

Village of North Freedom
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Call Meeting to Order: Interim Village President Michael Carignan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Interim Village President Michael Carignan, Clerk/Treasurer (C/T) Nicki Breunig, Librarian (LD) Raina Roloff, Trustee Daniel Anstett, Trustee Rick Hehenberger, Trustee Darrell Weiland, Trustee Mike Weiland, and Trustee Carissa Zweck present in person.

Trustee Hayden Breunig attending virtually.

Director of Public Works (DPW) Brad Corrao excused.

Others Present: Residents: Kim Kaney, Jeffrey Dodge, Dennis Anstett, Al Doering, Tracy Weiland, Lisa Weiland, Mariah Way, John Heinen, and Dave Emery; Non-Residents: Austin Hinze present in person & Andy Zimmer, MSA attending virtually.

Notice of Meeting Certification: C/T Breunig certified compliance of the posting requirements under the Open Meetings Statutes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Adoption of Agenda: Motion to approve presented Minutes and Adopt Agenda as presented Anstett/D.Weiland. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment: Resident David Emery gave thanks to Village Board for continued support of fireworks event they have organized the past years. Did state that he would like to change the launch location to down in the Southeast corner of park – less congestion and not directly when people come into the park. Will be discussed in June. Nothing else presented.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Director of Public Works Report: Board given written report. No questions presented.

Librarian's Report: Due to the cuts in funding trickling down from the Federal Government, the Library is potentially looking at a loss of \$500.00 in monies they would receive yearly specifically for the Summer Reading Program. Now Wisconsin has joined a lawsuit suing the Federal Government for the cuts in funding but no idea on the turnaround time is on that. Library Board has been working on updating the handbooks, policies, bylaws, etc. There is the community survey still going on asking the public for input on Library services, etc. And the Annual Egg Hunt is 4/19/2025!

Fire Chief Report: Board given written report. C/T touched on the AED that was donated by the NFFD Volunteers Group. It is in the Office. It will be installed by the restrooms. There will be a little "flag" of some sort to signal that there is an AED in that area. Working with DPW on time to install it and there will be a plaque of some sort that will say donated by NFFD Volunteers for recognition. No other questions presented.

President's Report: Gave thanks and goodbyes to those who served – Rick Hehenberger & Daniel Anstett. Welcome to Al & Dennis whose terms start 4/15/25.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Board given written report. No questions presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Service Agreement Final Design 1B Sewer

Pipe – PF Bridge, Andy Zimmer – MSA: MSA brought back an amendment to original service agreement. Andy Zimmer touched on 3 important points of project. Will need a geotechnical “investigation” completed. Cost could be approximately \$3,500.00 – eligible for reimbursement through Clean Water Fund (CWF). Does Village want it to come back to the Board for approval of vendor or let MSA have say? This is a floodplain/wetland area, the DNR may require “delineation” but may get a utility extension. MSA will prepare the easement legal descriptions but it will be the responsibility of the Village to work with legal counsel on document prep, obtaining signatures, and filing of such easements. Trustee Anstett motioned that it would be his recommendation to have the geotechnical survey bid results brought to the Village Board for review/approval – seconded by M.Weiland. Motion carried 7-0. After the motion, C/T noted that all amendments in the service agreement MSA presented should either be approved or denied. Motion to amend 1st motion to add in approval of all amendments and have the geotechnical survey bid results brought back to the full Board to award bid Anstett/M.Weiland. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – John & Sandy Anstett New Building Plans for Garage on Parcel with House (161-0195-00000): Board reviewed building plans and zoning setbacks/requirements. Motion to approve Hehenberger/D.Weiland. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Hinze Property Improvement Update: Revisit with Hinze family on progress made on fixing up the house to avoid a raze order. Austin Hinze present as family member and as lead construction contact for this project. Working on it in between other jobs he has going on. Started roofing it – all new plywood laid down on roof. Is not going to change the structure of the roof – does not need a building permit then. Has materials to start siding. Waiting for weather to be better. Did skimcoat basement. Looking at hopefully completion by November this year. Revisit in July 2025 for status update.

4. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – BABA Agreement – Year 2025: Noted a few changes. Concession stand is operating/has power. Scoring stand is being worked on. Have Packers grant to get it operational/safe. Will give BABA representatives keys for it so that they can access power to run the scoreboard. If key not returned, \$25.00/key payable to the Village. DPW will drag field during regular operating hours due to the use of Village owned equipment. Trustee Hehenberger did question if it would be allowed if he could use his own equipment down in the park to roll field to keep it looking nice. His equipment is an “off-road” vehicle (UTV) and Trustee Breunig noted that the Board may need to give him “special permission” as UTVs are not allowed down in park per Ordinances. Will be discussed at May meeting. Trustee Anstett questioned that there have been no fees – any concerns on that? Nothing noted. Trustee D.Weiland questioned if they would do a tournament or game during Freedom Days. It is being worked on. Can’t get a straight answer. Hopefully will have one by the end of the week. Motion to approve Zweck/Hehenberger. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Fireworks Permit, Mariah Way for May 3, 2025 or May 4, 2025: Motion to approve Hehenberger/Zweck. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Appointment of Members to Village Zoning Board of Appeals Board: Secret Ballot appointed David Emery & Jeffrey Dodge to Zoning Appeals Board. That Board will need to meet soon to hear the appeal application filed by Lisa Weiland.

7. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Friends of Village of North Freedom Group: There is an interest in the Community to create a "Friends Group" for the Village. They would handle the planning of community events and would be able to hold a picnic license and raffle license. The Village, itself, cannot hold such licenses. There would be startup costs involved, i.e. new corporation filing fees, 501(c)3 status, etc. and it could cost up to \$635.00 initially. Al Doering said that he would donate the startup funds to the group. We just need a group to form. One person, Dawn Carignan, stated she would be interested in serving on that Board. Motion to move ahead with canvassing for people and creation of such group Hehenberger/D.Weiland. Motion carried 7-0.

8. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Expenses for Freedom Days: Board budgeted funds for celebrations and entertainment for Village events in the 2025 budget. Approximately \$3,240.00 left after the donation of portapotties for the egg hunt and Freedom Days. The Village also has historically given a donation to Emery Family for the fireworks. Expenses right now are posters that need to be printed. Musical entertainment. We are also receiving money for any market vendors wanting to participate. Soliciting for silent auction donations. Revenue will be generated from that. Motion to release the funds M.Weiland/Hehenberger. Roll call vote: Anstett, Breunig, Hehenberger, D.Weiland, M.Weiland, Zweck, Carignan – all "Ayes". Motion carried 7-0.

9. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Resolution 2025-003 – Forgive Water Tax Equivalent (Originally Dated 2006): Motion to approve Hehenberger/Anstett. Roll call vote: Breunig, Hehenberger, D.Weiland, M.Weiland, Zweck, Anstett, Carignan – all "Ayes". Motion carried 7-0.

10. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Amendment to Village Ordinance 16.9.9: Motion to change fee to \$350.00 Hehenberger/Anstett. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Southern Half of Sidewalk @ Oak-Hill Cemetery/Potuznik: This was brought up again as when the sidewalks were inventoried for replacement this year the Southern portion of the sidewalk after the crosswalk on N Maple Street from the cemetery to Potuznik's driveway by the school, there are approximately 25-30 slabs in need of replacement in just this section. Where the sidewalk ends, "dead-ends" and there is no perceived "safe" spot to cross the street to the other side. Wondering about liability of that. Does it need to be discontinued? Concerns on "setting a precedence" if the Village removes the sidewalk and will other residents want to just remove their sidewalks instead of repairing them. Much discussion on this. Trustee D.Weiland noted that he has been in discussions with possibly Kwik Trip on having a gas station developed on the corner of County Highway I

and Highway 136. Much would need to be done to have that happen for the Village to see any revenue. That land is not a part of Village limits currently – would have to go through annexation process and Kwik Trip had mentioned that they would want the land “donated” to them. Nothing can be done on that currently but keeping the sidewalk in that portion would help for future development to the North. Also was mentioned on Southern end of town going South on PF – sidewalk only on one side, but what of the future/developments? That stretch would also be potentially looking at curb and gutter to help with the storm water drainage problems as there are other sections in the Village that should be reviewed as well. Per Ordinances, it is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain sidewalks. Main concern is safety, especially with it in the proximity to the Elementary School and setting any precedence. Motion to postpone to the May meeting and temporarily hold on any repairs M.Weiland/D.Weiland. After the motion, added in to have an inventory/map of other similar situations in the Village and to advise attorney. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Park Scoring Stand Re-Build with Packers Grant & if needed - Portion of Park Operating Budget: C/T reached out to other contractors – No responses received. Plans were drawn by Trustee Hehenberger that it would be placed on existing concrete slab and save some of the existing things. Trustee D.Weiland mentioned that he would talk to Sauk County Fair Board as they have an old announcer stand that they discontinued use of. Would have to be moved. Maybe they would be willing to donate or sell it to the Village for the scoring stand replacement. With Packer Grant, there really isn’t a time constraint or anything like that to worry about. Trustee M.Weiland questioned status of Vibrant Spaces Grant – C/T has not heard, hopefully soon. Was going to reach out. Consensus of Board to continuation to postpone to next month’s meeting.

3. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Park Easement with Methodist Church/Straubhaar to Access Upper Portion: C/T sent information to Straubhaar, no response yet. Consensus of Board to continuation to postpone to next month’s meeting.

4. Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Celebration for Vodak Park Trellis & Freedom Days Celebration/Village Events: Nothing to report for Vodak Park. Hoping for something for next meeting. Initial planning was hoping to have something Memorial Day weekend. Final ads are getting on the poster and hopefully sent out by May 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance*Personnel*Insurance: OK – Anstett.

Law*Ordinance*Cable Regulations: OK – Breunig.

- * **Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Parking Ticket Update:** Consensus from Village Attorney that this may be a larger issue at hand of having the staff/resources available to enforce parking tickets, but shouldn’t be an issue to keep writing tickets. Village can still call Sheriff’s Department to have them enforce parking. It was also advised that the Village adopt an ordinance adopting the County parking regulations.

- * **Discuss/Update/Possible Action – Any Ordinance Violations Presented to Full Board:** Chairman Breunig presented pictures of: 1) the driveways at the

cemetery are over the sidewalk area and it is blacktopped over. Should that be concrete? As sidewalks come due address any other driveways that are blacktopped over the 2) possibly needing to have the storm sewer inlet on N Maple Street looked at as it is appeared to be "caved in". Will be looked into. 3) picture of a tree with overhang over sidewalk impeding public right of way at 104 Pleasant Street.

Motion to send letter for tree at 104 Pleasant Street Anstett/Breunig.

Motion carried 7-0.

Water*Sewer*Lagoon: OK – Zweck.

Streets*Sidewalks: Chairman D.Weiland noted a couple things. 1) there is a bracket for the Holiday Lights that is loose/dangling in the vicinity of 206 E Walnut Street. Should be secured. 2) Wondering who is responsible for cleaning out the culverts on S Maple Street. C/T did not know. Will contact the County Highway Department to be sure. And question was presented by Trustee M.Weiland on the Great Sauk State Trail (GSST) and sidewalk replacements in that vicinity. Truly GSST is really on the "backburner". Preliminary plans have it all in the road right-of-way. No acquisition of properties will be done. We have not heard any other updates. In C/T opinion, the Village needs to proceed as of what is going on currently and the current 4-year plan of sidewalk replacements with no intention of discussing any potential refunds, etc. if GSST comes through. Should have been done regardless. OK – D.Weiland.

Building Maintenance*Rental Property*Planning/Zoning: Chairman M.Weiland questioned a couple things. 1) status of old brown tables that were potentially damaged while DPW moving them around in the Brown Shed. C/T stated that she needs to go out to the Brown Shed and get a revised inventory to bring back to the Board to re-discuss options of what to do with the tables. 2) wondering about dents in Brown Shed bay doors. Many had thought that they were there before, but not for sure. OK – M.Weiland.

Parks*Refuse/Recycling: OK – Hehenberger.

Approval of April Expenses, Receipts, & Expenditures: Motion to approve D.Weiland/Anstett. Motion carried 7-0.

All Other Matters Which Legally May Come Before the Board: Nothing presented.

Adjournment: Interim Village President Carignan adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.