

## Special Town Board Meeting of November 15, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am., by Chairman Maines who noted that this meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner on Monday, November 15th, 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, Clerk Brooker and 3 others were present.

### **Citizens Comments:**

Sheehan Donoghue shared that she had talked with Walt Koskinen and Lynn Schofield and after discussion, she said she was now in favor of the Town purchasing the land. She said she would also like to be on the planning committee to put together a plan on how the Town could best utilize the land. She asked about funding it and the Chairman said it was already set up with the Headwaters Bank in Land O' Lakes with an interest rate of 2.75%.

Supervisor Rasmussen asked if there was a plan for usage of the property and thought it would be a good idea to have one ready for the annual meeting. The Chairman said he didn't want to get ahead of things. He suggested waiting on those decisions until after they had purchased the land. He did share other ideas that had been suggested, such as senior housing, bike parking and trails.

Bob Klager asked if the Town was purchasing the land just to prevent others from buying it. The Chairman said no that there were real ideas on what to do with it.

### **Response to Counteroffer for Purchase of Alexander Property:**

The Chairman read the covenant that was attached to the offer that would apply to and protect the northern most 50-foot strip running parallel to County Road N. Only dead, dying, or diseased trees considered hazardous by an arborist shall be allowed to be removed along with dead and downed trees to reduce the risk of forest fires. The cutting of other trees and underbrush within the greenspace would be prohibited. No future improvements which would include construction of driveways, structures, landscaping or direct driveway or road access to county highway N permitted on or through the green space. This covenant shall be recorded and run-in perpetuity with the subject property.

The Chairman asked for the Board's thoughts. Supervisor Schmidt felt that there should be a reduction in the price due to the 50-foot piece cut off the property. He also felt that as far as selling the lots for retail, the lack of exposure made it less desirable. He felt that there might be added expense to the town to put in an access road. He also stated he does not like the restrictions as they were hamstringing the value of the property. Supervisor Schmidt was also in favor of possibly putting in senior housing and possibly a small subdivision. Chairman Maines said that there would be good access on Froelich Drive and Whispering Pines Road. He also shared that the town's attorney thought the covenant devalued the property and that they should possibly ask for a reduction in price. During discussion they agreed that to counter with a lower price would likely not be accepted by the seller. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to accept the counteroffer as stated with the covenant and let the town electors make the decision at the Budget Hearing meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chairman Maines seconded.

Vote: Supervisor Rasmussen, aye, Chairman Maines, aye, Supervisor Schmidt nay. Vote carried 2 to 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

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

These minutes were taken at the Special Town Board Meeting held on the 15th day of November 2021 and were entered in the Record Book by: