

Regular Town Board Meeting of January 14, 2020

Meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 5 other people. Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

Supervisor Wiggenhauser made a motion to approve the agenda in any order. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Approve Minutes of Prior Town Board Meeting(s):

Supervisor Wiggenhauser asked that the words "and roadside" be removed from the minutes. Supervisor Wiggenhauser made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Supervisor Schmidt seconded, motion carried.

Citizens Comments and Correspondence:

Sheehan Donoghue stated she would like the Town Board to go on record in opposition of the zoning issue before the County Board pertaining to boat houses. Chairman Maines reported that a letter of opposition had already been sent. After further discussion of the matter Sheehan Donoghue asked if the Town Board could send one more letter of opposition to the full County Board, not just the zoning committee. Chairman Maines said another letter would be sent and Supervisor Wiggenhauser agreed to deliver it to the full County Board at their next meeting.

Jona Eliason shared that the Badger State games would be coming to Sayner by snowmobile and passing the Torch on Friday, January 17th around 10:30 am. Jona also shared that 2 of the family's vintage snowmobile would be on display at the track in Eagle River.

Supervisor Wiggenhauser reported he had received a letter from someone from Trout Lake saying that they were opposed to larger boat houses and would like the Vilas County Board made of aware of his stance on the subject.

Supervisor Wiggenhauser also brought up an email from John Richter which all the Boards members received, questioning why Plum Lake wasn't out plowing when St. Germain was. Chairman Maines explained that all the plowing vehicles were out of commission and for a while, Jeremy was the only one available for plowing and for a time it was down to just the Loader and Grader for snow removal.

Kevin Rasmussen asked if there was a town or county law that says you can't plow across state highway. After discussion no one was positive of the situation when there was no one to enforce such a law in the Town.

There was a short discussion about St. Germain becoming a sanctuary city.

Report from Lakes Committee:

Chairman Maines stated that was no update for a report from the Lakes Committee.

Update on Building Committee:

Chairman Maines reported that the Building Committee had not met yet.

RFP's Submitted for Town Garage and for EMS Building Repairs:

Chairman Maines and Supervisor Schmidt both stated that they felt the RFP from Jewell was incomplete by not addressing putting out bid documents for the repairs of the EMS Building. Blue Design Group specifically addressed things by saying the Bid work would be done by the hour and was not to exceed \$10,000. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the Blue Design Group for the assessment and design of the Town Garage. He noted that he was making this motion based on the fact that Jewell's bid came in higher at \$2,500 and Blue Design Group being the lower with a bid of \$1500. Chairman Maines seconded. Vote: Supervisor Schmidt -Aye, Chairman Maines -Aye, Supervisor Wiggenhauser -Nay, motion carried, 2 to 1.

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the Blue Design Groups proposal on an hourly rate to a maximum of \$5,000 to produce bid documents. Chairman Maines seconded. Vote: Supervisor Schmidt -Aye, Chairman Maines - Aye, Supervisor Wiggenhauser -Nay, motion carried 2 to 1.

Registration for Wisconsin Towns Association Seminar:

Chairman Maines and Supervisor Wiggenhauser will be attending the WTA seminar on January 24th. Clerk Brooker to prepare a notice out about a possible quorum stating that no Town business will be discussed.

Disposition or Acquisition of Town Trucks:

Chairman Maines brought up the 18-year-old Sterling Truck and wanted to discuss with the other Board Members their thoughts on how best to deal with the failing Sterling. Chairman Maines said that Wayne McCaughn from Truck Country would help him in finding the right truck for the job. Everyone felt that they had to try and get through the winter with the Sterling and start getting proposals for new trucks that are built heavy enough to haul gravel as the Freightliner is not built heavy enough to do the job properly. Chairman Maines said that most new trucks these days are replaced on a 5 to 6-year cycle. Jeremy Arnold will get some pricing info for the Board for the next meeting. Supervisor Schmidt says it may take up to 8 months to get a truck.

Purchase of a Loader Bucket:

Chairman Maines said they had a price from the dealer for a new bucket for \$18,000 and stated that the old bucket was kept when the new loader was purchased. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the new bucket from Fabick Cat for \$18,000. Chairman Maines seconded; motion carried.

Scheduling an Employee Meeting with Town Board:

Chairman Maines opened a discussion to set a time for an employee meeting. An employee meeting was set for Thursday, January 16th at 4:30 pm. Supervisor Schmidt suggested to Clerk Brooker that they go into a closed session during the meeting to discuss evaluations, wages and compensation, Chairman Maines okayed the closed session and asked Clerk Brooker to include the closed session on the agenda that she posts for the meeting.

Request from Plum Ski-ers for Financial Help to Make Improvements at State House Point

Location:

Chairman Maines said that the Plum Ski-ers were looking for help from the town to get 4 loads of a sand/gravel mix for improving the ski site at a cost of \$925.00. Chairman Maines said before the Town Board can act, they will need to get the DNR out to the site to see what they will approve and stated that it will have to wait till Spring. Chairman Maines said he will write a response to the Plum Ski-ers letting them know what needs to be done first before a decision can be made by the Board.

Damage to Community Church Sign:

After discussion, Chairman Maines asked Clerk Brooker to contact the church to relay the Town Board's standing on the church sign. The Town Board denies any responsibility for snow thrown up against the sign during the plowing process as the sign is in the right of way and there was no physical damage done by a Town vehicle itself hitting their sign.

Damage Claim from Frontier Communications:

Jeremy said that Jimmy hit a Frontier phone box when he was asked to push the snow bank back on the corner of N and Plum Lake Drive. Clerk Brooker had already sent a letter to Attorney Greg Harold at the request of Chairman Maines asking for advice, but had not heard back from him yet. Supervisor Wiggenhauser suggested contacting Frontier directly and ask them what they are looking for from the Town in order to rectify the matter cost wise for any repairs they needed to do. Clerk Brooker is to contact Frontier and ask them personally what they are looking for.

Creating Resolution(s) to Amend 2018 Budget:

Clerk Brooker reported that it's a common practice to do resolutions if your spending is over at the end of the year by moving monies around to balance things out. Clerk Brooker reported that the Public Works was over by \$14,000 and that Conservation & Economic Development was over by \$44,000. Supervisor Schmidt asked if Clerk Brooker meant 2019 and not 2018. Clerk Brooker said yes, it was for 2019. Discussion had to be tabled until the next meeting as the agenda stated the wrong year. Clerk Brooker said Kimberly was coming in to the office and that she would find out if Kimberly knew of other ways to go about balancing other than a resolution. Supervisor Schmidt asked Clerk Brooker to have a sample resolution available for the Board at the next meeting.

Possible Opinion Letter to County Zoning on Boathouse Changes:

Chairman Maines stated that this subject had already been gone over in citizens comments and he confirmed that Supervisor Wiggenhauser had agreed to hand deliver the said letter to the County Board. Clerk Brooker to provide letter to Supervisor Wiggenhauser.

Proposed Vilas County Zoning Fee Changes:

Chairman Maines reported that the Town had received two notices from the Vilas County Zoning office which basically were asking for a yes or no if the Town would be in support of the revision of certain fees. After discussion, Supervisor Wiggenhauser made a motion to respond to Vilas County Zoning saying that the Town Board supports their proposed changes. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Grzenia Request for Camping Permit:

Chairman Maines reported that Joseph Grzenia was asking for a permit for camping in an RV on his 30-acre parcel located on Star Lake Road. He plans to build a house in 2 to 4 years. He needs to obtain financing. He has contacted the County too and will do a perk test. After discussion Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the permit with a 2-year sunset clause, with a 6 month limit a year for camping and Mr. Grzenia must remove RV from premises every year. Supervisor Wiggenhauser asked that the motion be amendment to a 1-year sunset clause instead. Supervisor Schmidt amended his motion to the 1-year term and added at the end of the one year term Mr. Grzenia should come in and personally approach the Town Board for a renewal. Supervisor Wiggenhauser seconded, motion carried. Note: Clerk Brooker is to check if there other camping permits out there that are overdue for renewals.

Memorandum of Understanding Between the DNR and the Fire Department:

Kevin Rasmussen explained that the Town of Plum Lake in 2012 had adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the DNR and it now needs to be updated due to the DNR increasing their rates, which requires Town Board approval. They also added a prescribed burn option in the contract. After discussion the Board opted to go for all 3 of the options listed on the contract. Supervisor Wiggenhauser made a motion to approve the Fire and DNR Memorandum of understanding as indicated, Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Hiring Part-Time Snowplow Help:

Chairman Maines explained that he hadn't pursued looking for plowing help due to the lack of operating equipment. Supervisor Wiggenhauser asked that he pursue trying to get Jim Harman's, son Kyle. If Kyle is interested the Board will need to decide how much to pay him. Chairman Maines agreed to contact Kyle Harmon.

Mike Gerlach Request to Approve United to Amend Resolution:

Mike Gerlach said he never got together with Don Novak, so he did the work himself to change the wording to a more unbiased interpretation. Chairman Maines asked to have the word "citizens" changed to "electors". Chairman Maines said he didn't have a problem putting it on the ballot and asked for a motion. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve putting it on the ballot and changing the word "citizens" to "electors" in the Town of Plum Lake. Chairman Maines seconded; motion carried. (April 7th, 2020 ballot).

Approve Vouchers for Payment and Financial Report:

Chairman Maines asked for a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$887,243.60 Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve paying the vouchers, Supervisor Wiggenhauser, seconded; motion carried. It was noted that \$766,335 of the amount was paid out for the January tax settlements.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

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

These minutes were taken at a Special Town Board meeting held on the 14th day of January, 2020 and were entered in the Record Book by: