

**MEETING MINUTES:
VILLAGE BOARD**

JULY 7, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Special meeting of the Village Board called by Trustees Boucher and Fisher was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Boucher. Roll Call: Kubasta, absent; Foster, present; Mashak, absent; Kies, present; Broderick, absent; Metzsig, present; and Boucher, present.

Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.

North 6th Street Project

Whitney McMullin 235 N 6th Street

- Received notice last fall – no mention of sidewalk
- Around Covid time – meetings were held but we were not made aware
- Called about sidewalk – no way around it.
- Still did not have all the information we needed
- 2 weeks ago sitting in my yard and a gentleman started to cut tree down . . . did not give consent to cut down tree – in my yard not in right of way. Did not have a decision in the matter.
- Neighbors will have issue because sidewalk is in driveway causing parking issues
- Resolution would be to put a walk/bike lane in our road.
- Not enough trick or treaters to justify a sidewalk.
- Especially not so close to house.
- Devalue our property
- Disappointed with lack of notification.
- Ordinance – yes or no.
- What we want to know is why this wasn't more public – why wasn't there a referendum?
- Follow Winneconne News, and notice
- Want to know more about sidewalk assessment – grant money available.
- Would like to request plans for street as we have not seen them yet.

Village Administrator David Porter – Follow state law which requires notifications.

- Initial letter sent out last August
- Winneconne News – advertisement for bids
- March 9 – mailed full engineer report which included date of public hearing which Mrs. Reinke attended.
- April 21 Public Hearing - Mrs. Reinke attended.
- Notice for public hearing was in packet with all the numbers.

Attorney Dunham – public hearing - final plans can be seen at the Winneconne Municipal Center.

Marge Cosmutto – 548 Division Street

- Seriously will have no place to park my car.
- Who is paying for this?
- Ready to retire – but cannot anymore.
- No one will buy house with sidewalk that close to garage.
- Been there since 1999 – no accidents. We do not need a sidewalk.
- Vote on everything else – all we needed was a new road.
- Packet – had health issues – do not have time to read 8 pages. Not fair.
- Not too many of us want to stay here anymore.

DPW Kirk Ruetten – 2017 we created a street policy. Developed how we want to envision Winneconne in the future. Approved in March 2018. It included a sidewalk assessment done by East Central Regional Plan Commission. Public Works and Village Board approved public entity version included in the street policy.

Village President Boucher – we followed this policy during the last two projects – 3rd, 4th, 5th, and Twin Harbor projects. Same width.

Whitney McMullin – 235 N 6th Street - Public Hearing in March did not receive notice until April. . Started planning in July of last year. In March, preliminary resolution – which directed staff to send notices.

Not required to send meeting dates months ahead.

Tyler Cosmutto – 548 Division Street

Cut out a foot of driveway that leads to garage. Where were the plans that showed where the sidewalk would be, drainage, - do people here understand?. Ordinary people do not understand engineer schematics. Now we have to clear sidewalks, - no one here is getting any younger. Are you going to re-concrete the rest of the driveway.

Brad Warner – McMahan – preliminary resolution – notice that plans are at the Village Hall for viewing.

Plan were available in February. Everything was show on the plan. Have right to attend Public Hearing.

There are things we miss. All have busy lives.

Marge Cusmotto, 548 Division St – how do you have the right to take my driveway away? It is ridiculous because I have no place to park. Parking on lawn now so construction workers in the street. Where are our rights? It's like a hill going into our garage. It is ridiculous.

Brad Warner - McMahan – construction is in progress. Street is graveled – is wider than street will be. Backfilled and grass seeded. Working within Village right of way. Most of them 66 feet wide. On Main Street some are built to right of way. Some of these homes are very old and

we are lost as to why some were built in right of way. Before roadway was constructed was the right of way that you may have used. Street was narrow before.

Marge Cusmotto, 548 Division St– no one got hurt. Getting older – do not need extra work. I feel that you don't care. If you care – come and look.

Trustees Foster – been there twice in last three days. President Boucher and Trustee Metzsig also have been there to look at project.

Attorney John Wallace, 618 Birch St – via phone – several properties that you have done this too – one sidewalk will be 6 inches from his house. Condemnation – non-confirming. Street should have been developed around the homes – we are not a city. Very little setbacks in the street – the street project is going to ruin the continuity of the street. If you are going to continue this hack job – you are going to destroy the east side of the Village. Ask you – to go down the street and look at how many trees and yards you are going to cut through. Never gave the residents a visual of how this street would like – poor presentation of the engineers plan. Street does not fit the neighborhood. Ask that this go back to the board before the street is poured and Village Board reconsider the size of the sidewalk. Look at the neighborhood. These people did not have adequate notice. Phone Breaking up – cannot understand. Ask that concrete and project be tabled until board can reconsider the street width and sidewalk.

Foster – there was no grant money for sidewalk. Grant money was for a study that was done in 2017. Same plan as 2008.

Jim Ruskaup - 330 North 6th St – fortunate to be snowbirds. I have never seen anything from the Village of Winneconne telling us what is happening to our street. Assuming not going north of Birch. Our all the streets getting sidewalks?

Village Administrator Porter – not every single road. Going to parks, Main Streets, and schools.

Jean Reinke, 226 North 6th St – made it sound like every street was going to have it. We are paying for the sidewalks we don't want. We shouldn't have to pay for sidewalks we do not want. Sick of the roads – we didn't ask for this. Irritating and frustrating.

Whitney McMullin, 235 N 6th St – plans for Birch street next year. Why Birch Street – does not lead to a church, school or Main Street?

Louis – any road going north/south leads to Main Street.

Whitney McMullin – 235 North 6th St – plans for sidewalk on Birch Street?

Jean Reinke, 226 North 6th St– bottom line is – figure out where you are going to put things. And contact everyone on the street before.

President Boucher – I live on Willow St. Had 27 feet from house to road and now have 8 feet. I also assumed that was my property. Came to Village Hall and showed the plan. Would pay because the new road is very nice. Property value went up 20%. Agree the process . . . not the best. Did come to public hearing and did change slightly on Willow Street due to public concern.

We are doing things according to the law and State Statutes. I wish I would have seen all of you in March when we were making the plans. Can look to see if we can improve. . . .suppose to pour street this week. Sidewalks not until August. Width of street . . the first thing that happens is people take out building permits to improve their property. You will enjoy the street.

Goal is to be able to walk to Main Street safely on a sidewalk.

Whitney McMullin, 235 North 6th St - Fine with the road. Compromise with painted bike lane. Arguing with sidewalk.

Called for information – wasn't told about plans. Tried to call in – sounded like Charlie Brown.

Unfortunately – during Covid.

Awarded contract in April – whenever you change contract more than 10% - legal. Have to have discussion with contractor. There will be a cost . . . and follow language of the contract.

Foster – its easy to do a study. Living it is different. We had a lot of this available . . . but everyone is busy. Let's get the street poured it is going to be nice.

Dennis Biggar – 21 South 2nd Ave – Was a board member for awhile. Spent 20 years on 9th Avenue where I raised my family. Anytime you mention sidewalks - it is a terrible subject. No one likes it. I voted for a sidewalk in my front yard . . . and I had to take care of it. Sidewalk of front yard on Main Street and the plows would push the snow back – yelled at because I threw my snow on road. Am believer of sidewalk in right application. Why is only the resident who property is affected have to pay for it? Why doesn't every taxpayer have to pay for it? We all use these roads and sidewalks. Dollars should be divided. 7th Street – no sidewalk. More kids and traffic.

Foster – who agrees with what Dennis said about payments. Should we all pay or just the property owner?.

David Werch – 619 Birch St – just heard about this yesterday. Never seen a project like this in my life. Cut a tree down and the resident didn't know. We do not need sidewalks. Walk 6 miles everyday . . . before virus maybe saw 4 people using sidewalks. Waste of money. Why are we not informed. Absolutely we need the road.

Village Administrator Porter – typically, when you install a facility like a sidewalk – more people choose to walk.

Mr. Werch, 619 Birch St– doesn't matter if there is a sidewalk.

Village Administrator Porter – safe for younger children to safely walk about. Homes are valued much higher.

Anthony Wagner – corner of 9th and Spruce – essential amenities. Is there a definition? Only lived here for six days. The portion of these peoples yard may be in the right of way . . when half of your front yard disappears one day – does not seem to be for the public good.

No there is not a textbook definition.

Andrea Alf – live 414 East Main – real estate agent – President Boucher appreciate you softening the whole meeting – I did feel a negative vibe. Love selling real estate in this community. Wrote an offer on Saturday from Chicago because we are such a great group of people – nice and kind. Proud to be part of this community. These guys just want to know you care. The tree was on her property – unfortunate that it happened during Covid. Communication is huge. Scary world we live in. Want to be part of Village and want to be happy.

Donna Kreuger, 542 Birch St – I walk the streets - will not make a difference if we have sidewalks. Most of people walk in the street anyway. We are a Village and want to remain a Village. We are safe here. Thanks for listening.

Wayne Rudisill, 318 North 5th Street/502 Birch Street – Birch/Elm/ N 5th Street – we do have an assessment policy. If you have a corner lot – credit for half of the frontage for the long side.

Brad Warner, McMahon – sidewalk on one side of street – cost is shared by both sides of the street. Streets – are shared by Village and property owners.

Wayne Rudisill, 318 North 5th St – how much foot for street. \$67.00 dollars.

James Ruskaup , 330 North 6th St – can we have a timeline/guide. Public Works meeting on the 14th Board meeting on the 21st.

Foster – we have to do a better job of communicating. Leading busy lives . . . how many board meetings have you attended?. Affecting 14 different properties.

Attorney Dunham – when you do it for 14 houses . . . what is there are 30 houses or more?

Foster – Attorney Dunham – does a good job of being consistent.

Dennis Biggar, 21 S 2nd Ave – never came to meetings until I was a Board member. Thankless job. Conducted this meeting and showing willingness to work with everyone is fantastic. Didn't want a sidewalk . . . but it belonged there.

Trustee Foster – we are sitting in front of our neighbors .. not taxpayers.

John Wallace, 618 Birch St– find out cost of sidewalk in 2021 . . . so person living in areas can be heard.

President Boucher – consensus now is we will negotiate and develop a better plan. Need to look at houses individually.

Trustee Foster – a lot of streets have sidewalks already.

John Wallace, 618 Birch St – how will Village look after sidewalk. Doesn't look like another suburb.

Tyler Cosmutto, 548 Division St – agree with spreading out financial burden. What about the ones that have already paid?

President Boucher – We are looking into that . . . working on them.

Wayne Rudisill, 318 North 5th St – what is the next street you are going to attack?.

DPW Ruetten – North 6th Street from Birch to Elm back to Birch. Improve drainage.

Trustee Foster – future un-funded mandates – need to start planning now.

David Werch, 619 Birch St – what is the plan?

DPW Ruetten – plan has not been drawn up yet. Drainage and storm sewer make a big difference.

Donna Krueger, 542 Birch St – plan to put sidewalk North 6th street down Elm – no.

DPW Ruetten – we are looking at feasibility of doing Birch/Elm.

Alliant Energy – typically put gas mains under sidewalk.

Louis Kartman – 330 Birch St – typically road never busted up. But when traffic was diverted everyone went down Birch Street. Typically our area is pretty calm . . . that is they way we like it.

DPW Ruetten – we tried with the DOT – even had video of Birch Street.

Andrea Alf, 414 East Main St – property values – new people do not understand we leave our doors open all day long. Will increase property value.

Trustee Metzgi – street width? March of 2018 a policy adopted by the board.

President Boucher – trying to do a street every year.

Tyler Cosmutto, 548 Division St – are driveways being replaced? Yes – concrete aprons.

Whitney McMullin, 235 North 6th St – please summarize plan and what happens next?

Village Administrator Porter – agenda for public works committee on July 14th . . . concrete street will have started by that time but not sidewalks. Recommendation to Village Board that meets on the 21st.

Trustee Kies – you are our neighbors and friends we want to do what is right.

6:45 Thank you for coming.

Temporary Class B License Application – Winneconne Athletic Association – July 17-19

- For Sovereign State Days July 17 – July 19, 2020

MOTION by Foster, seconded by Kies, to grant a Temporary Class B license to Winneconne Athletic Association for July 17 – July 19, 2020. Roll Call: Foster, Kies, Metzgi, and Boucher; ayes.

MOTION by Foster, seconded by Kies, to adjourn. Carried by voice vote.

6:49 p.m.

Jacquin Stelzner
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Winneconne

