

VILLAGE OF NEW AUBURN

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19.84 Wisconsin Statutes:

Village Board Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The Village of New Auburn Village Board will be met for a Special Board Meeting at the New Auburn Village Hall, 130 E. Elm St., New Auburn, WI 54757.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** At 6:00 p.m. Village President (VP) Shannon Berg called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll Call.** Trustees in attendance were Gary Pitts, Paul Blodgett, Brad Lotts, and Allan Anderson. Staff in attendance were Chippewa County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Sergeant (Sgt) Andrew Clark, Treasurer – Deputy Clerk (VTDC) Teresa Dachel, and Administrator – Clerk – Deputy Treasurer (ACDT) Bradley Hanson. Public in attendance were John Halberg, Barry Hoff, Scott Connelly, Jon Pederson, Lana Sanchez, Rogelio Sanchez, Leonard Boehm, Roxanne Gravunder, Cindy Larson, Chris Marek, and Ashley Sarauer.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** ACDT Hanson advised the Board to help the meeting move smoother to hold Public Comments with those that are for anything not on the agenda, then a comments regarding the Central Dump Site (CDS) and Curbside Collection be taken during the public comments and at no other time, and finally for those that have comments for things on the agenda not concerning garbage to wait and address the Board at that time.

Halberg addressed the Board concerning transparency & communications, lost services, drinkable water, petition concerns, budget vs actual, assumptions, state statutes, services not rendered. He continued with Boehm's additional three minutes to address dump excuses and reasons, and staff could be replaced by volunteers and community service individuals. Nauburn Coffee Connelly requested assistance for Economic Development purposes with asphalt repaving due to conditions with after construction work. Gravunder provided a map of the Village with banned roads for garbage truck concerns. Sanchez questioned the Board on repeated agenda items after they have already been discussed and to follow their rules of order.
- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**
 1. Historical information. VCDT Hanson provided the Board with review of current staff experience, provided information on the dump history, time spent with questions from residents on multiple occasions, and closing of the dump was in five newsletters. He continued that unfortunately not everything shared from Village staff to residents were communicated accurately or at all with other residents. No action.
 2. Data review of Petition signatures. A copy of the petitions were included with the Board Meeting Packet and also available for attendees. We believe that the information provided to residents for signatures was not accurate. ACDT Hanson advised he had the opportunity to discuss with a few of the petition signors and discovered that the petitioners were passionate when speaking about signing the petition and may have influenced them signing, only negatives were shared, disproportionate property taxes – not a flat rate for everyone, some already have curbside, many businesses and landlords are using the

service. In a review of the petition the comment “No Choice for carrier” has nothing to do with closing the dump, one carrier can get Village residents a better group rate. “Carrier will raise rates yearly” – yes, that is a given, everything goes up, no different than gas and groceries. Possible loss of \$24,000 already figured into property tax) - This was not the amount that was provided to the petitioners. There would be no loss on property tax, because the Village would be required to return that back to residents based on the 2013 costs of approximately \$20,000. “Possible garbage piles” this is already occurring throughout the Village; “If cannot afford / residents may dump garbage wherever” – this is why we are not proposing everyone seeking out their own hauler. Again, this decision will be based on what the Board decided tonight or in the future. Possibly accurate, but it depends on the Board’s actions: “Monthly fee will be added to your water bill”, “Your current carrier could be taken away (if Board decides City-wide contracted carrier)”, and “If you keep your current carrier, you may be required to pay carrier and village charge on water bill. No action.

3. Centralized Dump Service (CDS) data, other information related to Curbside Collection, and preliminary options ACDT Hanson provided additional data focused on historical and recent events leading up to the Board’s previous decision and the reasoning behind that included: debated for more than 10 years, believe staff needs to collect additional data including when was the property taxes increased and how much, and review studies on the benefits of the current structure and curbside. Preliminary options were reviewed with their potential benefits and negatives that included:
- *Option One: Keep the garbage/recycling facility open with NO mandatory curbside.*
 - *Option Two: Keep the garbage/recycling facility open AND have one preferred curbside provider*
 - *Option Three: Go curbside with no preferred provider, close garbage/recycling facility, no fee charged.*
 - *Option Four: Go curbside with one provider, close the garbage/recycling facility, add fee to utility bill.*

Finally, why only \$20,000 and not \$40,000, state law stipulates the amount would be based on the 2013 expenditures when the state statute was passed and the Village Attorney already presented that information at a previous meeting and in the past savings paid for the deficit, which today there is very little, whether this was actually decided by the Board or staff is unknown. The recommended savings a community should have no less than three months to a year, we do not have the recommended minimum – preferred is six months. No action.

4. Reconsideration of Waste Management Curbside Collection agreement and fuel surcharge, and/or Centralized Dump Service clarification. ACDT Hanson requested the Board to reconsider the previous passage of Curbside Collection award based on all of the aforementioned information. Motion by Anderson and seconded by Blodgett. Motion carried.
5. Staff direction to research and analyze garbage and recycling options. Motion by Pitts and seconded by Lotts to approve staff’s research for a future Board discussion in 2025. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

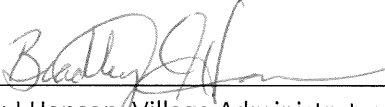
1. Approve driveway permit for ~~133~~ 113 E Main St. Motion by Lotts and seconded by Pitts to approve. Motion carried.
2. Recess into Closed Session per WI Statute §19.85(1)(g) for the following purposes: “Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.” To wit: nuisance abatement properties for 146 W Dell St, 112 E North St, 116 E North St, 518 S East St, 536 S East St, and 215 W Main St. Hoff addressed the Board with information concerning his property with

his sons as tenants at 146 W Dell St. He raised concerns with Chapter 12 and 22 of the Village Municipal Code as well as communication from the Building Inspector (BI) in relations to the timing, and has submitted multiple open records requests with the Village and County. At 6:48 p.m. motion by Pitts and seconded by Lotts to approve. Motion carried. Lotts left the Closed Session at 7:01 p.m. due to a conflict of interest with the property at 215 W Main St.

3. Reconvene into open session. At 7:06 p.m. motion by Pitts and seconded by Anderson to reconvene in Open Session. Motion carried by voice vote with Lotts being absent from vote.
4. Closed session possible action items: provide direction to staff and consultants regarding nuisance properties 146 W Dell St, 112 E North St, 116 E North St, 518 S East St, 536 S East St, and 215 W Main St:
 - a. Motion by Blodgett and seconded by Pitts to direct the BI and CCSO to continue enforcement action on 146 W Dell St. Motion carried.
 - b. Motion by Pitts and seconded by Blodgett to direct the BI and CCSO to begin enforcement action on 112 E North St effective October 1, 2024. Motion carried.
 - c. Motion by Pitts and seconded by Lotts to direct the BI and CCSO to begin enforcement action on 116 E North St effective October 1, 2024. Motion carried.
 - d. Motion by Anderson and seconded by Berg to direct the BI and CCSO to begin enforcement action on 518 S East St effective November 1, 2024. Motion carried.
 - e. Motion by Pitts and seconded by Blodgett to direct the BI and CCSO to begin enforcement action on 536 S East St effective November 1, 2024. Motion carried.
 - f. Motion by Pitts and seconded by Anderson to direct the BI and CCSO to begin enforcement action on 215 W Main St effective November 1, 2024. Motion carried and Lotts abstained due to a conflict of interest.
5. Future Board Meeting: Next Regular Board Meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

IX. Adjourn. At 7:10 p.m. motion by Pitts and seconded by Lotts to adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed: _____


Bradley J Hanson, Village Administrator-Clerk-Deputy Treasurer