



Minutes for Joint School Board/Village Board Meeting

Village Hall Board Room
2155 Holmgren Way
Monday, December 9, 2013

A. Call to order (Village Board followed by School Board):

Village Board President Aubinger called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm at the Village Hall.
School Board President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm at the Village Hall.

B. Roll call (Village Board followed by School Board):

Village Board Members Present: Mike Aubinger, Mark Williams, Gary Paul, Ken Bukowski, Charlotte Nelson, Mary Kardoskee

Village Board Members Excused: Michael Malcheski

School Board Members Present: Mark Williams, Ginny Laukka, Brian VanDeKreeke, Barb Halron

School Board Members Excused: Jay VanLaanen

School Choice Advisory Representative Present: John Van Dyck

Others Present: Allison Swanson, Rex Mehlberg, Brian Hanes, Keith Lucius, Jill Kieslich, Tammy Lampereur, Brad Taylor, Brian Nelsen, Dirk Ribbens, Kurt Weyers, Andy Bake, Pete Marto, Maria Arena, Matt Anderson

C. Declaration of quorum:

Quorum Present

D. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Gary Paul seconded by Charlotte Nelson to adopt the Village Board agenda as presented. Aye 6, Nay 0. Motion carried 6:0

Moved by Ginny Laukka seconded by Brian VanDeKreeke to adopt the School Board agenda as presented. Aye 4, Nay 0. Motion carried 4:0

E. Pledge of allegiance:

The pledge was recited

F. Joint Discussion with Village Board:

1. Discussion/Action on Community Building Projects: Aubinger introduced Bill Foster from School Perceptions. School Perceptions organized, collected and tallied the results of the recent community survey. Mr. Foster presented the survey results:

- 880 households in the Village received a survey
• 1457 responses were received (this is an 18% response rate)
• Survey was taken by community members, District staff and Village staff. Only surveys from those people that live in the Village were included in any of the financial data collected.
• 71% of the residents that responded would support the project being financed through the Village.
• The survey results show that across the board, there is a very strong support for the auditorium, swimming pool and community center
• The survey results show that he community is not in favor of the smaller warm water activity pool.

Aubinger opened the discussion to the boards:

- Williams - How confident are we in the survey results that the projects will move forward with a referendum? The results of the survey are extremely predictive of what the outcome of the referendum will be.
- Paul – Where do the undecided (15%) tend to go when voting on a referendum? They could vote against the referendum unless we can learn what their true issues and questions are and provide educate and explanations to them. A lot of questions were gathered from the comments area. Many questions were being asked about location of the new facilities.
- Bukowski – The survey results showed a low reception for a warming pool but the comments show that the community wants one for swimming classes and younger children. There seems to be some confusion in this area.

Moved made by Bukowski, seconded by Williams to open the discussion to public input. Aye 6. Nay 0. Motion carried 6:0.

- **Linda Ambrosius** (3431 Sand Acres Dr.) – Stated she does not understand why taxpayers should be paying for students to learn how to swim. Feels the amount of time the student actually spends in the water is minimal. The responsibility for paying for swimming lessons should be placed on the parents not the schools. With availability of public pools at facilities like the YMCA, we do not need pools in our schools.
 - Aubinger stated that swimming classes run 90 minutes in length allowing for ample time in the water. The youth swimming classes are run through the Villages Park and Rec Department where families are charged a fee. There is also a fee charged for community usage of the pool. User/lesson fees along with tax money help to cover the cost of running the pool.
- **John Filcher** (1304 Sunny Creek) - The overall value of our community helps with the property value of our homes. The pool, auditorium and community center are all old and need improvements. Allowing these facilities to go to waste will only cause our overall property value to go down. The pool is used daily by every demographic in the Village. We need to vote in favor of keeping our property value and quality of life up.
- **Bob Augustine** (1319 Fernando Dr.) – As a resident of the West DePere School District and the Village of Ashwaubenon, we are being asked to pay for these facilities. If in the future West DePere decides to add on, we will also be expected to pay for their facilities. We could potentially be taxed twice. Even though the financing would be higher, the referendum should be run through the school district. This is the only way to prevent West DePere residents from being taxed twice. Aubinger explained the financial reasons why it saves the tax payers money to have the projects ran through the Village versus the school district. He also added that there are student in the West DePere area that attend the Ashwaubenon School District
- **Lissa Marth** (1475 Waterford Dr.) – Ms. Marth read a statement asking the Village Board to take action by approving a referendum for the facilities project. She shared examples of how all three facilities are shared by the School District and community members. Ms. Marth explained that the events taking place at all three facilities are attended by not only school families but community families. These events draw in people into Ashwaubenon from all over the state helping local hotels, restaurants and businesses. Improving these facilities supports our community and our culture. She provided examples of other areas schools and communities that have shared facilities resulting in much success. She explained that the community is made up of the Village, School District and community members. We already share many services and costs between the Village and School District. She stated that yes we do have residents that live in the West DePere School District however we can't accept control over what other municipalities do in their communities.

Moved by Bukowski, seconded by Nelson to close the discussion and move to the regular order of business. Aye 6. Nay 0. Motion carried 6:0.

Aubinger read the “Recommendation of the Ashwaubenon Community Facilities Steering Committee”:

1. Approve three questions for referendum in April. One for each project (community center, pool, and auditorium).
2. The pool should proceed as a single 8 lane pool. After much discussion regarding the survey results, the Committee does not feel that the warm water pool would be approved by the citizens of the community. The Committee feels that asking for a warm water pool may jeopardize the entire project and may be confusing for the voters. The Committee also felt that the existing pool should be filled in and reutilized by the School District in some fashion. It does not make financial sense to continue to operate the existing pool.
3. The referendum questions should seek approval for the Village to bond for each of these three projects. The survey results were overwhelmingly in favor of the Village bonding for the projects due to the substantial difference in financial impact.

Aubinger asked for comments from both boards.

- Laukka – Did the steering committee discuss a fourth question on the referendum about the warm water pool? Williams stated that the more questions you have on a referendum, the more difficult it is to accomplish anything. The warm water pool can always be added in the future.
- Laukka – Is it beneficial to have a question on the referendum that people can answer no to? Foster stated that you should only ask questions you really believe in asking for. You should not have sacrificial questions on a referendum. The Steering Committee is recommending one question for each project.
- Williams – Matt Wolfe was asked if there has been any decisions regarding locations. Wolfe stated they are continuing to work with the Steering Committee on location. Current discussions have the swimming pool at the back of the new gym; the auditorium adjacent to proposed new pool location (outside tech ed area) and the community center in its current location in Klipstine Park.
- Halron – There are a lot of children that do not know how to swim. Having a pool and offering lessons will give all children the opportunity to learn this skill. Swimming is a lifelong skill that children can benefit from educationally and physically. Linda Ambrosius disagreed stating it is a parent's responsibility to provide lessons at their own cost.
- Aubinger – Stated he supports these projects. The amenities that our community has affect the value of our property. When these amenities start falling apart it is neither healthy nor safe to allow our students to use them. As a community and board we need to protect the values of our homes and the children involved. Our last property tax bills dropped because the value of our homes dropped. Replacing these facilities will help the value of our homes. There is a concern expressed that we are rushing into replacing these facilities. These facilities are old and we are not replacing them too soon. These facilities help make our community. The only thing that is stressing is the impact on the people in the West DePere School District. However, I do not feel that this will penalize anyone. The overall value of our homes will travel with us no matter what school district they are located in.
- VanDeKreeke – When the current school was built, it was built projecting into the future. At that time, our community was young. Now our residents are older and have raised their children. Like all communities, we will see a transition in the age of our residents. We need to plan for these transitions. It would be short sighted of us to think that we will build the warm water pool in the future. For an additional \$5.00 on a \$100,000 home, we should be including this now and not wait to the future.
- Nelson – A warm pool will be a health benefit to seniors.
- Bukowski – My family moved to this area for reputation of the Village and Schools. We paid top notch for our children to have good facilities. We need to do the same for others' children and grandchildren. If we could prevent the West DePere homes from being affected, we would. We however would lose \$.41 on the dollar if it is funded through the School District. All three of these projects need to be addresses now. We can't wait 10 years.

We have been asked why we are not seeking private funds. The steering committee has discussed it but we are not able to seek private funds until the referendum has passed. When it passes, we will make every effort to seek private funds to help with the projects.

- Aubinger – We will not as a committee or board promise anything we can't carry out. We will not promise to raise a specific dollar amount however; we will seek donations to reduce the overall cost to the village.
- Kardoskee – Thank you to everyone that filled out a survey. I also feel the warm water pool should be included now for \$5.00 on a \$100,000 home.
- Aubinger – The Village and District have not gone into this lightly. We have put a lot of time and consideration into these items and the people involved.
- Williams – He stated that the referendum topic has been studied for quite some time. If we fund it through the District for the auditorium alone, it would cost the same as funding both the auditorium and community center through the Village. These facilities make a community.
- Aubinger – In my field of work, I cover a lot of communities in the area. I have sat through many meetings and many discussions. The cooperation I have witness between the Ashwaubenon School District and the Village of Ashwaubenon on this subject is very unique. Many other areas to not have this relationship.
- Bukowski – We as a board do not want to jeopardize the regular pool by adding the warm water pool on to this question.
- Paul – If we postpone the building of a warm water pool to later, it will cost us considerably more money.
- Williams – Clarified that the motion being made would be a joint Village and School Board motion.

Moved by Ken Bukowski, seconded by Charlotte Nelson to adopt the “Recommendation of the Ashwaubenon Community Facilities Steering Committee” with the addition of a separate question being added that would include a warm water pool. Aye 9; Nay 0. Motion carried 9:0.

G. Adjourn of Joint Village Board and School Board Meeting:

Moved by Gary Paul seconded by Charlotte Nelson to adjourn the Joint Board Meeting at 7:05 pm. Aye 9, Nay 0. Motion carried 9:0.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay VanLaanen, Clerk