

**Village Board Minutes**  
**Village of Onarga, Special Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Monday February 21, 2022**

1. Call to order at 6:00p.m.

Cultra called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Shane Cultra, Village President; Fred Walraven, Trustee; Holly Zirkle, Trustee; Sarah Barnett, Trustee; Cole Rabe, Trustee; Angie Martinez, Trustee,absent; Russ Geisler, Trustee; Stephanie VonDrehle, Village Clerk, via phone; James Clarage, Building Inspector; Michael Tilstra, Fred Price, Jeff Meyer, and Sarah from Grand Prairie Seminary Board.

3. Discussion on Village of Onarga Property

Fred Price discussed the history of Grand Prairie Seminary. Mike Tilstra and Sarah then discussed how Grand Prairie wants to help the community grow by improving economics with education. Tilstra stated that Grand Prairie wants to purchase the old school in Onarga to add a business oppurnity for the Village. He stated that Grand Prairie is hoping to just be able to stabilize the building and not demolish. Tilstra stated the Grand Prairie board is not sure what business will use this building yet but do have ideas in the works. This would be a 10-20 year project. This property is owned partly by the Village and by another person. Grand Prairie has spoken with the other person, but did not want to offer her any money until they were sure the Village would sell their part as well. Grand Prairie needs the whole property to make this future idea to work.

The Village would need to put this property up for bid. Once this is scheduled Grand Prairie would then put in their bid for the property.

The board discussed this matter after the Grand Prairie board members exited.

Rabe inquired if this purchase was for a Nexus expansion. If so he is not interested in selling due to the issues that the Village already has with the school. Rabe asked if there could be a stipulation put that Grand Prairie could purchase this land, however this property could not be used to expand Nexus. The board was unsure if this could be done.

Cultra stated he believes either Iroquois Memorial Hospital or Gibson City Hospital would be purchasing the property for future use of a DCFS Welcome Center, which main purpose is to evaluate children and then send them to Nexus, a foster home, or wherever that child's placement would be.

After a lengthy discussion on this topic the board decided they would think about this and discuss at the next Village Board Meeting.

4. Possible Action on Any Other Board Matters

Zirkle stated she had been contacted by the Philips 66 Gas Station on 6 gaming machine licenses. They had apparently been trying to get ahold of Sansone or VonDrehle with no luck. VonDrehle will contact them and get this in the works. Geisler stated that the grocery store also wants gaming machines. The board is not sure they want another business in town to have gaming machines.

Geisler and Clarage discussed all the excess paperwork that has been required for the sidewalk project and this is why Clarage's billings have included more over the approved amount for the sidewalk project. This paperwork has to be completed.

Rabe asked Clarage to contact Behrends on the building completion and the issues they are having with falling snow and ice due to the building not being completed. Rabe asked once they have spoken with Behrends would Clarage then send out a formal letter asking for completion no later than 90 days. Clarage will work on this.

5. Adjournment

Walraven moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm. Barnett seconded the motion. The motion carried.