

# DRAFT

## VILLAGE OF BRISTOL

### Village Board Minutes

October 28, 2024

The notice for the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Village Board had been posted at the Municipal Building, Bristol BP, Benson's Corners and the Village Website on October 25, 2024.

1. The meeting of the Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Farrell. In attendance at the meeting were Trustee Leker, Trustee Atwood, Trustee Kordecki and Trustee McCabe, Ben Wood from Strand, Village Attorney Nancy Haggerty, Chief Niederer, Clerk Renee Brickner and 67 constituents. Trustee Koredecki was excused from the meeting due to a prior commitment and Administrator Kerkman was also excused.
2. President Farrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Farrell suspended the agenda temporarily and asked Chief Niederer to step forward for a presentation.

**Chief Niederer** thanked the Village Board Members for allowing him to recognize his staff BC Mike Keller, Paramedic/Fire Fighter Matt Panek, Nic Keller, Stan Kessel, Eric Lucas, Allysa Wegrzyn and Kenosha County Sheriff's Deputy Lacy Ebler for their life saving efforts on August 17, 2024. Chief Niederer described the situation as shortly after 11:00 a.m. on August 17, 2024, Kenosha County Joint Services received a 911 call indicating a male subject had collapsed and was not breathing. He indicated that within 2 minutes of the call, Ryan Ecktenocher began giving CPR instructions over the phone to Justin Hammond who provided CPR until the arrival of Kenosha County Sheriff Deputy Lacy Ebler. He stated that upon arrival on the scene of Deputy Ebler she applied AED pads to the patient which delivered one shock to the patient. He further stated that after the shock was delivered, Deputy Ebler continued CPR until the arrival of the Village of Bristol Med Unit. He stated that upon arrival of the Med Unit, Stan Kessel and Amanda Mendez applied a cardiac monitor and LUCAS device which provides continued CPR to the patient. Others arrived on scene a short time later when Fire Fighter Matt Panek, Allyssa Wegrzyn, BC Mike Keller, Nic Keller and Eric Lucas all began assisting with cardiac resuscitation. He indicated a second shock was delivered to the patient which delivered him to a normal sinus rhythm and a strong pulse, the patient was intubated by a technique called RSI securing his airway prior to transport to the emergency room at Froedtert South Medical Clinic where the patient's care was turned over to the attending doctor on staff.

**Chief Niederer** stated that this was a huge team effort in meeting the needs and the chain of survival fell into place on August 17, 2024 which makes him very proud and happy that Aaron Robbins has made a full recovery and was present to observe his team receiving their life saving awards.

**Chief Niederer** thanked the Village Board and Village Staff for their unwavering

support of the Fire Department indicating that their support provides him with the staffing, apparatus and equipment necessary to get our crew safely to the patient to render aid and transport them to a higher level of care. Chief Niederer stated that without that support the Fire Department would not be here today.

A presentation of awards ceremony followed Chief Niederer's speech which included additional speakers from those involved in the event and a cake and ice cream social in the Fire Department.

4. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Trustee Atwood and was seconded by Trustee McCabe to approve the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Trustee Leker and was seconded by Trustee McCabe to approve the minutes of the Regular Village Board meeting on October 14, 2024. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by Trustee Leker and was seconded by Trustee Atwood to receive and file the Treasurer's report showing \$5,711,428.73 as the cash and investment balance. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Trustee McCabe and was seconded by Trustee Atwood to approve payment of the bills. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Citizen's Comments:

**Quentin Jackson** stated that it is good to have people in your area or town like first responders that can do things like save lives and help people in need indicating he thinks it is a crucial part of the community to have that along with the Sheriff and Firemen. He stated that it is good neighbors in general that can help each other and help people in need and his question for the Board today because he wants to keep it up beat and is not going to put a damper on the Bristol meeting like he usually does, would be what can we do as a community, a town and a Village itself to keep our first responders in Bristol, what can we do instead of losing them to other towns. He stated that things are coming up and Bristol is growing bigger, what can we do Mr. McCabe about keeping these guys here and let our own fire department grow.

**Trustee McCabe** stated that he is working with the Fire Chief to get that settled.

**Quentin Jackson** asked what the attrition rate in the Village of Bristol is.

**Trustee McCabe** stated that he does not know at this time and doesn't have those papers in front of him.

**President Farrell** stated that he does not know the answer to that, but he does know that we have addressed this issue in our 2025 proposed budget to increase wages for our Village staff and Fire Department as well.

**Quentin Jackson** stated that there is a lot of growth in places right now, especially in Pleasant Prairie, putting up more stations and things like that and he thinks we are in the part where we are going to lose people and I would hate to have someone come in to Bristol and get the right training and we have the best equipment in the last few years all our equipment has been updated like crazy so it seems almost like a waste to have them come in and do great things in our community but then lose them because of a wage. He stated that if there is anything that could be put out there to let everyone know that others are up and coming and those who are already veterans to come in here and have a great wage and good place to work and have some background that is going to be able to carry them for years and we can all grow as a community with a squad like that cause I have seen Bristol's Fire Department from the beaches in Kenosha and all over the place and it amazes you. He stated they all deserve a good "thank you" and sometimes we take it for granted because you don't think about it all the time but when you hit the floor you think about it. He stated we take it for granted especially when they ask for money and ask how much your life is worth. He stated that if you go out and pay \$70,000.00 on a car, is that equipment worth that and is going to save your life. He asked that we keep that in perspective and see if we can keep our fire department growing and keep those guys here and make them want to come here and not look other places for work. He thanked the Board members for their time.

**President Farrell** thanked Mr. Jackson for his comments.

8. President's Comments:

**President Farrell** thanked everyone for participating tonight.

9. Trustee's Comments:

**Trustee McCabe** stated it was nice to see the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department get recognition along with the hospital, and it is good to see people here.

**Trustee Atwood** stated again she could not be prouder of our Fire Department, our EMS and Sheriff's Department, and we know without a doubt that we would not be here without you all, you know that we have your back, and we are fighting for you so don't forget that.

**Trustee Leker** stated he would like to answer part of Mr. Jackson's question in his comments stating that one of the things the Chief is doing is trying to retain people by recognizing their outstanding achievements indicating there have been some good conversations about how to retain people so thank you.

10. Administrator's Report: None.

11. Public Works: None.

12. Fire Department: None.

13. Plan Commission Recommendations: None

14. Unfinished Business: None.

15. New Business:

- a. A motion was made by Trustee Leker and was seconded by Trustee Atwood for Approval of Resolution 24-12, a Resolution for the approving of the Parcel Development Agreement for Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Bristol Business Park East Subdivision.

**Nancy Haggerty**, Village Attorney, stated that in the packet received is a copy of a Parcel Development Agreement indicating that the goal of the agreement is to allow this land on the northeast corner of Q and U to be sold to Eli Lilly and Company for their development. She indicated that she looked back on this and they have been working with Janko Development since 2019. She stated that also in the packet is a one-page summary of where we have been up until now as she needed to remember what has happened to date. She stated there is a map to show you the three lots that we are talking about, northeast of Q and U as opposed to the main Janko Development which is north and west of Q and U. The development agreement was signed for these 3 lots in 2022 identified that three buildings were going to be built on this lot. She stated a little out lot in the corner came back to the Village and there were other public improvements that needed to be built such as extensions of water and sewer and more roadway improvements. The development agreement with the Janko Team both east and west said if you sell off any of these properties before all your work is done, you have to sign a Parcel Development Agreement so the Village knows who is doing what, who they can enforce it against and who has the right to request the money from the TIF indicating that is what this agreement does. She stated it is complicated because we have a water and sewer agreement out there, obligations for expanding the intersections with the County and a lot of little things that feed into each other. She stated the agreement does two main things indicating it takes all the obligations that Janko had on the east side of the street and splits it, the things that Janko still needs to do and the things that Eli Lilly will have to do. She indicated Eli Lilly is purchasing the existing Lot 8 as well as 7 and 9 that still have to be built on the timetable that was required and, in the manner, it was requested based on the plans and specs already in place. She stated that the goal for the Village was to make sure that every obligation is either finished or retained by Janko or assumed by Eli Lilly.

**President Farrell** asked with regard to Lilly buying the Nexis facility and assuming these are adjacent lots, but Nexis is in Pleasant Prairie.

**Attorney Haggerty** stated that these are in Bristol and adjacent to the Pleasant Prairie lots.

**President Farrell** asked if there are any houses on any of these three parcels in which the answer was no, they have all been removed.

**President Farrell** asked where does the cemetery and church land on the maps.

**Attorney Haggerty** used the map to indicate where the cemetery parcel was and Lot 4 that came back to the Village as well as out lot 3 which is part of the west development.

**President Farrell** indicated that out lot 4 is intended for our fire training facility

A motion was made by Trustee Leker and seconded by Trustee Atwood to approve Resolution 24-12, a resolution approving the Parcel Development Agreement.

The motion was carried on a roll call vote of 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

b. A motion was made by Trustee McCabe and seconded by Trustee Atwood for approval of payment for TID #3 Senior Housing Project. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Nancy Haggerty**, Village Attorney, stated that this is very similar to what was done earlier this year with HSA indicating Bear created the single-family housing development and the multi-family housing development which included the segment that was senior housing. She stated the Village wanted to have senior housing, so they gave incentive to them to build with all the development agreements already approved indicating they came back and showed how much money they spent and now it is nothing more than the date comes for the payment and the Village is taking the taxes that they paid on that particular parcel and paying them back to pay down the balance on what is owed.

**President Farrell** asked if the timing for the TID is still on track as expected.

**Attorney Haggerty** stated this particular TID was a narrow TID in which the project was pretty small and when Bear applied for it, they knew it would take some time to get paid off indicating that everything that is getting paid in taxes is going into the piggy bank and comes out and makes payments. She stated we are in fine shape and not that far ahead.

**President Farrell** asked if we could expect it will last the full 20 years as indicated or something sooner.

**Attorney Haggerty** stated that information will come from Ehlers with the status of the TIFs in the municipality, but she is not expecting any sooner than projected.

c. A motion was made by Trustee Leker and seconded by Trustee Atwood to approve the award of the construction of a 600,000-gallon water storage tank, Contract 1-2023 to Caldwell Tank accepting Bid Alternate #1 subject to USDA concurrence. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Ben Wood**, from Strand, stated that the bids were opened on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and it took a while to get to this point to recommend the award due to some complex things that had to be reviewed and evaluated. He stated that there are going to be several items that he thinks the Board should address in its motion. He indicated that Phoenix Fabricators made a material error in the submittal of their bid and has requested that bid be withdrawn. He stated he strongly recommends the Board allow them to withdraw their bid and release their bid bond. He indicated the Maquire Iron bid was deemed nonresponsive due to incomplete forms included with their bid and stated he thinks they should be considered nonresponsive. He indicated that the recommendation is to award the contract to Caldwell Tank considering Bid Alternate #1 which has to do with the logo painted on the water tower. He indicated the base bid was to do water coloring similar to the lettering that is on the existing smaller water tower which was price increased to put the Village logo on the water tower as seen on the flag. He stated that Caldwell Tanks gave the responsive bidders the best price for that, indicating that it would be up to the Board to decide if they want to accept the increase for the logo or if you would find the block letters acceptable which was the base bid. He stated Bid Alternate #2 had to do with a perceived cost saving means and methods that one of the bidders requested we give consideration toward a wet blasting to the surface as opposed to traditional sand

blasting with a shroud. He stated that in making the award the Board should decide whether or not to award Bid Alternate #1 relative to the logo indicating Bid Alternate #2 can be discussed but the most logical thing would be to reject Bid Alternate #2 and to award the tank contract to Caldwell Tank based bid, or base bid plus Bid Alternate #1. He stated that the award must be conditioned upon receiving concurrence from the USDA because it is a USDA funded project. He stated that the next step would be to prepare a letter summarizing the Board's actions to forward with a packet on to USDA for review and concurrence for the bid award to become formal.

**Attorney Haggerty** asked if the Board would have to approve the bid award to include subject to the concurrence of USDA in which the answer was yes.

**President Farrell** stated that having the logo painted looks like it is an additional \$10,000.00 cost from Caldwell.

**Ben Wood** stated that for what it is worth, the apparent low bidder amount was substantially less than our cost opinion and the cost opinion was more in line with the CDI base bid.

**Ben Wood** stated that the basis for this new water tower has to do with the existing water tower being at the end of its use being constructed in the 1960s. He indicated that it is undersized and causes a lot of operational challenges for the operation of the water utility. He stated that with the funding packet applied for with USDA, the intent is to accomplish some rehabilitation work to the existing water tower if money allowed which would be a complete interior and exterior sandblast and repair of any well joints that need repair. He stated the approximate estimated rehabilitation cost would be \$250,000.00.

**Trustee Leker** asked if it is mandated by the DNR that we do something with the water tower.

**Ben Wood** stated that the DNR does a sanitary survey of the water utility every 3 years of operational and managerial capabilities of the staff, performance and indicators of the system and water quality results. He indicated that the existing water tower was cited for significant deficiencies due to the failing coating system on tank, rust and some leaks inside of the stem of the water tank which started the Village on the planning design of this project.

**Trustee McCabe** asked if we need the logo on the water tower or could we just have Bristol painted on there and save \$10,000.00.

**Trustee Leker** stated he included it in his motion because he thinks it is important and will be a pillar in the community and all agreed.

d. A motion was made by Trustee Atwood and seconded by Trustee McCabe for approval the Agreement for General Law Enforcement Services to be provided by the County of Kenosha, Wisconsin to the Village of Bristol. The motion was carried unanimously.

**President Farrell** asked if there was a change in the compensation from Village to the Sheriff's Department.

**Deputy Klinkhammer** stated the change would be in the contracted wages increase for next year which he believed would be 3% as of December 31, 2024, indicating he is not aware of any other changes.

**President Farrell** stated he believes that is what was expected and budgeted for as well.

e. A motion was made by Trustee Leker and seconded by Trustee Atwood for approval of Susan Nehaus and Ron Lesjak as poll workers from the Supplemental Poll Worker Nominees list provided by the Democratic Party of Kenosha County. The motion was carried by 3 Ayes and 1 Nay (McCabe).

**Trustee Leker** asked how many poll workers we have now from each party.

**Clerk Brickner** indicated the Democratic Party started with 5 on their list and they now have 11 or 12.

**Trustee McCabe** asked if these poll workers are paid.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that if they work, they are paid.

**Trustee Leker** asked how many are on the list from the republicans.

**Clerk Brickner** indicated the original list provided 12 and 4 were recently approved by the Board, totaling 16 or 17 that are paid when they work.

**President Farrel** asked what Clerk Brickner's suggestion would be about this action.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that she would like the 2 poll workers to be approved to eliminate unaffiliated poll workers and make a better balance.

e. A motion was made by Trustee Leker and seconded by Trustee Atwood to approve the processing of the Absentee Ballots in the same room where voting is taking place at the Village Hall and First Christian Church. The motion was carried unanimously.

**President Farrell** stated that we have information from members of our public as well as the Wisconsin Election Commission who has weighed in on the topic and asked if this item is specific to the poll book.

**Clerk Brickner** indicated it was not stating it was regarding the safety issue and doing the absentee ballots in a different room from the polling place as suggested.

**Trustee Leker** stated that he feels very strongly that the absentee ballots need to be opened in the room where voting is taking place and not in a separate room somewhere else.

**Trustee McCabe** asked why the State thinks they should be done in a different room.

**Chief Niederer** stated that there is concern about hazardous materials in the mail. He stated that if we can isolate them to one room while opening the mail, it will be isolated to that one room and not the entire polling area.

**President Farrell** asked if that needs to be part of a motion as to where absentee ballots are opened.

**Clerk Brickner** indicated due to the adverse opinions about the issue, Administrator Kerkman asked for the Board to make the decision on the procedure to be used and how it will be done.

**President Farrell** asked if we are bound by the Elections Commission one way or another on this.

**Chief Niederer** stated it came from the Elections Commission indicating he spoke with Robert Keyhole who is the Deputy of Administration earlier today who indicated they did

offer this and their recommendation is to go to an isolated room to open the ballots in which the public can view at any given point.

**President Farrell** asked if poll workers could also view this.

**Chief Niederer** stated that is correct indicating it is not to exclude anyone from watching the process, the reason is for the safety of the poll worker and that is all they are asking. He stated that if it is opened in the polling area it then becomes a crime scene as it would be considered hazardous material and until we can identify what the chemical is.

**President Farrell** had a question as to at this location asking you would take poll workers into a separate room to open the envelope, does it then go into the machine and how would that be done at our other polling location.

**Clerk Brickner** indicated there has been a meeting with the church and they provided a room that can be used for this procedure that the doors will lock, and it has windows for people to watch which also has an exit out without bringing anything into the polling location.

**President Farrell** stated that he believes the security issue is covered here as well because you can take poll workers with you to open them.

**Chief Niederer** stated that only if there is something suspicious is the room closed and locked to isolate.

**Trustee Atwood** asked if we would have the Fire personnel here.

**Chief Niederer** stated that they will be here, and other communities are preparing to do something similar. He indicated that we can also talk and have radio contact with that individual as well if something were to happen. He stated that local hazmat teams are preparing as well for incidents and potential call ins indicating that there is a lot of planning happening.

**Trustee Leker** indicated that the way he read the statute, opening up the absentee ballots in a separate room away from the main polling location is in violation of the state statute.

**Trustee McCabe** stated it would be done following the state guidelines.

**President Farrell** asked Trustee Leker when he interpreted the communications as well as the Election Commission recommendation, do you think that opening ballots in a separate room is a violation.

**Trustee Leker** indicated that he does think it is a violation.

**Ken Wolfe** stated he agrees with Trustee Leker that moving the absentee ballots off of the floor would be a violation of State law. He indicated that the recommendation is just that, a recommendation from the Wisconsin Election Commission and they do not have the authority to change State law. He stated that the processing of absentee ballots is by law and supposed to be done in public not in a separate room where if somebody wants to track down the hall in this case at First Christian Church and it is not a door right off the floor, it is down the hallway and off the floor indicating they have the right to just stand there and watch everything being done, the people coming in to vote, the absentee ballot process all within the one polling location. He indicated that personally he feels a vote in favor of moving this off the floor, stating that he is not an attorney, but somebody might file a complaint and that could open up the Village to other issues. He stated that he is not one of those people but he would not be surprised if it would happen because this election being what it is and contested as it is and contentious as it is there are people out there that are looking for just a reason to do something indicating he would not want the Village to have to deal with that. He stated that he does not want to deal with angry



observers at the polling place and he does not know of any Villages that are doing anything differently from what they have done at any other election. He stated that on the other side of it, what is the Village going to do in terms of providing PPE for the poll workers as was stated in that document that was received from the Sheriff's Department stating there should be Narcan available indicating personally as a poll worker he does not think we need any of it. He stated that he thinks we are fine and there is no specific threat to the Village, and we would be better off processing as we have been in open form.

**Katie Verzal** stated that she would recommend talking to the Village Attorney before the decision is made because she knows what is going to happen and if you can avoid it that would be good. She indicated that she did not read the WEC document stating she does not know if there is a credible threat, or what the threat is, or what other communities are doing but if it is only Bristol especially and is not statewide and has not come from the State then it looks really bad to say we are going to process all out absentee ballots behind closed doors, it just looks bad. She stated that there is going to be a lawsuit, or attorneys are going to get involved so I would recommend that the Village consult your attorney before you make a decision on this if that is possible to avoid all of that.

**Trustee McCabe** asked the Village Clerk what she would recommend.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that she did call around to see what others are doing and discovered that there are municipalities that process their absentee ballots using central count which is where poll workers are opening ballots completely away from the polling location. She indicated that if it is not against State statute the suggested process would be really no different than central count.

**Katie Verzal** stated that we may have poll workers that refuse to do it like her, she stated that she is not going to count ballots in a closed room against State statute as she does not feel comfortable doing it.

**Trustee Atwood** asked Chief Niederer where he received the information provided from.

**Chief Niederer** stated it came from Emergency Management though the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Election Commission.

**Trustee Leker** stated that the basis of our system here is for an open and fair election and taking ballots and going somewhere else and bringing them back here, indicating he believes that the optics are absolutely horrible on that. He stated that without an active threat he would have no problem making a motion to open them in the same room. He stated that he knows that Administrator Kerkman was after mitigating the liability to the Village Board to prevent personnel from having to make that decision so it would be on the Village Board instead of staff.

**Trustee Atwood** stated that she would second that motion as she does not trust anybody to open her absentee ballot in a different room no matter who you are.

**Trustee Leker** stated that he believes that central count has to be registered as a central count that follows different guidelines.

**President Farrell** stated that central count is subject to its own statutory language from the State.

**Ken Wolfe** asked President Farrell if he received the email, he sent over the weekend due to the number of absentee ballots being processed to have an additional set of poll books and two additional poll workers at each location for the processing of absentee ballots.

**Trustee Leker** stated that he is not trying to minimize the information given to the Board but feels strongly enough about State Statute and the optics of the election and believes we need to follow that to a T.

**President Farrell** stated that is transparency and he tends to agree with processing the absentee ballots within the polling location indicating he hopes it does not inconvenience or disrupt the activity of our staff, Clerk and Fire Department.

A motion was made by Trustee Leker and seconded by Trustee McCabe to keep the current number of two poll books.

Trustee Leker adjusted his motion stating there are reassurances that if someone turned in their absentee ballot that day there are enough fallacies in place to prevent someone from voting twice.

Trustee McCabe withdrew the second to Trustee Leker's motion and there was no action taken on the process.

**President Farrell** asked if there was a statutory requirement to provide other or anything more than two poll books.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that the volume of absentee ballots both in person and my mail has grown exponentially for this election indicating that the processing of those takes time of the poll workers and voters because every time an absentee ballot is processed, we have to go up to the poll books which takes time away from each voter who is standing in line. He stated that by having a third set of books and having two additional poll workers it takes that process out of the voting line so voters are coming in and flowing through and to them it is like nothing has changed. He stated that if our inspectors are going through the line with them to get numbers and get everything processed it is taking time away from the voters. He stated that he knows in the Spring Election with the referendums there was a line of a half hour or more long. He stated that by adding an additional set of poll books and two workers we are going to make everything smoother for everybody.

**Trustee McCabe** asked how do you know if I voted in person or if I sent a ballot in if you are using three separate books.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that in the poll book it will state when an absentee ballot was returned and all books would get updated and the only time we would have to worry about a voter coming in to request an additional ballot is if it is said next to your name absentee ballot requested or issued and we would have to be aware if that ballot were to come in in the mail we would have to do some back and forth but it would be very small stating he would be shocked if we had an issue with that because it is covered by double checking.

**Katie Verzal** stated that they always ask the voter that question and it is a felony to vote twice indicating that happens whether there is another set of poll books or not.

**Trustee Leker** asked if an absentee ballot can be dropped off by hand on election day.

There was discussion regarding different municipalities using an electronic system called Badger Books and the difference in processing absentee ballots.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that having a third set of poll books would just be a way of streamlining the process for absentee ballot processing and also the voters.

**Katie Verzal** stated that she does not understand the reservations with the number of absentee ballots that need to be processed at both locations.

**Trustee Leker** asked if you had that many people voting absentee ahead of time, could you have everyone go through one line on election day since it is already split in two by polling place and having fewer people voting in person that day.

**Ken Wolfe** stated he thinks it would be making it less efficient doing it that way because you are going to make the line longer for everyone to go through one set of books. He stated that you have to understand that there is an increase in the number of absentee ballots and you will also have an increase in the amount of in person voters with the voter turnout being larger not just the absentees.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that it is her opinion that if the absentee ballots are now going to be opened in the same room there is no need for two extra poll workers as you will have all the poll workers in the same room to help out with absentee ballots.

**Trustee Atwood** asked if the third set would be less secure.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that Wisconsin Election Commission advised her it would be less secure and would also be outside the statute which calls for two sets of poll books that are cross referenced.

**Trustee Atwood** stated that we are trying to follow State statute so why would we use it now.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that the statute refers to minimums and it would not be crossing any legality line by have a third set of poll books and the people that are going to be complaining are voters.

**Amy Klemko** stated that in prior elections the absentee ballots would be numbered the day prior to the election using the same process the poll workers would use on election day and put back in the vault until they were put in the machines and counted on election day. She stated the ballots already had the numbers so nobody had to stand in line indicating they did this for every election since 2000.

**Trustee Atwood** asked who changed that.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that it was discussed with WEC and everybody stating removing the ballot from its locked location is processing and it goes against statute.

There was discussion regarding prior meeting discussions on the issue and the decision that was made.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that if the Board does not vote for a third set of poll books they will soldier on and get the job done no matter what indicating it is a matter of convenience for the voters stating that it is not unprecedented to have more than two sets of books and would benefit the voters.

**Trustee Leker** stated he would much rather have another set of books than another set of poll workers to do it on election day rather than any other time.

There was discussion regarding the numbering of ballots if a third set of books were used.

**Trustee Leker** asked if there were enough poll workers available.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that she could try at this late notice but asked the Board to take into consideration that if there are mistakes it comes back on her and she is the one who has to answer. She asked that the Board keep this in mind because it is not the normal way of processing absentee ballots.

**Trustee McCabe** asked if the Clerk's recommendation is to just have two books.

**Clerk Brickner** stated that the Wisconsin Election Commission recommendation is to do it by statute in Chapter 6 which is to have two poll books with the absentee ballot numbers in each of them along with the in-person voter numbers and signatures.

**Ken Wolfe** stated that he thinks we are creating a Pandora's box of errors and you will be minimizing errors by doing using a third set of books.

**President Farrell** asked for process by tracking absentee ballots versus in-person, they are both going to go in the same two books under current process in which the answer was yes.

**President Farrell** asked when absentee ballots can be processed and what the process is.

**Clerk Brickner** indicated that the absentee ballots will be there when the polls open and can be processed at any time throughout the day. She stated that an absentee ballot is taken to the book to have a number assigned having the number written on the envelope and in the poll book and then fed into the machine.

**Trustee Leker** stated that if there are that many absentee ballots does it make sense to run all in-person voters through one line.

**Ken Wolfe** stated he thinks that would be a backup,

**Trustee Leker** stated that he would not have any problem making it as efficient and easy process as possible for the voters indicating there were complaints from voters about waiting in line too long and complaints having absentee ballots cut in front of them in line stating there was frustrations. He stated that hearing that from voters he would be willing to try it because if it did make it more efficient for everyone, by rights you should have voters be able to turn in a ballot and make it easier to vote.

16. Communications and Announcements:

Trick or Treat will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on October 31, 2024.

The Bristol WI Historical Society will be holding their Fall Fundraiser on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m..

Next Village Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

17. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Trustee Atwood and was seconded by Trustee Leker to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Brickner, Village Clerk