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The Village of Grantsburg Administration Committee met on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Office, 316 Brad Street S, Grantsburg, WI 54840.

Present: Chairman/Village President, Terrance Kucera  
Village Trustee, Greg Peer  
Village Trustee, Caylin Muehlberg

Others: Clerk/Treasurer, Sheila Meyer; Police Chief, Dan Wald; Director of Public Works, Gerald Konobeck; Grantsburg Officer, Joel Klatt; Fired Up Bistro, Mark Harmon; Timber Ghost Realty, Van Murray; Dave & Corinne's Pub, Dave Corty & Corrine Scheele; Edina Realty, Len Chute; Tax Payer, Gene Blomberg; Inter County Leader, Cindy Michaelson; Burnett County Sentinel, Greg Marsten; Public Works Crew, John Erickson; Public Works Crew, Kurt Tyberg; Public Works Crew, Jeff Harmon

Chairman/President Kucera called the Administration Committee meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Discussion/Action: Class "B" Beer/ "Class B" Liquor License.** Chairman/President Kucera provided an overview of the matter at hand, there are three active applications for one remaining class b combo license, the applicants include Corinne & Dave's Pub, Ascend Coffee and Fired Up Bistro. These applicants have been reviewed the last several months and ask we make a recommendation to the full board for a final decision. Chairman/President Kucera opened the floor up for the applicants to speak and other attendees to speak on the applicants' behalf. Corty stated they would be willing to relinquish their license to Mark Harmon. No one was in attendance to speak on behalf of Ascend Coffee. Harmon asked that the license be awarded to either him or Corinne & Dave's Pub then he would purchase the building, do updates to the building but that would be contingent on one of them being awarded the license. Harmon would plan to be open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and be open 6 days a week. With the new building he would be able to host better events but couldn't make a go of it on just food for how much he is spending on the building. Harmon continued to comment about possible service options and renovation plans for the building should he purchase it. He stated they would open in one to two months after purchase, putting the license to use at that time and would continue with updates to the building. Chairman/President Kucera explained the boards questioning so to be as transparent as possible and so that the board was informed on the history of how things got here including the initial sale falling through, business closing, Facebook comments, etc. Chairman/President Kucera simply stated the board is trying to discover all the details before making a final decision. Blomberg urged the board to give Harmon the license because our town needs another restaurant that stays open morning to night, and it would be a good asset to the community. Chute agreed with Blomberg stating if Harmon is willing to put the money into something, it will work and if Harmon does not buy the building from Corty/Scheele, who knows what could go in there. Chairman/President Kucera asked the committee members if they had anything to add to the discussion. Trustee Peer commented that buying the building is a separate issue from being awarded the license. He stated he had doubt about how this would all pan out as the last couple plans have not. Harmon agreed he had made poor choices in his other plans but felt they have a good plan moving forward. Trustee Muehlberg shared she wants to see business succeed but she is concerned about portraying an image of not being fair. She suggested the Village issue the quota license to the Legion once they relinquish the reserve license and buy a reserve license from one of the area municipalities so that the three long standing businesses (Joker's, Rendezvous, and Legion) would have the quota licenses and the Village would

potentially have more than one reserve license to sell for \$10,000. This way everyone would have the opportunity to purchase and it would be fair. Chairman/President Kucera agreed with Trustee Muehlberg and went on to explain the Village has the authority by state statute to look at other factors when issuing licenses including, location of business, number of licenses in one area, they could set minimum hours of operation etc. Trustee Peer agreed with the idea to sell the reserve license that way the board wouldn't be bound to deciding on who should get the last quota license. Clerk/Treasurer Meyer explained the fee is minimum of \$10,000 plus the regular application fees. Corty commented that would be an additional \$10,000 of expense for the business. The committee agreed that is an additional expense, but this would potentially make more licenses available to everyone. **Motion by Chairman Muehlberg, second by Trustee Peer to recommend to the Village Board request the American Legion give up their reserve license, then issue them one of the three quota licenses and offer the reserve license up for purchase for \$10,000 and also ask townships to purchase their reserve license if additional licenses are needed. Motion carried.** Discussion amongst committee members and guests continued regarding the process of paying/applying for the reserve license. The committee explained a decision cannot be made at this level; the full Village Board will have final say on how this process will take place at the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 monthly Village Board meeting. Committee members suggested that the first to come to the Village Office with a check for \$10,000 would probably receive the reserve license.

**Discussion/Action: Director of Public Works' Position.** Clerk/Treasurer Meyer shared with the board that she had received a letter of resignation from DPW Konobeck. She has posted an ad with the Burnett County Sentinel, Inter-County Leader, Indianhead Advertiser, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Rural Water Association, Indeed and the village website for applications to be submitted by March 1, 2022. Chairman/President Kucera had discussed with Clerk/Treasurer Meyer that the newly formed Personnel Committee would narrow down interviews and develop interview questions then the Administration Committee would do final interviews. DPW Konobeck said his last day will be February 15<sup>th</sup> but is willing to help where needed during the interim. He suggested that John Erickson oversee water and sewer operations and Kurt Tyberg oversee streets and parks during this time. DPW Konobeck also provided brief updates on ongoing projects; well #3 is waiting on DNR and engineers to put back online and complete final trainings, Jeremiah with SEH is working on a facility plan for the WWTP and water meters are needing to be switched out this year.

Chairman/President Kucera called for a recess at 11:09 a.m. while the committee waited for the public works crew to attend the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 11:18 a.m.

The committee asked the crew what their thoughts/preferences were in the interim while a director is hired. Erickson agreed splitting duties with Tyberg for water/sewer and streets/parks would work and suggested that for future after hiring. Tyberg agreed that would work. Discussion continued regarding coverage for the Public Works department. Clerk/Treasurer Meyer suggested we restart Monday morning meetings after Jerry is done to keep everyone on the same page.

**Adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.**

Allison Longhenry  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer