VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2024

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – President Steve Menzel called the Park Ridge Village Board to order at 5:33 pm. The Village Board meeting was held in person at the Village Hall. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by members present, a roll call was taken. Trustees Gordon Renfert, Dan Holloway, Barb Friedrich and President Menzel were in attendance; Clerk Katie McKelvey, resident Shawn Paulson, as well as Meg Erler, Chris Nyman, Cory Hirsbrunner & Tom Owens from the Stevens Point School District were also in attendance. Trustee Kristin Paulson & Resident Thom Patton attended via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEM #1 - APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY AGENDA – Menzel asked the Board members if there were any changes regarding the February agenda. Friedrich made a motion to approve, with no changes. Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - The public comment section was opened to anyone who wished to speak on any agenda item. No comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - The public comment section was opened to anyone who wished to speak on any non-agenda item. No comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – REVIEW & APPROVE CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17,2024 – Friedrich made a motion to approve the minutes. Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – REVIEW & APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2024 – After minor changes, Friedrich made a motion to approve the minutes. Paulson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – REVIEW AND ACCEPT JANUARY'S TREASURER'S REPORT – Friedrich made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded by Paulson. Roll call was taken, Friedrich – yes, Paulson – yes, Menzel – yes.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – REVIEW AND APPROVE JANUARY & FEBRUARY BILLS/PAYMENTS – Friedrich made the motion to approve the payment of the bills. Seconded by Menzel. Roll call was taken, Friedrich – yes, Paulson – yes, Menzel – yes.

DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

AGENDA ITEM #8 – STEVENS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT CORY HIRSBRUNNER – Superintendent Cory Hirsbrunner explained that a referendum is necessary because there is inadequate state funding; Increases have been frozen at $0 per student for the last 6 years; The last referendum in 2018 was used for deferred maintenance projects as well as staff salaries, safety & security, and student resources. The school district was not able to access the full effect of the funding due to losing students during COVID. The loss was approximately $10,000 per student for 222 students. Prior to deciding on a referendum, the school district started making cuts internally (teaching positions, programs/courses, extracurricular programs, etc.)

This referendum would be used for retaining high quality teachers & staff, maintaining our academic programs, maintaining technology & infrastructure, addressing mental health & behavior support. It's a $14 million-dollar recurring referendum for operational expenses phased over two (2) years. The first year will be $8.75 million dollars ask and the second year will be a $5.2 million dollar ask.

If the referendum does not pass, there is a likely chance that there will be increased class sizes, reduced sections in elementary schools, increased time on bus routes, and cut programs.

School Board member, Meg Erler spoke about "Vote Yes", urging voters to vote yes for the referendum. There are yard signs available for anyone who wishes to post them in their yard.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – FUNDING SOURCES FOR WATER MAINS/HYDRANTS – President Menzel is looking into a grant from Rural Development for the water mains. President Menzel has communicated with Julie Lassa for direction on more funding options. The DOT grants do not include or cover the water mains/hydrants.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVES – $5,892.66 is currently in the 'Fire Department Reserves' account, and $6,952.65 is currently in the 'FD Fundraising/Donation Reserve' account. Out of this total of $12,845.31, it was decided that $1,500.00 will go to the 'Santa Visit Reserve' account and the remaining amount of $11,345.31 will go into the 'Disaster Reserve' account. Paulson moved to approve the changes mentioned above. Motion seconded by Menzel. Roll call was taken, Renfert – yes, Paulson – yes, Holloway – yes, Friedrich – yes, Menzel – yes.

AGENDA ITEM #11 – VILLAGE HALL LOCK SYSTEM – Mid-State Lock provided two quotes (one with a pin pad and one with a regular key). It was decided that we will go with a regular key lock with multiple keys for those who need access. President Menzel moved to approve no more than $1,500 to be used to fund the updates to the lock system. Friedrich seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, Paulson – yes, Holloway – yes, Friedrich – yes, Renfert – yes, Menzel – yes.

AGENDA ITEM #18 – SET DATE FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, March 18, 2024, at 5:30pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

KATIE MCKELVEY
VILLAGE CLERK

STEVE MENZEL
VILLAGE PRESIDENT