

Committee of the Whole
April 28, 2025
MINUTES
6:00pm

Board present: Steve Buss, Claudia Simpson, Christin Keeffer, Brooke Baldauf, Dean Rood, Brandon Smith, Cathy Stevens, Nicole Callos. Not present: Brian Peight. Also present: Brian Nott, Lindsay Buss, Robin Walton

Call to Order

1) The Committee of the Whole meeting of April 28, 2025 was called to order by President Buss at 6:00pm.

Public Participation

2) There was no public participation at this time.

Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2025

3) On a motion by Keeffer second by Smith to approve the meeting minutes from March 24, 2025. ALL AYE.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2025

4) On a motion by Keeffer second by Rood approving the special meeting minutes from March 24, 2025. ALL AYE.

Recognition of Cathy Stevens for Her Service

5) Buss presented Cathy Stevens with a plaque of appreciation for her 12 years of service on the Board as Village Trustee.

Discuss CD Rates

6) The Board reviewed current CD Rates from local banks. Callos advised renewing all existing CDs.

Discuss CPI Water/Sewer Rate Increase

7) The Board reviewed budgets for water work to be done. Smith explained per ordinance the Village raises water bills 1-5% a year. At the recommended 5% per inflation and water/sewer work to be done within the Village, the minimum bill would increase approximately \$3 per resident. New CPI rates are to be approved in May.

Discuss Increasing Available Grant Money

8) The Board approved all grants last month with a \$5,000 cap. The F4 Fighter Jet was more of a one-time grant with the work mostly being done. The Historical Society was a first time applicant and is expected to apply in the future. LASER will be holding the Taste of Lena at Coach's. Discussion was held over personal businesses holding their own fundraisers vs having a town based event and qualifying for grants from the Village. Stevens said that as things get more expensive more money may be requested from individual entities, and raising the available grant money would be beneficial. It was mentioned to raise the maximum per organization to \$2,000 rather than \$1,000, and the total to \$6,000 from \$5,000. This will be discussed further at the upcoming committee of the whole meeting.

Discuss The Cemetery Board

10) Buss stated the following updates for the Cemetery Board: They will be going from 5 to 3 members. Irv Clause and Fritz Werhane will renew their term and Robin Walton will be joining as Treasurer. Wayne Kurth as sexton. Troy Esling as groundskeeper. A referendum for the Cemetery will need to be put in place to generate revenue accordingly in 2026.

Adjournment

11) On a motion by Stevens second by Keeffer to adjourn the April 28, 2025 Meeting at 6:30pm. ALL AYE.

Submitted by Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk