

Town of Plum Lake

Annual Meeting of May 26, 2020

Meeting was held at the Rec Building in Sayner. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Maines who noted that this meeting was duly called with notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the Sayner Post Office, and the Star Lake Post Office, and notice given to the Vilas County News-Review, The Lakeland Times, and WERL-WRJO Radio Stations of Eagle River, as well as posted on the town website. Supervisor Schmidt, Supervisor Wiggenhauser and Clerk Brooker were present plus 46 other people. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Minutes of Prior 2019 Annual Meeting:

Kevin Rasmussen made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting, Chuck Altamore, seconded; motion carried.

Approve Fiscal Year of 2019 Annual Report:

Jeremy Arnold made a motion to accept the 2019 Annual Fiscal Report as presented, Dale Bus seconded; carried.

Possible Building Projects for the Town of Plum Lake:

Chairman Maines wanted to first focus on the proposed Building Projects. Chairman Maines gave his personal comments saying the Town has three old tired buildings and said the Town had made available to the public the proposed designs for a new Town Garage estimated to cost \$750,000, a new Sand/Salt Shed, estimated to cost \$250,000 and lastly a new Rec Building, estimated to cost \$750,000. He said reasons to build were interest rates are low now, saying they could get the first 10 years of a 20-year loan at 3% and then renew the loan for the remaining 10 years at new rate. Another option is to borrow from the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners for the entire 20 years at 4% interest. He stated that the electors were the only ones who could give the go ahead to move forward with the Building Projects. He also said that prices for building materials were currently lower than the previous year. He feels that the Sand/Salt Shed is dangerous for the employees to be working in. He believes that an upgrade is long overdue and feels it is time for someone to step up and do something now, stating that he was in favor of building new.

Supervisor Schmidt stated that the Board has been working for a few years now, deciding what options they wanted to present to the Electors. He feels that the Town Garage was a top priority as to which building needed to be addressed first. He feels that for efficiency, it is necessary for the Town Garage to be located near the Sand/Salt Shed. He believes that the new plan for the Garage had adequate space with a little room for expanding equipment if the need would arise. He feels it is hazardous for anyone to be working inside the salt shed. Supervisor Schmidt then went over the remodel of the Rec Building which would include additional square footage, insulation, lighting, kitchen, and bathroom upgrades. Another possible option is for a new Rec Building whose footprint would be more of a square than it is now. He summed it up by saying all three buildings would add up to approximately \$100 extra on his property tax bill and he personally was in favor of building all three new buildings.

- Katie Mortag spoke in favor of building a new Rec Building. Regarding the Sand/Salt Shed, she stated she was nervous about her husband having to work in it.
- Don Novak questioned if the Board/Committee had thoroughly examined the Town Garage plan and felt confident that there was enough room for all equipment and room to put on and take of plow attachments etc. Supervisor Schmidt said yes, he felt confident the plan would fulfill their needs. Mr. Novak also asked if the town was set on the Recycling Site for the new Town Garage or if they were considering the Alexander Trust site. Supervisor Schmidt answered that they would most likely build on the Recycling site. Mr. Novak said he was in favor of that location over the Alexander Trust property.
- Sheehan Donoghue questioned Clerk Brooker on if her calculations were for the first 10 years or the full 20 years of the loan. Clerk Brooker answered it was for the first 10 years at 3 % interest and stated that the second 10 years would have the going rate at whatever it would be at the time of renewal. Clerk Brooker stated she had also included calculations for a 20-year loan at 4% from the WI Board of Commissioners. She stated that if the Board elected to remodel the Rec Building, they would not need Elector approval to do that.
- Chairman Maines explained the ballot to the Electors saying that they would be voting on each building individually. Supervisor Wiggenhauser voiced his opinion by saying he felt that the size of the existing Town Garage has been adequate for years and he does not see any need to build it as big as the new plans. He also laid out pending expenses saying things were adding up to nearly \$2,500,000 and felt the Board needed to be thrifter. He also felt there needed to be one more educational meeting before a vote was taken or suggested it

should go to a referendum instead. Chairman Maines said he was following what other Towns have done in the past, which was letting the Electors make the decision by vote.

- Nick Seeger thanked the Building Committee for all its hard work and didn't feel there was a need to have another meeting before the vote as he was satisfied that after 4 years of reviewing proposals it was now time to vote. He added that rates on building materials and interest rates were low right now.

2019 Annual Library Report:

Emilie Braunel, Library Director, reported that 2019 was a great year at the Library with lots of people and activities. They celebrated their 80th anniversary. Some additions to the Library were a non-fiction book group, art, Summer Trivia Contest, and new LED lights. All numbers were up on the Library services offered. There now is curbside pickup available and more things available on line. When asked who decides when the Library will open, Emilie said it would be the Library Board, whose next meeting is 6/10/2020.

2019 Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief Kevin Rasmussen reported that in 2019 there were some changes in leadership. Jim Daniel made 1st Assistant Chief, Jeremy Arnold made 2nd Assistant Chief, Rob Errington made Captain and Bob Lindquist made Lieutenant. The Chief reported there are 19 members, with 10 active and 9 inactive. Kevin said it was his 39th year and 25 of those years he has been Fire Chief. In 2019 they had 24 calls. They had two structure fires within 36 hours in Sayner. He reported a total fire loss of 820,395. Kevin thanked everyone for their support of the Fire Department and talked about upgrading to MSAG1 Packs, which the Fire Department put a \$10,000 deposit on and asked the Town for a 3-year loan for \$45,000 for the new Packs.

2019 Plum Lake Ambulance Report:

Kevin Rasmussen reported that the EMS in 2019 had a total of 66 runs. He broke it down as 61- 911 calls, 3-standby calls and 2 medical aid calls. He said their shortest "in route time" was 5 minutes 40 seconds and the longest was 14 minutes 50 seconds. The shortest time to destination was 13 minutes and longest time was 38 minutes. Both of the longest times were due to inclement weather situations. Kevin provided a written Life Quest Report. Checking/Fundraising Balance was reported as \$39,390.43 as of December 2019. Kevin also reported on the Reading Hero's Program. For now any training classes are on hold due to Covid-19.

2019 Sayner/Star Lake Chamber of Commerce Report:

Chairman Maines gave a brief report on the Chambers expenditures that included costs for 2019 Visitors Guide, Social Media Website, Biking Event, Co-op Ads and Fireworks donation. 2019 expenditures exceeding \$1000.00 were \$22,460.00 with other expenditures totaling \$11,595.66. The total Marketing Cost was \$34,055.66. Chairman Maines said if anyone had questions, they should contact Jessica or Wendy.

2019 Vilas County Board Report:

Supervisor Wiggerhauser talked about the State allowing the County to possibly defer/delay tax payments until October/November 2020 due to Act 185 which was enacted due to the Corona Virus. The Vilas County Finance Committee voted against it and tax payment due dates will remain as originally scheduled. It will now go before the Full Board.

2019 Lakes Committee Report:

Bob Munsen said they would be looking for a 3rd person to be a paid monitor to work from Labor Day till around the first week of October. He said anyone interested should contact Mike Stroh. Chairman Maines noted that there is still an ongoing issue between Lakes Committee and DNR about placement and audios of I-Lids and Cameras. He noted that as of now there were 3 cameras in operation.

More Comments:

Chuck Altamore asked when the Campgrounds in the Plum Lake Township are going to be opened. Chairman Maines said he heard the DNR said the Highland State Forest will be open around June 14th, 2020. Chairman Maines said he thought the walk-in Campgrounds are open, but that a person should check with the DNR first. National Forest boat landings have delayed openings. Chuck also asked if the Town was going to have fireworks this year. Chairman Maines said on June 3rd the Board was going to meet with the Lions and Fire Department and make a decision. Kevin Rasmussen doubted that they would do the Chicken Q, due to not being able to get the food and social distancing requirements. As

far as the fireworks and parade, Chairman Maines thought it would be iffy, but said he would be issuing private permits for people to set off fireworks. Darlene Kilsdonk wondered if the Fire Department could get a loan to help pay for their things since they will be short on funds due to having to cancel their fund raisers. Wayne Seeger wanted to know which order the new buildings would be done in. Chairman Maines said the Town Garage would be first, then the Sand/Salt Shed. Maines also took the opportunity to thank the Building Committee for all their hard work. Kathy McCaughn asked what was happening with the ATV's and UTV's. Chairman Maines said they were waiting on the DNR to check the entire trail system, which has been laid out, but the DNR will not be doing it this summer, so things will be on hold another year. Kevin Rasmussen asked if there was any chance that county roads could be opened to ATV's to jump on the trail coming from Conover & Eagle River. Chairman Maines answered that at this time the County Roads were not an option. Dale Buss complimented the Board on their fiscal responsibility to the citizens of the Township. He said compared to Cloverland, the Town of Plum Lake had a whole lot more as far as buildings, etc. and yet Plum Lakes taxes are lower.

Results of the Vote put to the Electors:

Ballots were distributed to all in attendance. Steve Clemens made a motion to accept the results of the secret election ballots for the building projects. Chuck Altamore seconded; motion carried. Chairman Maines read the voting results. 51 total electors voted.

New Town Garage - 47 yes and 4 no **Sand/Salt Shed** - 49 yes and 2 no **New Rec Building** - 42 yes and 9 no.

As a result of this vote, the Board has approval to move forward with the Building Projects. Chairman Maines noted that design changes were still possible, but that he preferred not to go smaller and he thanked everybody for coming and voting.

Chairman Maines asked for a motion to approve holding next year's meeting on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 at 6 pm at the Town Hall. Karen Reed made the motion, Jona Eliason seconded; motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

A voice recording of this meeting is available in the Town Office. These minutes were taken at the 2019 Annual Meeting held on the 26th day of May 2020 and were entered in the Record Book by: