

**VILLAGE OF BIRON REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – November 14, 2022**

The November 14, 2022 Regular Village Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jon Evenson at the Biron Municipal Center. The meeting was properly posted according to Wisconsin State Statutes.

PRESENT: Jon Evenson, Tammy Steward, Jamie Biegel, Mark Honkomp, Mike Guillemot, Dan Muleski. Patty Gapen is excused. Also present: 12 guests

MINUTES: Motion Honkomp, second Muleski to approve minutes of the October 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as printed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Committee member Jamie Biegel reporting. All bills, non-lapsing accounts, and journal entries for the Village and utility departments are in order. Two invoices from a vendor were questioned. Chair Gapen will send a letter to the vendor requesting clarification. Motion Muleski, second Biegel to approve all bills, non-lapsing accounts, and journal entries for the Village and utility departments and to approve the Finance Committee report. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Samantha Daugherty reporting. Totals reported to the Finance Committee: Receipts for October: \$74,549.86 and Expenses: \$114,686.02. General checking account bills were paid on check #'s 24313-24395 with nine autopays to IRS, Deferred Comp and WRS for payroll deductions. A list of October bills paid from the General Fund was included for review. Village Non-Lapsing Fund \$1,076,502.81. Utilities Checking: \$401,517.22. Water Money Market \$324,929.89. Utility bills were paid on check #'s 4797-4809. Wastewater Non-Lapsing Fund: \$34,068.40. A list of all checks paid for Utilities was included for review. Motion Honkomp, second Steward to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

BIRON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief David Kerkman reporting. October training was with South Wood County fire departments on incident command procedures. Nineteen medical and one fire call were made in October. The Association's fundraiser held October 24 raised approximately \$7,000.00. A fire department open house was held at Biron Head Start for students and parents. Department members handed out candy at the park on S. Biron Drive. Tuesday blood pressure checks are on hold as the EMS Lieutenant is attending classes. Motion Muleski, second Honkomp to approve the Volunteer Fire Department report. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Mark Honkomp reporting. Motion Honkomp, second Steward to convene into Closed Session at 9:10 p.m., pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Topics for discussion: consider an employment offer; employee wages. Upon Roll Call vote: Evenson, yes; Biegel, yes; Guillemot, yes; Honkomp, yes; Muleski, yes; Steward, yes. Motion carried. Motion Muleski, second Guillemot to reconvene in Open Session at 9:30 p.m. Upon voice vote motion carried unanimously. Motion Muleski, second Honkomp to increase the monthly salaries for Village President from \$350 to \$500 and Village Treasurer from \$550 to \$600 effective when their term of office begins the third Tuesday in April 2023; and increase Trustee per diems \$15 across the board as follows: Regular & Special Board meeting \$65, Committee meeting \$55, Committee Chairperson \$60, Public Works Committee Chairperson \$65, Other meetings \$55. All trustees will be paid these per diem rates

beginning the third Tuesday of April 2023. Motion carried. Motion Evenson, second Muleski to approve the Personnel Committee report. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE, ORDINANCE & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Dan Muleski reporting. Motion Muleski, second Evenson to grant Michael J. Schrot an operator's license for Dollar General. Motion carried. Board of Appeals met October 12 and granted a variance for a driveway to abut the property line with an additional stipulation that the property east of this parcel does not need to place their driveway more than six feet from the adjoining property. Attorney Abts was asked to offer an opinion on the variance: *"Due to the substantive nature of the variance, the issue may be moot. There was no need to file a variance in the first place, there would appear to be no reason to go through any of the foregoing, as the ordinance could be voided and the issue left to be resolved between property owners if there is a question of an impact on the adjoining property."* A trustee asked if the variance was granted. President Evenson stated the Board of Appeals is the final authority. There has been damage to approximately 10-12 trees caused by beavers in the Gateway Park area. Jamie Czaikowski has offered at no cost to live trap and relocate the beavers. However, Biron has an ordinance allowing kill trap or live trap but not on Village-owned property. Motion Muleski, second Biegel to grant a one-time approval for removal/relocation of the beavers. Motion carried. Motion Muleski, second Guillemot to approve the Legislative, Ordinance and Zoning Committee report. Motion carried, with Honkomp abstaining.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Tammy Steward reporting. During an inspection of the lift station on S. Biron Drive it was found the pump needs replacing as soon as possible. Chairperson Steward approved an emergency purchase of \$25,000. A proposed contract with Waste Management for garbage and recycling collection was reviewed. Terms for a five year contract: \$16.20 per home, per month for approximately 400 households. Includes initial cart delivery (one 96 gallon cart for recycling and one cart for garbage for each household), with start date of January 1, 2023. Motion Steward, second Honkomp to approve the contract. Motion carried. These charges will not be added to residents' annual tax bill. A revised brush pick-up policy was reviewed. Motion Evenson, second Muleski to approve the brush pick-up policy. Motion carried. Steward reported on the cranberry breakfast. Attendance was down from previous years. Motion Muleski, second Honkomp to approve the Public Works Committee report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY, SAFETY & RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Mike Guillemot reporting. An individual purchased a memorial bench hoping to have it installed where another bench was. That bench was damaged by a storm and removed. CWPCo has denied installation of the memorial bench at this time. They're asking for a number of pre-conditions the Village should propose to CWPCo for approval before proceeding. The Committee will discuss this issue at a future meeting. The water heater at the municipal center needs replacing. Several quotes were received. President Evenson contacted Grainger and purchased a chimney vented, commercial, 50 gallon unit. A Village crew member picked up the unit at Appleton. When the plumber came to install it, he said it was not the correct unit; that we needed a direct vented unit. The plumber provided a quote for a new unit and installation. Motion Muleski, second Guillemot to approve purchase of a water heater from a local vendor of up to \$5,000. Motion carried. The grease trap in the kitchen area needs replacing. Guillemot stated he will contact Pelner-Williams for a quote. A request from Special Olympics WI was received to use the boat launch parking area for the 2023 Polar Plunge and for the Village to plow the parking lot. Steward will contact the crew regarding plowing. Jason Sachs proposed a small rental business on the Biron flowage in 2023. Paddle boards and a pontoon would be available for rent. He intends to rent a boat slip from the Village to store the pontoon but may also store it at his residence on occasion. Rentals will be by appointment only. Motion Honkomp, second Muleski to approve the Public Property Committee report. Motion carried.

WATER UTILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairperson Jamie Biegel reporting. A representative of the Wood County Health department wellness program spoke about community water fluoridation and its benefits. The optimal level of fluoride in water is 0.7 mg/L. Biron's level is 0.5 mg/L. Representatives

from Marshfield Dental Center, Aspirus, and the State Department of Health also spoke in favor of community water fluoridation. Motion by Biegel, second Evenson to continue the Village practice of water fluoridation with the understanding 0.7 mg/L is optimal. Motion carried. A DNR audit in August showed eleven deficiencies in the water utility. Water meters throughout the Village need replacing. Only forty-seven are on a remote water reading system and the balance (up to four hundred) need to be replaced with a remote reading meter. There is a safe drinking loan available that could be applied for to cover partial cost. Applications are due in June. Motion Honkomp, second Biegel to approve transfer of debt liability of the water revenue bond to the Village in the amount of \$91,200 payable in 2023. Motion carried. Motion Honkomp, second Guillemot to approve the Water Utility Committee report. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER COMMISSION REPORT: *Note: The Wastewater Treatment Plant is operated & staffed by the City of Wisconsin Rapids. One member of the Village of Biron Board of Trustees is an acting member of the Commission.* October Commission meeting minutes were not available for approval at this meeting. Motion Evenson, second Muleski to approve the Wastewater Commission report. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Nomination papers and candidate packets will be available at the November 30 Board meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Anne Arndt reporting. Turnout for the November 8 election was seventy-eight percent. The Department of Revenue approved the chargeback request. MSTC and WRPS have until February 15, 2023 to pay the Village those taxes collected. Motion Evenson, second Honkomp to approve the Clerk's report. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Motion Evenson, second Steward to pay an annual developer reimbursement payment of seventy-five percent of TID 3 increment of \$101,728.00; TID 1 increment of \$32,052.00; TID 2 increment \$53,777.00, totaling \$187,557.00. Ongoing project costs as of December 31, 2021 payable to Classic Development are \$11,427.79. Motion carried. Evenson reported budgets submitted by committee chairs have been approved as expenditures. Due to inflation and Village growth, an 8.9% levy increase is allowed by the Department of Revenue. The Village is owed approximately two million dollars by the TIDs. Before closing the TIDs those increment dollars will be reimbursed to the Village. Evenson will contact the auditors to review that process. The budget public hearing is November 30 at 6:00 p.m. Motion Muleski, second Guillemot to approve the President's report.

ADJOURN: Motion Honkomp, second Muleski to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Arndt, Clerk

Approved by Biron Board of Trustees

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Jon T. Evenson, President