



Village of Black Earth

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

1210 Mills St., Black Earth, WI 53515

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: Village President Terry Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Clerk called roll, present: Terry Moyer, James Coyle, Scott Patchin, Pam Louis-Reindl, Mitch Hodson. Absent: Tyler Munson. Sarah Morrow absent at time of roll but entered meeting later. Also present: Library Director Bailey Anderson, Vanguard Superintendent Kurt Meier, Clerk Dani Fields.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: *Recited.*
3. Proof of Posting: *Read Aloud*
4. Public Comment - Dennis Wood, 1808 East Street. Asked the Board if there are any plans to buy or build a community center. Discussion on available sites, sites no longer available that the Village should have purchased – elementary school, church. Discussion on budget limits, money available to make those purchases. Dennis asked about water meter rentals; Clerk Fields explained process of renting a water meter or contacting a plumber to have an additional meter installed.
Morrow enters meeting at 6:08pm.
5. Discussion/Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2024
Hodson/Coyle motion to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Presentation: 2023 Annual Library Report by Library Director Bailey Anderson
 - a. Bailey presented report. Spent 2023 focusing on community space. In-person programming nearly tripled from 2022. Nearly 100 more in-person programming dates offered than in 2022. Book discussion, toddler art, teen advisory board. Still getting views in pre-recorded sessions. Collection has remained steady. Working on creating a collection development plan. Putting the library in front of people as much as possible – use as a resource. Over 1000 registered users. Over 72k uses of public Wi-Fi.
7. Discussion/Action: Operator License Applications: Daren Helmenstine, Amanda Korsmo
Scott/Hodson motion to approve both licenses. Motion carried unanimously 5-0, Morrow abstained.
8. Discussion/Action: Village Office Hours
 - a. Moyer/Hodson motion to approve summer office hours from 8-5 Monday-Thursday and 8-12 Friday from Memorial Day-Labor Day. Motion carried 4-2, With Coyle and Patchin opposed.
9. Discussion/Action: Plan Commission recommendation Re: 917 Mills St, Hardcore Gymnastics Request for Conditional Use Permit, 2/20/24 Meeting
Louis-Reindl/Coyle approve per Plan Commission recommendation.
10. Discussion/Action: Increasing Number of Allowable Chickens Within Village Limits
 - a. Discussion on limit of allowable hens in the Village. Fields stated the increase from 4 to 6 chickens was requested by a resident.
Hodson/Morrow motion to increase the allowable limit from 4 to 6 chickens, still no roosters. Motion carried 5-1, Patchin opposed.
11. Discussion/Action: Invoices to be Paid
Hodson/Louis-Reindl motion to approve invoices as presented except for the Oak Hill invoice. Motion carried 5-1, Patchin opposed. Patchin stated that the full packet was not available for pickup at 1:00pm that day.
12. Reports:
 - a. Black Earth Fire District (Moyer) Scheduled 3/14.
 - b. Clerk/Treasurer & Financial Reports (Fields) Handicap accessible door openers to be installed next week. New computers getting ordered and installation scheduled soon. Installation and training with new invoice software scheduled.
 - c. Dane-Iowa Wastewater Commission (Coyle) Met 2/15. Approved \$100k to go into a CD for 6 month intervals. Approved monthly stipend for Dane-Iowa employees until new person gets trained. New person doing well. Next meeting 3/21.
 - d. Economic Development Committee (Louis-Reindl) Didn't meet – scheduling conflicts. Working with Groundswell on date to meet.
 - e. Emergency Management (Munson) Scheduled 3/19.

- f. EMS Committee (Louis-Reindl) Scheduled 3/21.
 - g. Gateway to the Driftless (Munson) Absent
 - h. Library Board (Morrow) Deferred to Bailey
 - i. Library Director Report (Anderson) last met Feb 20. Fundraising feasibility study underway. Survey prepared, interviews with community members scheduled. Working on an amendment with contract with FEH to allow affordable housing development drawing. Annual report approved by library board. Working with District One EMS for training on overdose kit for staff. Working with school district to do a joint solar eclipse viewing party. Working with children's museum for an investing and financial literacy program. Wisconsin association for public libraries conference. May Stevens Point, able to consolidate all conference commitments into one day instead of having to drive multiple days. Spring break programming planning.
 - j. President's Report (Moyer) Attended league training on 15th. TIF session, Ehlers presentation.
 - k. Public Works Committee (Patchin)
 - l. Public Works Director Report (Kahl) Fields read report prepared by PWD Kahl.
 - m. Parks Committee (Hodson) Scheduled 3/25.
 - n. Police Committee (Morrow) Scheduled 3/13
 - o. Vanguard Commission (Patchin) Introduced Kurt Meier, newly promoted to Vanguard Superintendent.
 - p. Electrical Superintendent Report (Meier) Tree trimming, finishing up meter testing. Able to find a tower needed to build the substation from Alliant in Platteville, got it back from sandblasting and painting. Looking at another piece, heavily discounted. Looking into hiring another lineman soon.
- 13.** Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Cell Tower Lease/Purchase Negotiations; Police Services Contract) (Roll call vote)
Scott/Morrow motion to enter closed session. Notice was read aloud. Unanimous. Entered into closed session at 6:57pm.
- 14.** Motion to arise from Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session
Morrow/ Hodson to arise from closed session. Carried Unanimously. Arose from closed session at 7:11pm.
- 15.** Discussion/Action on Closed Session items
- a. Moyer will sign paperwork with Octagon to continue with purchase.
- 16.** Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 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. (Employee Compensation)
Moyer/Louis-Reindl motion to enter into closed session. Moyer read the notice aloud. Motion carried unanimously. Entered into closed session at 7:12pm and Fields exited the meeting room. Moyer recorded minutes for rest of meeting.
- 17.** Motion to arise from Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session
Patchin/Louis-Reindl motion to arise from closed session. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18.** Discussion/Action on Closed Session items
- a. None
- 19.** Any other business that may be brought before the board on future agendas
- a. None
- 20.** Setting of the Next Village Board Meeting: April 9, 2024
- 21.** Adjournment
Patchin/Louis-Reindl motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.