

**Village of Herscher Board Meeting
February 7, 2022, 7:00P.M.**

Village President Shannon Sweeney called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following Trustees were present: John Branz, Bob Voss, Jacob Wagner, Mike Bruner, and Andy Cotter. Also, Village Clerk Heather Meredith, Police Chief Chad Scanlon, Public Works Employee Keith Witheft, Andy King from The Herscher Pilot, and Attorney Chris Bohlen.

Bob Voss moved to approve the Regular minutes of January 18, 2022; John Branz seconded. Motion carried. 4-0-2. (Andy and Mike abstained.)

STREETS:

Bob Voss reported that snow removal went well.

FINANCE:

John Branz presented the Accounts Payable Report totaling \$33,390.37 to the Board for payment. John Branz moved to accept the accounts payable as presented. Bob Voss seconded. Roll call taken Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Skip Grigas-absent, John Branz-aye, Jacob Wagner-aye, and Bob Voss-aye. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Payroll presented totaled \$20,762.43. John Branz moved to accept payroll as presented, Bob Voss seconded. Roll call taken Jacob Wagner-aye, Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Bob Voss-aye, Skip Grigas-absent, and John Branz-aye. All in favor; motion carried.

John Branz added:

- Bills for the next meeting on February 22nd will be cut off on the 17th due to Heather's vacation and John will be gone Friday the 18th.
- Regular Sales Tax is in from November in the amount of \$28,558.22
- The 1% Non-Home Rule Sales Tax is in from November in the amount of \$11,383.89
- The Treasurer's Report for January 2022, the total in all accounts is \$1,879,908.53.
- Administration Budget Meeting February 15th at 6pm.

PARKS:

Andy Cotter plans on getting an ad ready for next week's paper for a seasonal parks employee that could potentially become full time public works.

President Sweeney and Andy Cotter gave an update on a walking trail along Horse Creek from Lions Park to Village Park. They received an estimated cost value of \$145,000. That estimate consists of an almost 2-mile-long path that is 8 foot wide made with crushed limestone on top of landscaping fabric. Discussion about applying for grants to help with funding. Andy explained that he plans on doing this in stages not all at once.

WATER AND SEWER:

Mike Bruner moved to proceed with the Water Main Replacement on North Oak Street. Jacob Wagner seconded. Roll call taken Jacob Wagner-aye, Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Bob Voss-aye, Skip Grigas-absent, and John Branz-aye. All in favor; motion carried.

Mike talked about his future plans for the next few years projects. We will probably need to look at replacing a generator at the water plant in addition to water main replacements. Mike asked Keith to get some figures for a new generator.

ORDINANCE:

Jacob Wagner moved to approve the Updates to Ordinance #5-1-9 Delinquent accounts. John Branz seconded. All in favor motion carried.

Jacob added:

- The owner of empty lot on the corner of Main Street and Walnut Street would like to build a house but will need variances. He doesn't want to spend money on plans if the plans will be denied. The board didn't see any issue with the idea, but the property owner will need to have some basic plans ready to be able to go in front of the Planning and Zoning Board.
- We have begun the process of switching computer IT from Dura Tech to Advanced Computer Specialist. Everything will be completed once they receive the new firewall.
- The internet has been updated after 16 years.
- Once everything is updated, we will have a guest Wi-Fi
- The new website is close to being ready and plans to go live after Heather Meredith returns from vacation.
- Will hand out a proposed updated permit fee schedule at the next meeting
- Will be getting another search warrant for the abandoned property on N Oak Street
- Zoning Book needs a few items added to it then we can print and post on the website

After a lengthy discussion on mandated sidewalks, it was decided we need to have a committee meeting to come up with a plan.

POLICE:

Chief Scanlon informed the Board that the new Tahoe is built we are just waiting for it to be transferred here. Once it arrives it takes about a month before it will be in service. We will trade in the white Tahoe. He said that he also received a quote from G-Tech for body cameras.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

Mileage reimbursement rate update we have been paying .55 cents per mile. The rates have changed a couple times to 57.5 per mile in 2020 then to 56 cents per mile in 2021 and now is 58.5 cents per mile. John Branz moved to change mileage reimbursement to \$.59 cents per mile, Andy Cotter seconded. Roll call taken Jacob Wagner-aye, Mike Bruner-aye, Andy Cotter-aye, Bob Voss-aye, Skip Grigas-absent, and John Branz-aye. All in favor; motion carried.

Village President Sweeney said that we held 4 interviews for Deputy/Water Clerk position. We have offered the job to one of the candidates. If she declines the offer, we will go down the line. We will approve hire at the next meeting.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Andy King asked a question about snow removal from sidewalks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

John Branz made a motion to enter Executive Session (8:07pm) to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village of Herscher

and Potential Litigations. Bob Voss seconded. Roll call taken Skip Grigas-absent, Andy Cotter-aye, Mike Bruner-aye, John Branz-aye, Bob Voss-aye, and Jacob Wagner-aye. All in favor; motion carried.

Mike Bruner motioned to exit Executive Session at (8:13) pm. John Branz seconded. All in favor motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Voss. Seconded by John Branz. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Meredith, Village Clerk