

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 Assistant Toni Muise, Public Works Director Tom Lazcano and Highway Superintendent Bill Jacoby.

1. Approval of minutes

Motion by Trustee Stillman to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Appeal for Concrete in Right of Way, 13432 6 ½ Mile, Jeffrey Vail

Tom Lazcano explained that Mr. Vail has a gravel driveway currently where he is seeking concrete. He has 175 feet left towards the road, and is seeking an appeal for concrete in right of way. The Ordinance is currently 5 feet from the road way has to be gravel or asphalt.

Vail explained that the surrounding properties water drains towards his property and would like to put in concrete. He cited exceptions in the Village where there has seen concrete in the right of way in the past. The Public Works Committee could not comment if those were approved prior to the implementation of the Ordinance.

Lazcano recommended holding to the Ordinance, but thought if we were going to grant this exception we should change this Ordinance because there were a lot of people who were denied and will be upset by allowance of this appeal. There was discussion on if the Ordinance were to be changed how that might affect future repairs, which is why the Ordinance was implemented initially in 2015.

Motion by Trustee Stillman to deny the appeal for concrete in the right of way at 13432 6 ½ Mile, Jeffrey Vail. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Snow & Ice Control Policy

Trustee Weatherston explained that he has spent a substantial amount of time going over this draft policy and discussing different snow & ice policies with surrounding municipalities. He had prepared a statement, and explained that this policy should be denied based on the following reasons:

- Trustees do not draft policies, and should only approve or deny policies and based on that he is recommending denying the policy.
- Bullet points under the sections marked “readiness”, should be in the Highway Superintendents job description and not a separate policy.
- Sections marked “Road Salt, Snow Plowing, and Procedures” are far too limiting and handcuff the ability of the Highway Superintendent to perform his job.

- The “16 hour work” section should be a Village wide HR policy, inclusive to Police & Fire and not to one department. He agreed expecting employees to return for their normal shift after long hours of a night shift isn’t the safest practice, but should be corrected through an HR wide Village policy. He felt to create a policy for one department was discriminatory.
- He was informed by Village Staff that the Highway Superintendent had a list of part-time staff for call-in purposes, in which no one has been able to provide to him therefore he has concluded he had been lied to by staff.
- He felt that the Village could prevent accidents by equipping backup cameras on snowplows. He cited that almost every municipality he spoke to is equipped with them, with the exception of Racine County.

Trustee Stillman agreed with a lot of Trustee Weatherston’s comments. He disagreed with the 16 hour and 8 hour rest policy and felt that meant there was a period of time there would be no one plowing for 8 hours. He also disagreed with the section for “Snow Emergency Procedure”, because he felt that the Police Chief would probably not be around to declare an emergency in the middle of the night, and the alternative might be a police officer who would not be suited to make that decision and thus the decision ultimately would fall back on the Highway Superintendent’s shoulders.

Toni Muise brought up that this policy template was drafted by our insurance carrier and is modeled by surrounding communities.

Motion by Trustee Stillman to not approve the Snow & Ice Control Policy as written. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment

Trustee Stillman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joslyn Hoeffert
Deputy Village Clerk