

Trustee Weatherston called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Village Hall, 5043 Chester Lane, Racine, Wisconsin.

Present were: Trustee Weatherston and Trustee Stillman

Absent: None.

Staff present: Administrator Tom Christensen, HR Director/Asst. Administrator Toni Muise, Highway Superintendent Bill Jacoby and Public Works Director Tom Lazcano.

1. Approval of minutes

Motion by Trustee Stillman to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Highway Department Property Damage Claim Discussion w/ CVMIC

A representative of CVMIC was present and briefly explained the overview and nature of claims, the limit and how the insurance is set on per occurrence; Municipalities exposure is mostly “trip and falls, pot holes and snow plow” and it is the Municipalities responsibility to handle with “reasonable care”. There was an incident where a mirror was damaged in the last snow fall in which there has been a claim for repairs by Mr. Steve Palmer. Ultimately the burden of proof for damage is on the claimant, and there were no witnesses to guarantee it was a Village plow that caused this damage. There was discussion regarding how to handle claims, and if it would be worth reimbursing lower denomination claims to keep peace among citizens and avoid going to court where the cost might exceed the cost of repairs. They discussed what Committee would be best to send these claims to if it would be escalated, or if there would be a denial letter and if it would be up to the resident to appeal. However they move forward it would set a precedence, if a few claims were paid, all might have to be paid – but a limit could be set. The Village Board granted staff to approve up to \$10,000 for a claim. Claims paid by the Village are accredited to the limit we pay out-of-pocket annually (\$37,500). If a claim is denied, you are not required to give reason but you must notify the claimant within a 120 days. If there is not a notification within 120 days it is automatically denied.

Motion by Trustee Stillman to deny the Steve Palmer claim and move forward. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Snow & Ice Control Policy

Christensen explained that this policy was at the last Public Works meeting and was sent to Village Board for discussion/approval. It was sent back to Public Works for further review after a tied motion of 3/3. He reiterated Chief Reilly’s view that driving 16+ hours is akin to having a BAC of .05 or .08, and that fatigue can contribute to a possible liability. There is no policy currently, but with two accidents this year there is a concern that this is a safety issue. It should be noted that the drivers in the accidents did not exceed 16 hours at that time. The purpose of

this policy is to outline expectations of the Village (driver hours, routes, etc.) and also expectations of residents.

Trustee Weatherston spoke about cross-training departments, and there was discussion regarding various departments in the Village and how they might be able to cover. CDL drivers could be utilized more frequently than they currently are. Jacoby explained that there has not been much interest from other departments in covering snow plowing and is concerned that someone unfamiliar with the routes may cause more damage. He spoke about how great the highway department staff is and how reliable they are. He is apprehensive about the mandatory 8 hour break; the new policy would make that break mandatory, there was only one instance where an employee exceeded 16 hours (at 16 ½ hours). There are a few snow storms a year which might require an emergency override to approve exceeding that limit.

There was discussion regarding overtime and how seniority rules the snow/ice removal schedule (they often get the least amount of rest). Jacoby stated that the schedule is totally dependent on the weather, time (day of week), and staff, and he tried his best to accommodate that. Muise stated we could actively explore part-time snowplow drivers to combat this issue, but they would need to be paid to be trained adequately. She thought the staggering of shifts was also a necessity. Jacoby stated that there are 14 drivers and 13 routes, with a cap of 5 hours to complete that route if this policy is set. Routes could be changed but it would affect the time to complete the route. Trustee Stillman thought staggering might not cover the quality of cleaning the roads and could increase the amount of accidents.

Christensen recommended approval of the policy, Trustee Stillman didn't feel comfortable with the entirety of the policy. He thought the maximum set hours could be 14 and the 8 hour rest period could be adjusted to less, perhaps 6 hours and modify the amount of routes. Trustee Weatherston would like to postpone this to review the policy and discuss with Jacoby.

Motion by Trustee Stillman to lay over the policy so Trustee Weatherston has time to review it. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment

Trustee Stillman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joslyn Hoeffert
Deputy Village Clerk