

Annual Town of Plum Lake Meeting of April 20, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm., by Chairman Maines who noted that this Annual Meeting was held at the Community Building in Sayner on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021. The meeting was duly called with notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the Sayner U.S. Post Office, and the Star Lake U.S. Post Office and notice given to the Vilas County News-Review, The Lakeland Times, WRJ0 and WERL, as well as posted on the Town Website. Supervisor Rasmussen and Clerk Brooker were present. There were 29 other people present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Establishing a Town of Plum Lake Planning Committee:

Chairman Maines said they were looking for 5 to 7 volunteers who would be interested in helping to develop plans for the Town which could go out as far as 10 to 20 years. He also noted that at each Planning Committee meeting there would be at least one Town Board member present. The following people volunteered to be on the Committee: Shane Zaruba, Todd Weberg, Debbie Seeger, Sheehan Donoghue, Chuck Rasmussen, Ida Nemeč and Michael Brooks. Chairman Maines thanked them for volunteering and told them that they would be contacted soon for their first meeting.

Status of Road Project on Carl Eliason Street:

Chairman Maines said both the Town and the Engineer are ready to move forward with the project but are waiting on Matt Rowe, the Alexander Trusts attorney to get the trustees together to sign off on the land donation. Until they sign off to finish the transfer of the property on the other side of Froelich Street, things are at a standstill. Sheehan Donoghue said she would make some calls to try and get the Trustees moving on signing off on the land acquisition.

Update on Status of New Garage and Sand/Salt Shed:

Chairman Maines said the footings for the Salt/Sand Shed are done and they are now working on the footings for the Town Garage, which should be done by the end of the week. Construction should start when footings are done. The Chairman mentioned that it could cost up to \$30,000 to bring natural gas into the new Town Garage. Kevin Rasmussen said that the lead time on getting steel delivered for the job is out to July at this time.

Update on Status of Broadband:

Kim Lechner shared the results of the survey they sent out with the tax bills. She said that out of 221 responding 97.3 % said yes to needing better internet service. 38 people made additional comments or volunteered to help. Number of internet devices survey came back as 54.1 % have 1 to 5 devices in their home, 33.8% have 5 to 10 devices, 9.5% have 10 to 20 devices and 2% have 20 or more devices. Feedback on uses of the internet were children's education, adults keeping connected, work from home, telehealth communication, seasonal people who are willing to pay more for internet because internet is crucial for them to be able to work remotely. Comments followed from Michael Brooks, Kevin Rasmussen Madeline Conrad, Don Novak, Debbie Seeger, Betty Kallay, Chuck Rasmussen, Shane Zaruba, and Sheehan Donoghue, which covered different internet options, such as Frontier, who is in the process of reorganizing, Spectrum and Star Link. It was brought up that Towns cannot apply for grants on their own, they need to apply with an ISP and Charter would be the one for the Town of Plum Lake at this time. Final thoughts were that they should keep an eye on what the Federal government may be offering in their upcoming infrastructure bill, contact our state and local representatives, fund raising, that VCED is critical to infrastructure, a resolution for Telecommuter Forward! Committee, put info on the Towns website and realize that it will take money and time to accomplish things.

Plum Lake Public Library Annual Report:

The Library started curbside service only on March 17th, 2020. Various book groups still met virtually and the Library was able to have the Trivia contest right before the shutdown. The Library still did the Halloween Trunk & Treat and provided a children's take and make gingerbread house kit. They planted 700 daffodil bulbs and started a pollination garden. They went on a winter story hike and are working on getting a national resource grant. They continued fund raising for the basement renovation and are at \$55,000 which is close to their goal of \$60,000. Emilie stated that starting the week of May 10th they will be reopening with limited days and hours, masks will be required, and they will still have curbside service. There will be limited capacity of 5 at a time for 30 minutes max and there will be 2 computers available for use. New hours will be Monday & Wednesday 10 to 7; Tuesday & Thursday 9 to Noon; Friday Noon to 5 and Saturday 10 to 1. They are looking for volunteers and Emilie said she would consider teenagers as volunteers. Kim Lechner commented how she loves the book walks which Emilie hopes to continue.

Other Items as Requested:

Chairman Maines said he had received an email from Lauri Gerlach who asked about getting a donation pipe for the bike trail. Chairman Maines said he thought there was an old pipe that they could reinstall by the kiosk and Fire Department area. Lauri also asked about the status of resurfacing the tennis courts and the Chairman said the Town was working with the Alexander Trust to get it done. Lastly, she asked about getting a keyless entry for the Rec Building. The Chairman said he knew there would be one in the new Rec Building and that there had been talk about putting a keyless entry in the existing building, but no decision has been made yet.

Shane Zaruba commented on people driving too fast and running the stop signs by the Smith St. and Plum Lake Drive intersection in Town, which happens more when the summer people arrive. Kevin Rasmussen recommended he call the sheriff's department to monitor the area. Shane suggested putting up seasonal speed bumps as a good solution to prevent an accident, especially with new kids playing in the area now and lots of deer always being around. Shane then asked about the people dumping larger than 4 inch brush out at the brush dump. Chairman Maines said he had spoken with Craig Dalton who said it might be possible for the Town to work with the DNR to get a permit to put up cameras. The Chairman said another option would be to limit the hours the brush dump is open and have one of the Crew members monitor it during those open hours. Lastly Shane asked if propane, instead of natural gas would be an option to put in at the new Town Garage. The Chairman said the situation needs to be looked into and discussed.

Jona Eliason thanked the Town, especially Kevin Rasmussen and Jim Mortag, for having the Community Center set up so nicely and the Cemetery well prepared for her Dads funeral. She said everything came together and made for a nice day for her and her brother. Jona then suggested that the Town check into bringing the natural gas in through the Wilderness Estates area. Chairman Maines said they would be looking into to all options.

Sheehan Donoghue suggested a flashing red light stop signs for the Smith St. and Plum Lake Drive intersection.

Debbie Seeger asked for an update on the ATV trail. The Chairman told her that about 2 years ago the Town had approved an ATV/ UTV route to get people into Sayner as far as the Mobil Station. DOT permission was needed to cross Hwy 155 to get to the Sayner Pub, from there they would take the St. Germain snowmobile trail to Birch Springs, to Lost Lake Drive, to Hillside, to Old K to Stillwaters. The holdup is the DNR needs to inspect the trails and for now it is on hold, waiting on the DNR approval. Debbie also wanted to know when the new Rec Building would be back on the agenda. The Chairman said he couldn't give an exact date but said it could be a few years while the Town pays down some of its debt. He said the job would have to be rebid. Kim Lechner also wondered the time frame for a new Rec Building and asked if the Chairman thought the cost of building materials would go down. She also hoped that an air compressor would be put in for public use. Kevin said he would put one at the Fire Station and the Chairman said there would be an air compressor at the new Town Garage too.

Margaret Lindquist had questions on the East Laura Lake Road area about tornado clean up saying that there was an area that needed to be cleaned up yet. The Chairman said that Klessig Logging had a contract to do salvage clean up from the tornado but said he would also call Vilas County for her to see what he could find out about getting the rest cleaned up.

Emilie Braunel asked if there would be a way to get a crosswalk coming from the Hwy N West bike trail for bike riders to get to the Park, basketball court, tennis courts and baseball field for safety reasons. It was decided that the Clerk will contact the DOT to see about getting permission to have a cross walk for Highway 155.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

A voice recording of this meeting is available in the Town Office.

These minutes were taken at the Annual Town of Plum Lake Meeting held on the 20th day of April 2021 and were entered in the Record Book by: