Village of New Berlin

Minutes of April 18, 2023

**The Special Meeting of April 18, 2023 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor, Peter Lennon.**

**Roll Call**

**Crawford: yes**

**Canuel: yes**

**Smith: yes**

**Potter: yes**

**Lennon: yes**

Attendance: Peter Lennon, Dave Smith, Maryellen Canuel, Jim Crawford, Rich Potter, Kelly Anderson, Joann Smith, Luke Halberg, Thaddeus Karaman, Brian Burton, Jamie Reynolds, Denise White, Emily Boss, Michelle Priola, Renee Priola.

Joann Smith presented an insurance package to the Village board to provide coverage for the Village owned fire department and EMS department. The total cost for the year would be $11,797.54, with Utica National as the Insurance Carrier. At the regular board meeting on April 11th the Village board entertained a presentation by Chris Slonaker with NBT Insurance who offered the board a continuation of coverage through VFIS for the Fire and EMS Departments for a total cost for the year of $13,496. Both premiums would be eligible for further reductions pending the sale of the old firehouse.

Thaddeus Karaman, Brian Burton, and Jamie Reynold were in attendance and made a presentation to the board and entertained questions from the board on behalf of NBT Bank. NBT Bank has been the official depository for the Village for more than 20 years. Luke Halberg, Denise White, and Emily Boss were in attendance and made a presentation on behalf of Community Bank. Community Bank is interested in the Village becoming one of their municipal clients by offering a competitive package to the village to become the official depository of the village.

Maryellen Canuel made the motion to shift the insurance package for the Fire and EMS departments to Gates Cole. Jim Crawford seconded the motion. VOTE: Crawford: yes, Canuel: yes, Potter: yes, Smith: abstained from voting, Lennon: yes.

Jim Crawford made the motion to stay with NBT Bank as the official depository of the Village. Rich Potter seconded the motion. VOTE: Crawford: yes, Canuel: yes, Potter: yes, Smith: yes, Lennon: yes.

The board discussed the removal of 4 trees in the cemetery. A quote was obtained from Harrington tree service in the amount of $2,800. This reduced price is available now with cost savings available as they were awarded the bid for removal of the large tree in Hyde Park. There are money savings available to have all trees removed at the same time as the crane will already be in the Village for the tree in the park. Maryellen Canuel made the motion to approve the tree bid removal for the 4 trees at a rate of $2,800. Dave Smith seconded the motion. VOTE: Crawford: yes, Canuel: yes, Potter: yes, Smith: yes, Lennon: yes.

The Village board discussed the painting of the library. Previously the Village Board had awarded the job of painting to paint the Village Hall and Library for an amount up to and including $37,500. After one day of scaping paint, the painters sent a text message to Maryellen that the job was cost prohibitive and resigned, subsequently, the library sent a cease-and-desist letter along with a FOIL request as proper precautions were not being taken during the scrapping process to account for the lead paint. The building was tested for lead paint by the DPW approximately four years ago and tested positive. The library board was concerned about the liability for the library and the safety of their patrons and employees.

Maryellen is currently working with the painters to supply the requested documentation to meet the FOIL request as the documents were not turned in by the painters prior to starting scrapping. The library has requested maintenance of the air conditioning units on the side of the building that were scrapped as they were not covered and could expose the library to potential lead dust. Maryellen will be working on fulfilling their request and work directly with the library board on finding an adequate replacement at an affordable price for the painting. The board also discussed the feasibility of having the building sided but feel that it is cost prohibitive at this time.

Maryellen Canuel made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Crawford seconded the motion. VOTE: Crawford: yes, Canuel: yes, Potter: yes, Smith: yes, Lennon: yes.

Adjourned at 8:45 PM - Kelly Anderson, Village Clerk and Treasurer