



**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter reported that the Library Board will meet September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., and that the Finance Committee will meet September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. to continue work on the 2020 general operations budget.

**District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:**

Mr. Morgan advised that the Property Committee will meet September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. at the fire hall.

Mr. Morgan stated that the job the Highway Dept. did replacing culverts and opening ditches along W. 11<sup>th</sup> St. N. looks “terrible”, and asked why the two southernmost culverts north of Prevea weren’t replaced. DPW Gorseger agreed that while the appearance “looks a little raw” the work done was all that could and was to be completed with the money approved. If the type of yard drain job to be done on Summit Ave. is what is wanted then considerably more money will need to be allocated. The DPW also advised the two southernmost old culverts are in Town of Flambeau jurisdiction.

Mr. Morgan asked if the long-disconnected power pole at W. 5<sup>th</sup> and Fritz has been removed. It was noted that it is Xcel’s pole such that it is up to Xcel to do so. It is on Xcel’s to do list.

**District Three, Mr. B. Groothusen:**

Mr. Groothusen distributed copies of the September 3, Community Development Committee minutes and advised that the Park Board will meet September 11, at 5:15.

**District Four, Mr. J. Fields:**

Mr. Fields was absent.

**District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:**

Mrs. Stoneberg called attention to a recommendation to reduce the fine for possession of marijuana or smoking devices, adding that she does not support that change. The fine would decrease from \$357.20 to \$72. The basic fine of \$10 increases to \$72 when court costs are added. Motion was made by Platteter and seconded by Hraban to approve the reduction. At Mr. Reynolds’ request it was clarified that this change would apply only to adults and only to recreational usage. Comments made during discussion included the following:

- Possession is still illegal in Wisconsin, even though efforts are underway to change that.
- The Governor and Attorney General both support legalizing marijuana.
- If the State changes it the State changes it. Let them decide.
- It is a gateway drug.
- It is not a gateway drug.
- County and State forfeiture amounts often exceed the City’s.

As the results of a voice vote were uncertain, a roll call vote was taken, as follows: Platteter-yes; Morgan-no; Groothusen-no; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-no; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Tied. Adm. Christianson believed that it falls to the meeting Clerk to cast a

deciding vote in the Mayor's absence and he cast a no vote. It was learned the following morning that the Clerk does not have that right. The vote still failed, but simply as a tie.

**District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban advised that the Rusk Co. Emergency Government Committee will meet September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:**

Mr. Reynolds called attention to a new WisDOT grant offering. A descriptive flyer about the program was then distributed.

Mr. Reynolds advised that his driveway next to City Hall was prepped, but not paved yet.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:**

Chief Julien had nothing to report.

**Public Works Dept. Report, Mr. K. Gorsegner:**

The DPW provided a brief update on the Fritz Ave. W. repave. He also explained Change Order No. 2 on that project, in the amount of \$7,492.25. Motion was made by Groothousen and seconded by Stoneberg to approve. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson reported that bids were received last week for a project to pulverize and repave most of Barnett Rd. and all of Gustafson Rd. in the industrial area. He noted that he was recalling an earlier cost estimate of \$168,000 so suffered sticker shock upon seeing a base bid of \$442,441.68, which didn't include the railroad crossings at \$76,000. He noted that, upon closer inspection, the steel culverts along these roads are shot (rotted bottoms) and in need of replacement before repaving. Doing so added over \$100,000 to the project cost. He then reviewed possible sources of financing. Mr. Morgan suggested the City crew rebuild the crossings itself. Some of those present noted concurrence with the poor condition of these roads, but that there are others just as bad that see a good deal more traffic. The downtown side streets were cited as examples. Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to grant All Committees the authority to take action on this matter at the September 16, meeting.

**Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:**

Adm. Christianson handed out copies of Proposed Procurement Rules, which he described as just suggestions he has heard at previous meetings and not necessarily changes he advocates. He asked members to mull them over so there can be future discussion of such changes intended to streamline actions and shorten meetings.

**Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:**

Atty. Kenyon advised those who might not know that Ladysmith is one of a small number of communities where the Police and Fire Commission has been granted so-called "optional powers" by public referendum. He went on to read from the portion of

WI Adm. Code wherein control of the facility remains with the City and is not one of the optional powers conveyed. So, the purpose of the Property meeting Mr. Morgan referenced will be to try to be sure the City's interests and the Commission's interests are aligned as regards the latter's proposal to charge Rusk County rent for the ambulance garage.

Adm. Christianson advised that, on the reverse side of the handout about the new WisDOT grant program, is a notation about an informational hearing to be held at the State Capitol entitled "Falling Behind: Addressing Wisconsin's Workforce Housing Shortage to Strengthen Families, Communities and Our Economy". He acknowledged that this is a Statewide concern, but expressed his opinion that those locales that are aggressive in dealing with it are more likely to be economic winners, and those who don't economic losers.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:**

Mayor Christianson was absent.

**Closed Session:**

Motion was made by Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Morgan-yes; Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Morgan, which was seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with no action having been taken in the Closed Session.

**Recorded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Christianson  
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

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