

**VILLAGE OF NEW AUBURN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Board Meeting on  
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

The Village of New Auburn held a Regular Board Meeting at the New Auburn Village Hall, 130 E. Elm St., New Auburn to:

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** at 5:00 p.m. by President Shannon Berg.
- II. **Roll Call** Answering roll were President Shannon Berg, Trustees Dalton Hinke, Verlyn Motzer, Gary Pitts, Allan Anderson. All present. Staff present were: Clerk Ardith Story, Public Works Scott Decker and Mike Steinmetz. Guests present: Chris Gierhart, Weld/Riley; Sgt. Andrew Clark, Chippewa County Sheriff's Dept.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  1. Correspondence;
  2. Meeting Minutes;
  3. Treasurer's Reports: Dec 2023; Y/E Bank Balances; Y/E Investment Balances; Qrtly Reports;
  4. 2024 Waste & Recycling Center Holidays;
  5. ~~Records Destruction List Dated 01-10-2024;~~
  6. 2024 Budget Amendment;  
Striking #5 Records Destruction List (not ready)  
Motion by Pitts/Anderson to approve the consent agenda omitting #5 Records Destruction List. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
- VI. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES/OFFICERS/COMMITTEES**
  1. Public Safety Report: Sgt. Clark reported on the month of December 2023. The Dept responded to 15 incidents consisting of 1 animal abuse/neglect, 1 check object, 1 check person, 1 misc complaint, 1 noise, 1 death, 1 fraud, 2 juvenile cases, 1 sex offense, 1 theft, 1 traffic complaint, 2 traffic hazards, 1 vehicle assist.
  2. Building Inspector Report: In absence of Joe Atwood, Administrator Story read Joe's report.
  3. Public Works Report: PW Decker read the PW report with influent/effluent intake/discharge. No snow and some ice between Christmas and New Years where sanding was required. Precipitation had 1.6" of rain and trace amounts of snow.
  4. Clerk-Treasurer Report: January settlement reports for December tax payments have been completed and checks to CVTC, Northwood, New Auburn School District, Barron County and Chippewa County have been cut; the audit is scheduled for the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>; I've been in contact with EcoStat, the company hired to complete the study on the bio fuel; a lot in town is selling and looking at a possibility of a manufacturing home to be installed; working with a gentleman helping him find a place for an auto car dealership; a complete financial breakdown of all the accounts was provided in the board members packets including checking/savings/long-term investments and even with the updates to the hall and buildings, the maintenance items that have been serviced we are steadily growing our reserves and resources; tax season is in full force as well as quarterly and year-end financials;
- VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  1. None;

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Possible Guest Speaker: Lynda Schweikert, Chippewa County Dept of Land Conservation;  
Held for future meeting. No action.
2. Consider/Act on Board Wages and Annual Salaries; Wages were discussed for board members. Clerk noted that the wage increase will not take effect until the following term. Example: Hinke and Pitts increase would start May 2024 [if re-elected] and the remaining board members wages will not begin until May 2025.  
Motion by Motzer/Pitts to keep salary at \$2,000/year for Trustees and \$3,000/year for President and add for each additional special board meeting that Trustees attend to receive \$50/meeting. Roll call: Hinke – aye; Motzer – aye; Pitts – aye; Anderson – aye; Berg – aye. 5-0. Motion carried.
3. Consider/Act on Michael Steinmetz, Performance Review and Grounds & Facility Maintenance, Public Works Position;  
*Convene into Closed Session per Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(b) “[c]onsidering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of public employee...” to wit, discussion and consideration on employment of Michael Steinmetz and/or per Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c) “[c]onsidering employment...performance evaluation...” to wit, discussion and consideration on employment for the Groundskeeping & Facility Maintenance Position;*  
Motion to close at 5:30 p.m. announced by President Berg. Roll call: Motzer – aye; Pitts – aye; Anderson – aye; Berg – aye; Hinke – aye. 5-0. Motion carried. Village attorney present in close.
4. Consider/Act on Scott Decker, Water/Wastewater Operator, Public Works Lead, Wages, and CDL Agreement;  
*\*Proposed closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; specifically, to review administration office matters.*
5. Reconvene into open session;  
Motion by Hinke/Motzer to open session at 6:37 p.m. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
6. Possible action on closed session items;  
Motion by Berg/Pitts to terminate the employment of Michael Steinmetz for failure to comply, not being on call, not being able to perform full job function, and in violation of the employee handbook by showing up to work with alcohol in his system. Termination effective January 12, 2024. Roll call: Pitts – aye; Anderson – aye; Berg – aye; Hinke – aye; Motzer – aye. 5-0. Motion carried.
7. Future Meetings

**IX. Adjourn at 6:45 p.m.**

Motion by Anderson/Hinke to adjourn. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Prepared by: Ardith Story,  
Municipal Clerk-Treasurer