhere from 10.91 to 11.42 which would by far make Thiensville the highest tax rate in Ozaukee County. So, on an average home which is about \$241,000, this would add between \$900 to \$1,000 to the Thiensville portion of the property taxes. An average commercial assessed property of \$630,000 would add between \$2,200 to \$2,600 per year to the property taxes.

All scenarios include adding 10 full-time positions: 1 FTE paid on premise with some paid-on-call for Fire and EMS.

A concern looking at this independent model is how it will impact the small business community.

Administrator Landisch-Hansen was going to show a scenario where she broke out having a hybrid where you still have a fire department but maybe not adding all these personnel to fire and adding a few more personnel to police with EMT certifications, however, in the end it came out to the same number of personnel.

When looking at the salary ranges, it also causes some compression issues with current salaries within the Village which may have a ripple effect trying to be equitable with other departments. In these models the Fire Chief is making over \$101,000 which would make that position the highest paid employee in the Village and quite a bit more than department heads.

Trustee Kucharski inquired about the fringe benefit ranges. Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared that this includes health insurance, dental, life insurance, income continuation, payroll taxes and the deductible that is provided to employees.

Trustee Holyoke inquired how much it would cost to remodel the Fire Department. There are two overnight rooms currently, however, if there was a full-time department there would be four on a shift, so there would need to be more sleeping quarters. Adjustments would also need to be made to segregate male and female quarters. Administrator Landisch-Hansen believes we could work within our footprint, however, this will be a cost.

Trustee Lange was wondering about a different model, not so much having our own full-time fire department. As of now, Cedarburg gets paramedic services from the Village (Cedarburg is about three times the size of the Village). Trustee Lange inquired if there was a model where there are some shared paramedic services that does not require 10 full-time employees. Administrator Landisch-Hansen stated that this scenario could be discussed at a future meeting.

Trustee Lange has had conversations with residents and estimates about 20% feel that the Village should merge with the City of Mequon; but about 80% are not excited about merging. Trustee Lange would like some scenario where the Village works with Cedarburg and Mequon for paramedic services and still have a Thiensville Fire Department and then spend some time and energy recruiting.

Trustee Holyoke noted that based on the housing market, most residents will be paying over \$1,000 more per year and inquired what the smallest population community in Wisconsin is that has a full-time fire department. Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared that this is Rhinelander with a population of 8,000; the Village is less than half of this size. Chief Reiels shared that Rhinelander does do a large paramedic service to the surrounding communities. Chief Reiels believes that even if the Village merges with Mequon, this is a step to something larger and there will be a time where Thiensville and Mequon will not be enough. The question is how to bridge this gap between now and then.

Trustee Holyoke, who also serves as Ozaukee County Supervisor, shared that the County

is at the early stages of discussing a county-wide fire department with paramedic services and expressed concern about the Village having a voice if merging with Mequon.

President Mobley believes the best consolidation scenario is Thiensville, Mequon and Cedarburg.

Chief Reiels shared that in 2021, 55 people applied to the Fire Department, 28 were approved by the Village Board, 1 failed the employment test, 29% never showed up for orientation, there are 4 right now in the pre-employment phase and 15 were hired out of that 55, of which 46% did not have certifications, 13% were paramedics and 26% were EMT's. For actual firefighters, 37% are local with 63% are out of the area. Out of the 15 hired, 2 resigned and 2 are inactive. Chief Reiels shared that there has never been more cooperation between the Thiensville and Mequon departments, there is open communication and the departments are training together. Trustee Lange inquired if there was ever a time in the Village when someone has called for help with no response. Chief Reiels stated that there was never a time - which is a huge compliment to Assistant Chief Deutsch who is great at communicating staffing to other departments.

Over 95% of calls are EMS calls. There were about 70-100 fire calls (which include carbon monoxide, gas). If merging with Mequon, Trustee Eckert would like to keep our station as one of the locations.

Chief Reiels shared that for 2021, the Department had 413 calls for intercepts and 342 of those were in Cedarburg. The 2021 call volume was 928 (about half were intercepts). Chief Reiels shared that in 2020 the Village had 51 mutual aid calls; in 2021 there were 103. This indicates that other communities are feeling the same staffing stresses.

Trustee Apostolos inquired if Mequon responds to Cedarburg as well. Chief Reiels noted that when Mequon goes to Cedarburg, it is because Thiensville has requested them.

Trustee Abraham questioned if privatizing services has been considered. Discussions at this time include merging departments. President Mobley stated that as our situation exists now, it is really dependent upon a number of key personnel (Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, and two DPW employees) and if we want to keep our department as it is now, we will need to hire a new Chief as Chief Reiels is retiring in June.

Trustee Holyoke inquired if Mequon and Thiensville merge, would they still run paramedic service to Cedarburg. Chief Reiels does not know the legal ramifications of not running these calls. Administrator Landisch-Hansen noted there are departments that do not do paramedic intercepts.

Administrator Landisch-Hansen noted that the 10 person model is the minimum - an engine must be staffed with 4 people. Chief Reiels shared that if you went with a 2 person per shift, you are still very dependent on your POC to fill an engine.

President Mobley stated that the Thiensville Fire Department does not go away if there is a merger with Mequon. Fear among the residents of not getting service was shared by Trustee Eckert.

Trustee Kucharski noted that our immediate need is EMT and paramedic and if bridging

the gap means adding 2 full-time employees, then this should be looked into. Two licensed employees are required to staff an ambulance (2 paramedics or and EMT and a paramedic). There is a lack of staffing in all industries.

Administrator Landisch-Hansen shared the following hypothetical scenarios: a proposed funding formulas using current budgets (not including capital): a Thiensville-Mequon Joint Fire/EMS Analysis Funding Formula - 1/3 based on population, 1/3 based on equalized value and a 1/3 based on call volume for a total of \$2,610,880; and a Funding Formula for a combined professional department (not including capital) for a Thiensville-Mequon Joint Fire/EMS with 31 FTE's for a total staffing budget of \$4,188,981. Dispatch and facilities also need to be considered. The 31 FTE's is calculated by having 8-9 on a shift and an administrative staff with 4 at each station. Two stations are being considered. Trustee Holyoke noted that the funding formula makes total sense. This is similar to how the library is funded.

There is not enough call volume to have a full-time professional fire department only for the Village. Trustee Lange would like to see where the Village can work with other communities specifically for paramedic services in the near term and not give up complete autonomy of the Thiensville Fire Department.

A county run department was also evaluated by Administrator Landisch-Hansen and an estimate using the Policy Forum study is as follows where it outlined per capita for professional departments that are already up and running. An average of six area communities with full time professional departments was taken to get a per capita of 215 x 90,000 residents = \$19.3 million dollar department. The current county tax levy is \$21.4 million and the current county tax rate is \$1.76. This doubled is \$3.53 (this includes part of the library tax levy). With this tax rate and estimate, on an average home this would increase the Ozaukee County taxes by about \$400. Because Thiensville would be giving up a service that is paid for by our levy Thiensville would lose that portion of the levy which is about \$235,000 now, so that would reduce our taxes on an average home by about \$174.

Looking at all the scenarios, the lowest cost option would be a county-run department. Administrator Landisch-Hansen foresees using existing facilities from the start until there is an evaluation of where it makes the most sense to have stations. It is very possible that having a station here in Thiensville would happen.

C. Discussion regarding Noise Ordinance

Trustee Kucharski believes that the Noise Ordinance needs to be reviewed and noted at times the volume is too loud. There is a decibel limit in place, and Trustee Kucharski feels as though it is too high and should be revisited. Music can be heard three blocks away at times from the baaree which is disruptive to area businesses and residences. President Mobley suggested reviewing the Conditional Use Permit for the baaree. When music from another business forces one to turn theirs off, this is concerning.

Police Chief Kleppin noted that noise has been monitored with the decibel reader and the

limit of 85 decibels seems reasonable. Chief Kleppin has spoken to Mr. Daily, owner of the baaree, and shared that citations will be issued if the noise exceeds the 85 decibel limit. The Police Department has been monitoring the noise, and the noise has been right around 82-85 decibels. The type of music and climate do affect the noise.

There are options available to address this i.e. limiting hours, type of music. With the cheel building gone, the direction of where the music is played from and there was also fabric shades in the original Plan Commission approvals which are gone now - these may have helped with the noise. Director LaFond did speak with Mr. Daily regarding getting these shades back.

Trustee Lange stated that this sounds like it needs to be looked into and that 85 decibels may be too high. Trustee Kucharski agreed. Director LaFond shared that 80 is an alarm clock, 70 is a vacuum, 60 is a dishwasher and 90 is power tools. Trustee Holyoke noted that any sound above 85 decibels has the potential to cause hearing damage.

President Mobley asked for the Noise Ordinance to be back again in front of the Board.

D. Discussion regarding Use of Village Park

Discussion was held regarding the use of Village Park for events. New garbage cans have been installed at the Park. Trustee Apostolos noted the cleanliness of the bathrooms. Director LaFond shared the DPW does maintain them 5-6 days per week in the summer. There is also a QR code in the bathrooms that can be used to report any issues.

E. Discussion regarding Historic Preservation Tax Credits Presentation, Tuesday, February 1, 2022 (Trustee Abraham)

Trustee Abraham noted that there will be a Historic Preservation Tax Credit presentation on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. This will be held in the Fire Department Training Room. Representatives from the Wisconsin Historical Society will discuss tax credits for homes and residences that are both in the district and properties that would qualify to be in the district.

XIV. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

XV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XVI. ANY OTHER MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS BY THE TRUSTEES AS MAY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD, OR CARRIED OVER FROM THE PREVIOUS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING.

Trustee Kucharski expressed concern regarding the fake emails that are sent as tests and should not be opened. Chief Kleppin agreed noting an employee may not open an important

email because it might not look legitimate. These test emails are from a program the County uses to ensure that no unsafe emails are opened. The Village does get IT and email services from the County - this is their program and their policy. All users are required to complete training.

A. Acceptance/Report Of Gifts Received

1. \$1,200 to the Village of Thiensville for Bench Donation in Memory of Marty Petersen, Diane M. Petersen
2. \$50.00 to the Thiensville Fire Department from Henry and Elizabeth Bjorkman
3. \$5,835 to the Thiensville Police Department for 3 AED Units from the Junior Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville
4. \$1,000 to the Village of Thiensville, Portable Public Address System Donation from the Junor Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville
5. \$1,000 to the Village of Thiensville, Portable Public Address System Donation from the Thiensville Business Association
6. \$100 to Village Park Reimagined in Memory of Donald Molyneux from Sheila Barber
7. \$2,892.91 to Viillage Park Reimagined from the Thiensville Business Association (Best Dam Blues Fest)
8. \$100 to the Thiensville Fire Department from Sally Lantinga

MOTION by Trustee Eckert, **SECONDED** by Trustee Apostolos to accept wtih Gratitude the following Gifts: \$1,200.00 to the Village of Thiensville for Bench Donation in Memory of Marty Petersen, Diane M. Petersen; \$50.00 to the Thiensville Fire Department from Henry and Elizabeth Bjorkman; \$5,835.00 to the Thiensville Police Department for 3 AED Units from the Junior Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville; \$1,000.00 to the Village of Thiensville, Portable Public Address System Donation from

the Thiensville Business Association; \$100.00 to Village Park Reimagined in Memory of Donald Molyneux from Sheila Barber; \$2,892.91 to Village Park Reimagined from the Thiensville Business Association (Best Dam Blues Fest) and \$100.00 to the Thiensville Fire Department from Sally Lantinga. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Trustee Holyoke, **SECONDED** by Trustee Abraham to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Submitted by,

Amy L. Langlois
Village Clerk/Deputy Treasurer