

City of Chetek Common Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

Council room, 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI

Also view meeting remotely - via Zoom

AGENDA:

Call to order

Roll call – Scott Bachowski___, Earl Grover___, Terry Hight___, Mark Edwards___ Mayor Martin_____

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comment: citizens may direct questions/comments to the council for items not on the agenda. The council may have limited discussion, however; no action will be taken under public comments.

Mayor comments

Announcement of closed session later in meeting – Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved - discussion regarding health insurance claims issues from 2021.

Motion to approve agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Council minutes and city claims for **March 2022**
- b. Department/Board reports as submitted - ***Housing Authority-January 2022; Plan Commission - March; Fire District - March***
- c. Resignations and/or appointments from boards/committees: **none**
- d. General licenses/permits:

OLD BUSINESS - the following items will be discussed by the council and possible action taken
none

NEW BUSINESS - the following items will be discussed by the council and possible action taken

- a. Application for premise description changes on fermented malt beverage license and street closures for - Fostbites Pub, 214 Knapp Street
- b. Discussion regarding request to purchase city property at 110 Moore St - Jim Moran & Pam Green.
- c. Discussion regarding proposed parking lot on Moore Street
- d. Request for annual support from Chetek Area Museum
- e. Closed session
- f. Act on closed session, if any.
- g. ADJOURN

**NOTE: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95773118201?pwd=akZKaEgySDlLVU5kMUhKVjAwRUIMZz09>
Meeting ID: 957 7311 8201 Passcode: 602802 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the American With Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact the municipal clerk at (715) 924-4838 by 10:00 a.m. the Friday prior to the meeting, so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. in the council room, 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI and virtual through Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Martin.

Council members in attendance: Scott Bachowski, Earl Grover, Terry Hight , Mark Edwards, Mayor Martin

Approve agenda - motion by Bachowski, 2nd by Grover. carried.

CONSENT AGENDA - Hight motioned to approve February council minutes, February claims; 2nd by Grover. carried.

Bid award - Mayor Martin opened bids for the garage located at 75 Hwy Blvd. South. Bachowski motioned to accept the highest bid from Jim Schaaf in the amount of \$2,000. Garage to be removed off the property no later than June 1, 2022. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Wastewater treatment plant -The virtual tour of the proposed wastewater treatment plant was presented. Tia McCarthy from CBS Squared engineering firm answered questions from the council.

Groundwater sampling on south industrial park land - Meridian Environmental Consulting, LLC performed groundwater sampling as part of the due process for the USDA funding for the new wastewater treatment plant. They completed the work and are recommending No Further Action to the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture (DATCP). As part of the process, they are required to notify the City of Chetek of their findings, i.e., nitrogen has impacted the ground water beneath the City property to some extent. There is a map showing where the test borings were and where the nitrogen contamination exceeded drinking water standards. There are also some standard handouts explaining how this affects the City as property owner. The main issue is that if the city were to ever want to put in drinking water wells, you need to know about the nitrate contamination. The well driller may be able to drill the well deep enough to avoid the contamination. Or, you could treat the water. Or move the well to a location outside of the contaminated area. Ultimately, the responsibility for the continuing obligations lies with the property owner where the contamination occurred, which is not the city property but rather the fertilizer plant located in the town. Being as the industrial park land will be served by city water and sewer utilities there won't be a concern of water contamination.

Police squad purchase - Chief Ron Ambrozaitis advised the council of his intent to replace the 2018 Ford Explorer with a 2022 Ford Explorer later this year.

Employee request to carry over holiday hours - Grover motioned to approve the carryover of 12 holiday hours from 2021 for Andres Meza-Anzaldo. 2nd by Hight. Carried.

Outside employment - Hight approved Joe Atwood's request for outside employment with the village of New Auburn for temporary help with building permits on weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This will not interfere with his full-time job with the City of Chetek. 2nd by Edwards. Carried.

Fishy Four event - motion by Bachowski, 2nd by Grover to approve the request from Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Scholarship Fund to use the beach pavilion on July 1st 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and July 2nd from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.; use of the bandshell July 2nd from 6:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.; closure of Lakeview Drive from Wisconsin Avenue to City Park Drive from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on July 2nd. carried.

Street Use Agreement - Council members discussed the renewal of the Temporary Street Use agreement with The Mill for the use of Dixon St between Center St and Stout St. The original agreement was signed in 2016 and this would be the fifth amendment. Council members will discuss this matter further after the plan commission makes its recommendation for the proposed sale of the lot on Dixon Street between the two buildings owned by the Helms. If recommended by the Plan Commission and further approved by the Council, a bid notice will be placed in the Chetek Alert for the sale of the lot. Being as item "E" in the use agreement addresses parking on said lot, the council will address this after it is determined whether or not this lot will be sold.

Resolution 2022-3 - Appropriating the donation of \$5,833.33 from the Barron County Law Enforcement Foundation to the 2022 budget accounts. Motion to approve by Bachowski, 2nd by Hight. Carried.

Grover motioned to go into closed session, 2nd by Edwards. Carried.

Grover motioned to go into open session - 2nd by Hight. Carried.

Motion to adjourn by Hight, 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - 5:30 p.m. in the council room, 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Martin.

Council members in attendance: Scott Bachowski, Earl Grover, Terry Hight, Mark Edwards, Mayor Martin

License - Motion made by Grover to approve the Class "A" fermented malt beverage license for Two Stores, LLC at 612 Dallas Street. 2nd by Hight. Carried.

Temporary Use Agreement - Motion by Hight to approve a fifth amendment to the "temporary use agreement" for the Mill to include the revision of item (c) to: "The closing chains on Banks Street are to be set up by the Lessee for events and taken down by Lessee when events are not occurring"; adding item f: requiring a lease payment of \$100 per month effective May 1, 2022. The fee shall be waived for a period of thirty six (36) months upon completion of a fence (approved by the city zoning administrator according to city ordinances) placed between the lot owned by The Mill Properties (parcel 211-1177-08-000) and parcels 211-1177-07-000 and 211-1177-13-000. - 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Fire District subsidy - motion by Bachowski to revise all municipalities annual subsidy to a calculation based on each municipality's percent of equalized values served by the fire district multiplied by the fire district's annual expenditure budget. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bachowski, 2nd by Edwards, carried.

Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer

THE CHETEK HOUSING AUTHORITY

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hight called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM after remote meeting attendance technical difficulty was resolved. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ray Hanson, Alex Harden, Terry Hight, Marge Jost, and Lou Ann Novak
Other(s) present: Meg Skemp, Executive Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings were reviewed.

Motion (Novak/Jost) to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting.

Motion carried; unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The committee reviewed and discussed the report provided in the meeting pack, which included occupancy, tenants, maintenance, and management updates.

BILLS

The committee reviewed the payment detail report for the current bills.

Motion (Jost/Novak) to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried; unanimous.

FINANCIALS

The committee reviewed and discussed the December Financial Statements prepared by Housing Authority Accounting Specialists, Inc.

Motion (Novak/Jost) to file the statements for audit. Motion carried; unanimous.

PARKING POLICY

A brief discussion was held regarding clarifying language for the parking policy; no action taken.

BY-LAW REVISION

The committee reviewed the draft By-Laws revisions including the addition of Article III, Section 9, regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Executive and Deputy Directors and Article III, Section 2, regarding holding regular meetings every other month. Discussion was held regarding limiting the Executive Director's contract signing authorization to align with the procurement policy.

Motion (Harden/Novak) to approve the revised By-Laws as discussed. Motion carried; unanimous.

PHA PLAN

The committee reviewed and discussed the draft annual PHA Plan and current Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan. The committee discussed obtaining a Capital Needs Assessment to inform future plans.

Motion (Novak/Jost) to obtain a Capital Needs Assessment. Motion carried; unanimous.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 24th at 2:00 PM in the community room, with an option to join via the Zoom application.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Jost/Harden) to adjourn at 3:08 PM. Motion carried; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Skemp
Margaret Skemp, recording secretary

Minutes of the Hearing of the Plan Commission of the City of Chetek held on March 17,2022 at 6:00p.m.

A Public Hearing was called to order at 6:01 pm on March 17,2022 by Mayor Jeff Martin to hear a request from ABSSN Holdings to extend the Special Conditional Use for 2 more years at 1325 5th Street and 1202 West Banks Street.

Planning Commission attendees were Mayor Martin, Scott Bachowski, John Hunsinger, Dave Swangim & Shawn Ayers. Absent were Del Wacker & Mark Etten. Also in attendance was Secretary for the Planning Commission Mark Eby, Building Inspector Joe Atwood, The Mill owner Buddy Helms.

***6:01 PM Hear a request from ABSSN Holdings to extend the Special Conditional Use for two more years at 1325 5th Street and 1202 West Banks Street.** Joe Atwood said that Aaron has a special conditional use which is good for 2 years which is in the ordinance. Aaron was gonna see if he could go longer than 2 years but Joe said that since it is an ordinance that he would just recommend to the commission to stick with the 2 year as there would be a lot of work to change the ordinance. Joe said that he has had no phone calls to the police and no complaints. Mayor said that he has had no complaints from anyone.

City of Chetek – Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – March 17,2022.

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Chetek was called to order at 6:04pm on March 17,2022 by Mayor Jeff Martin.

Roll call for the Planning Commission meeting was taken. Present were Mayor Jeff Martin, Scott Bachowski, John Hunsinger, Shawn Ayers, & Dave Swangim. Absent was Mark Etten & Del Wacker

Also present was Mark Eby, Planning Commission Secretary, Building Inspector Joe Atwood, The Mill owner Buddy Helms.

Compliance with the open meeting law was verified.

Scott Bachowski made a motion to approve the prior month meeting minutes with the change that John Hunsinger was absent and was not at the last meeting. .2nd by Dave Swangim . Motion carried.

1) Discussion/Action: Hear a request from ABSSN Holdings to extend the Special Conditional Use for two more years at 1325 5th Street and 1202 West Banks Street. Scott made a motion to approve the special conditional use. Shawn Ayers 2nd motion carried.

2) Discussion/Action:Approve or not approve proposed land division at existing water tower site. Joe said that the parcel had to be cleaned up so that is why the parcels are the way that they look. The property was split into 2 parcels one for the current water tower and lot 2 which is for sale if someone wanted to purchase and develop that parcel. Because of the split there is a separate road/driveway to the water tower and one to the new parcel. Dave made a motion to approve proposed land division at the existing water tower site. Scott 2nd motion carried.

3) Discussion/Action:Forward recommendation to Council approval to sell vacant lot located between The Mill and Glass on Silk Building .08 acres. There is a 30x100 spot that is not being used right now. Joe said that because it is City Property the Commission needs to give the council the ok to make the recommendation to sell that area. Shawn asked if for some reason the Mill got taken by a tornado or something could the Helms rebuild or what would happen. Joe was not sure as to what would happen if something happened to the building. Joe would be looking into how something like that would be handled. Scott asked if anything could be built on that small area. Joe said not really cause you would need to meet all the setbacks and if you did it would be a very small building. They would have to be able to meet all the setbacks in I-1. Scott asked if there could be a patio or deck built in that area and Joe said that it would have to be less than 24" high and would have different requirements compared to a building being put there. Also if it were to be a parking area there are specific things in our ordinance that say how something like that would need to be done. Shawn asked well if we sell that spot why couldn't we sell the north area which is currently leased to The Mill. Buddy said that it is very complicated and that the road currently was deeded from the railroad back in the 70's and there are special stipulations on that road so if that road were to be vacated or sold it possibly could go back to the

railroad. So after further discussion the Commission needs to check and see if that 30x100 can even be sold as it is part of the road currently. It was decided to table this till it can be further looked at.

4) Discussion: Look at some model Solar Ordinances and discuss if the City needs one. At this time Joe is not sure if there are grants out there because people have been asking about solar systems. This is just something that should be looked at so there is some discussion and so we can work on an ordinance and what stipulations we should look at. Joe will draft an ordinance for further review. Joe will also get a couple ordinances on wind turbines for further discussion.

Date of the next meeting April 21,2022.

Motion to adjourn by Shawn Ayers 2nd by John Hunsinger motion carried meeting adjourned at 6:48pm

Respectfully Submitted Mark Eby

Chetek Fire District Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2022 - 6:00 P.M.
Fire Hall Training Room

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Ronnie Latcham (Chair), Keith Hanson, Jim Macone, Earl Grover, Ryan Olson (Chief), Randy Books (Assistant Chief), Renelle Gill (bookkeeper)

Absent: None

Keith Hanson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Macone; motion passed.

Jim Macone made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2022 and February 1, 2022 meetings, seconded by Keith Hanson; motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Jim Macone presented the following updates on accounts: Checking - \$26,261.88; Savings - \$128,263.30; Pension - \$9,456.90 and Equipment \$117,371.08. Earl Grover made a motion to approve, Keith Hanson seconded; motion passed.

Review/Approve Claims and Payment: Keith Hanson questioned Ryan Olson about the cost of the 5 fire alarms at \$11,662.00, and also asked about the DNR grant of \$3,506.36. Jim Macone asked about the bill from Triton Electric of \$1,531.27; Ryan Olson explained what work was completed. Ryan Olson also explained something went through the pump on E-One and took a vein out of it and the pump was severely unbalanced and the cost difference was \$40,000.00 or \$10,000.00. Jim Macone made a motion to approve Claims and Payment, Keith Hanson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Bookkeeper's Update: Renelle Gill presented on page 7 from January 1, 2022 to March 22, 2022 the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual. Ronnie Latcham asked about the cost involving Operating Supplies and Expenses; the annual budget is \$17,497.00 and as of March 22, 2022 expenses are at \$12,772.42. Keith Hanson asked about the Govmntl Pymts Fire Protection contributions and as of now the Town of Rusk,

Town of Chetek, Town of Dover, and City of Chetek are at 0 payments. The Town of Sioux Creek and the Town of Paririe Lake have paid and the total Govmntl Pymts Fire Protection balance stands at \$42,542.88.

Public input: Joe Atwood asked about placing the Subsidies discussion on the May agenda.

Chief's Report: Engine One is up and operating; it was found that two 1 ½ nozzles were broken and needing repair. A snowmobile went through the ice and there were no fatalities. The Barron County Sheriff's Department was at the scene and the Chetek Crew was able to pull a Sheriff Deputy and snowmobile operator out of the lake. Planning an ice rescue training with the Cameron Fire Department and the Barron County Sherriff's Department.

New Business: Mayor Martin stated that the City Council voted not to institute an 80% cap, but instead were in favor of equalized valuation when assessing the townships and city annual payment. Discussed also setting up a subcommittee for operational budget from each township and city; membership would include one person from each location. Ryan Olson would submit the annual budget to the committee to review and then forward their suggestions on to the Fire District representatives from the City of Chetek and Township of Chetek for approval. There will be further discussions regarding the Service Agreement at the May Meeting.

Next Meeting: May 25, 2022 – 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall Training Room.

Motion to adjourn was made by Earl Grover, seconded by Keith Hanson. Motion carried.

Fee \$40.00

Application Date / receipt number 4/2/2022

City of Chetek

APPLICATION FOR PREMISE DESCRIPTION CHANGE

For events to be held during the Fourth of July weekend, form needs to be filled out - no fee.

Business name: FOSTBITES PUB phone 715-925-2327

Business location: 214 KNAPP ST.

Current premise description: 214 KNAPP ST. Building + PATIO AREA

Premise description requesting: STREET - 214 KNAPP IN FRONT
of FOSTBITES PUB.

Reason for request: SECC BEEN OUTSIDE of PUB for STREET DANCE

Requesting permanent change _____ OR Requesting change for outdoor event X
(complete info below)

<p><u>Sept 10th - Harvest Fest</u> Outdoor Event Info <u>8am - 12:00am</u> <u>July 1st + July 2nd</u> Hours of event: <u>3pm - 12:00 AM</u></p> <p><small>Per ordinance events shall end no later than 8:00 p.m.</small></p>	
<p>Person in charge of event: <u>JASON OR NATE FOSTVEDT</u> phone <u>715-642-0898</u> <u>715-642-1630</u></p>	
<p>Fencing is required to secure the area where alcohol will be served, stored, or consumed. Plans for proposed street closings, special parking provisions, and fencing must be submitted to the Police Chief for his/her review and approval a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the event. <u>Attach plans.</u></p>	
<p><u>Clean up</u> of all debris shall be completed no later than 2 hours after event or 10:00 p.m. whichever is earlier.</p>	
<p><u>Outdoor Live Music</u> shall be allowed only during Fourth of July events. Per council 11/13/2007</p>	
<p><u>Noise</u> - business shall comply or ensure compliance with all applicable decibel limits.</p>	
<p><i>Failure to comply with ordinances will result in denial of premise description change requests for remainder of calendar year.</i></p>	

Additional comments: LAST year This event Almost Filled
The Entire Block with people

Date of council meeting April 12, 2022 Approved _____ Denied _____

License # _____ (update premise description & print new license. Attach app to our copy)
\\Cityserver06\City Data\CARMEN\licenses\premise description change request.doc

REQUEST TO CLOSE STREET/ALLEY

Saturday Sept 10th

Date/s for closing July 1st July 2nd

Organization/person requesting: FOSTBITES PUB JASON OR NATE FOSTVEDT

Address 214 KNAPP St. Phone 715-642-0898
715-642-1630

Reason for street/alley closing: STREET DANCE - Friday Night
STREET DANCE - Saturday Night

List Street/alley requesting to be closed – include starting and ending points and time of day.

	Street	from	ending	From/to
<u>July 1</u>	<u>KNAPP</u>	<u>2nd St (main)</u>	<u>3rd St</u>	<u>3 am/pm 2 am/pm</u>
<u>July 2</u>	<u>KNAPP</u>	<u>2nd St (main)</u>	<u>3rd St.</u>	<u>3 am/pm 2 am/pm</u>
<u>Sept 10</u>	<u>KNAPP</u>	<u>2nd St (main)</u>	<u>3rd St</u>	<u>8 am/pm 12 am/pm</u>

HIGHLIGHT THE ABOVE ON THE ATTACHED MAP
ALSO – ATTACHED PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT FORM NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT.
Failure to contact affected owners may result in denial.

BARRICADES NEEDED X YES X NO (USING CHAMBERS FENCING.)
TO LOOSE ENDS OF STREETS

Will there be amplified music/noise? X yes no During What hours? 4pm - 11am
Outdoor music may require permit – You must contact Police Department.

If this is a County Road, authorization needs to be attached – either a letter or email from County. Attached?

Signature [Signature]
Printed name JASON FOSTVEDT

date 3/1/22

COUNCIL APPROVED DENIED DATE OF MEETING 4/12/2022

ROUTED TO PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ROUTED TO POLICE DEPARTMENT

LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS AFFECTED - every owner needs to be contacted - or request may be denied.

Address	name	signature date
208 Knapp ST	Mary's Inc	Closed FRIDAYS @ 2:00pm CLOSED SATURDAYS
210 Knapp ST	Antczak Org LLC	[Signature] 3-13-22
214 Knapp ST	Ends Inc	[Signature] 3/1/22
218 Knapp ST	C/Voney J Conner	[Signature] 3/04/22
222 Knapp ST	Northwest Tele Co	Not in Business
224 Knapp ST	Weiler Builders LLC	Called multiple times LEFT MESSAGE WITH DATES.
205 Knapp ST	Brand & Heidi Feale	[Signature] 3-15-22
209 Knapp ST	GI Rentals 715-494-0729 LLC	Called marc gilker 8:00 AM 3/17
213 Knapp ST	Town of Chetek	Called Dave Peters 9:30 AM 3/17
221 Knapp ST	Joseph & Jessica Clark	[Signature] leave open section
223 Knapp ST	Mayo Clinic	empty Lot

3/16/2022

City Council

Chetek, WI 54728

Dear Council Members,

Jim Moran and Pam Green of Green Livin' Realty LLC, Chetek community residence, and a future member of Keller Williams (Broker), would like to propose that our company purchase the property that is currently owned by the city, and used by Chamber of Commerce and apartments.

We understand that the property would have to be put up for bid by the city. If this question can be brought to the members of the council during your next session, we would appreciate your consideration.

If the property goes out for bid, we will be submitting an offer to purchase. If we win the bid we would be moving a real estate office into that location.

Thank you for considering this proposal,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Moran & Pam Green", written over a horizontal line.

James Moran & Pam Green

875 25 3/16 St.

Chetek, WI 54728

Parking lot on Moore Street

Line Painting \$ 1,000.00

Storm Sewer

Catch Basin \$ 800.00

Casting and Grate \$ 1,000.00

10 inch PVC Pipe \$ 2,000.00

Parking Stops \$ 3,000.00

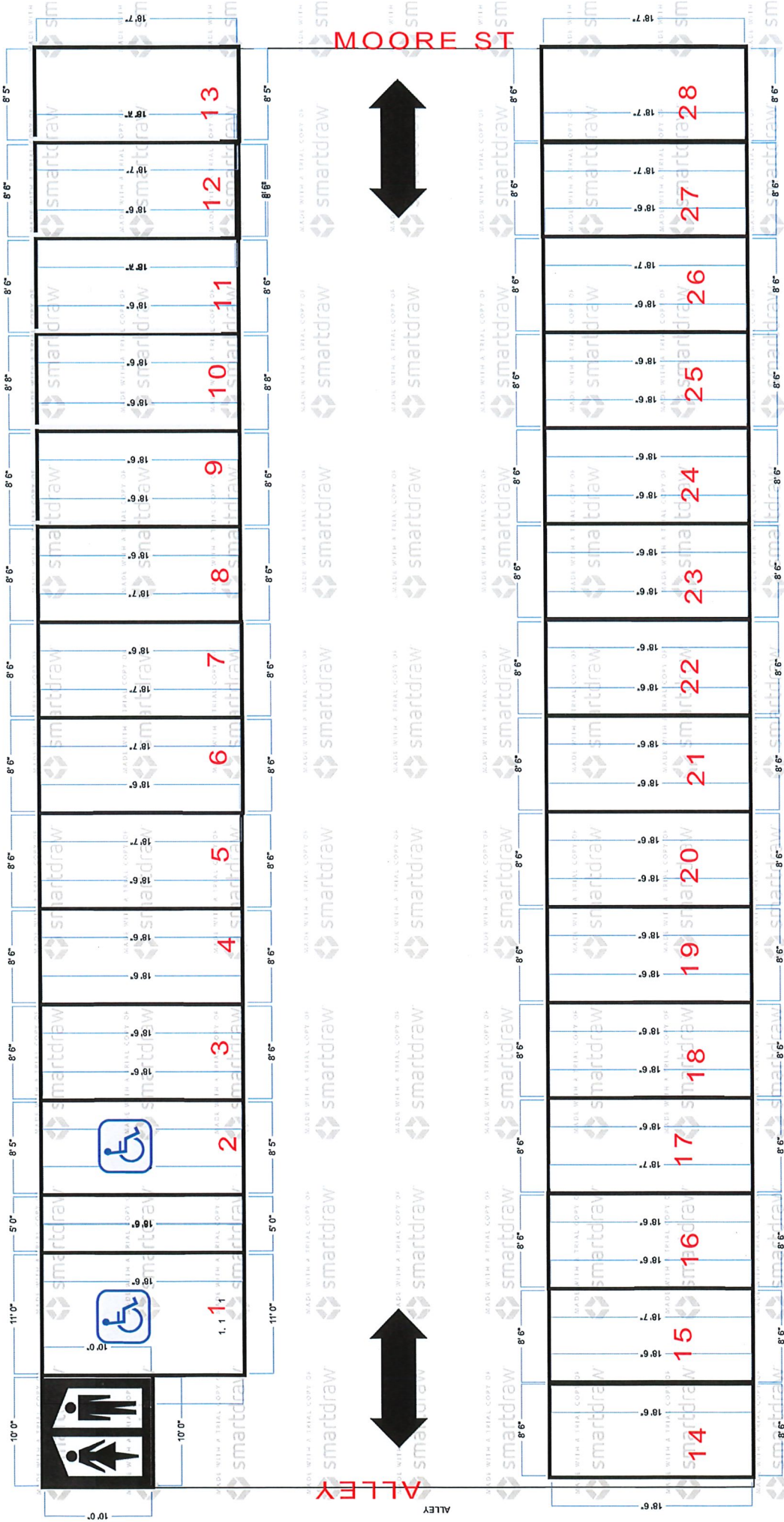
Fencing \$ 1,000.00

Paving \$ 8,000.00

Signage \$ 1,000.00

\$ **17,800.00**

133ft



ALLEY

MOORE ST





**CHETEK AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

728 Second Street
PO Box 317
Chetek WI 54728

715.255.0482

chetekmuseum@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Claudia Wold

President

Karin Jorstad

Vice President

Dianne Reindel

Secretary

Jim Skozek

Treasurer

Duane Reischel

Assistant Treasurer

John Banks

Wayne Brenholt

Jennifer Nelson

Ingrid Rothenbuehler

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HONORARY BOARD

MEMBERS

Paul Lundmark

Hazel Calhoun

Lauren Nashlund

Betty Meilahn

John Fostvedt

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robin Fossum

www.chetekmuseum.org

Visit us on Facebook!



March 25, 2022

Mayor Jeff Martin & City Council

PO Box 194

Chetek WI 54728

Dear Mayor Martin & City Council Members:

Since 1979, the Chetek Area Historical Society has had one mission, to operate the Chetek Area Museum in downtown Chetek. In 2013 we were fortunate to purchase the former Nelson Realty Building; we secured a 30-year local mortgage for a larger and well-maintained building to harbor our history collection. Artifacts at the museum must be from Chetek and the local area.

We are an all-volunteer museum; the executive director earns a small stipend for administrative work. Since the museum is a destination for tourists and area residents, the museum has a tremendous impact on Chetek's economy. Over 1,200+ visitors pass through the Museum annually along with private groups including Leadership Barron County and children's groups. In addition, last year we had guests from 12 international countries. When guests visit the museum, they tend to stay in town, many find a place to dine and shop instead of traveling further. We have thousands of monthly views of our Facebook and webpage that promote Chetek and its history.

The museum receives no local, county, state or federal government funding or support. We do not apply for special loans since we do not have a full-time employee or have the funds to employ staff. We have found our free admission policy results in more visitors and more generous donations which makes the museum a budget friendly destination for families.

We have two fund raisers annually, our Plants & Treasurers sale in June, and Snowcone/Popcorn Sale on July 4th. Both events bring in a several hundred dollars. We solicit memberships (\$25 minimum) from the community through our newsletter and envelopes in the Chetek Alert. We have received a few generous estate gifts from local residents which have been a tremendous help, along with all the donor hours from 30 of our volunteers.

Though we were closed for a year due to Covid-19; we had enough in savings to pay for our utilities and mortgage. We invest our time and give back to our community. The museum board is asking the city to support our efforts with an annual budget request of \$1,000 to help us maintain our investment in the city. Most museums are supported by their local government to a much greater degree. We have encouraged local businesses and resorts to join our efforts, the response is only from a few. Mosaic recently limited its service to four months of non-profit free internet requiring we now pay the full commercial rate the rest of the year.

This year we are looking forward to announcing a campaign to secure copies of the Chetek Alert from 1882-1954. We currently have physical copies of the paper from 1954 to present. The Alert has the older copies in storage, but no one is allowed access to the copies since they were not stored properly and are now almost dust. The history of our community is lost since we cannot access copies of the Alert. The cities of Barron, Rice Lake, and many others have digital access or copies of their papers, Chetek does not.

Through hours of research, we have found that we can purchase PDF copies (1882-1954) from the Wisconsin Historical Society for approximately \$6,000. If we would want PDFs for 1954 to present, that would be another \$6,000, plus we would have to purchase a new computer for the Research Room for about \$2,000. We hope to begin this campaign in the next few months.


We receive numerous requests monthly for research from local businesses and residents to see if we have historical pictures and property information. We always try to help and offers such help for free.

There is a wealth of history in our area. The Museum is currently creating a Northwest Wisconsin Museum Consortium with Pioneer Village to promote small local museums. We are also participating in the formation of a Red Cedar Heritage Corridor to promote early history.

As you consider your upcoming budget, we hope you will support the Chetek Area Museum. Our mortgage is in good standing, and we should be able to own the building in nine years. Our goal is to be present in Chetek for at least 100 years to help the children of the future learn about our rich past.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Claudia Wold, President



Robin Fossum, Executive Director