

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Chairman Gary Thomack called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Board members: Chairman Gary Thomack, Supervisor Ken Genskow, Supervisor Dohn Laude , Treasurer Dennis Zahn and Clerk Karen Habeck.

Public included: Brian Westfahl, Bill Korth, Greg Reeck, Vernon Kratzke, Arlyn Tober, Zach and Josh Bussian.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Clerk read the agenda that had been posted in three public places, put on the website and published in the Marion Advertiser. The minutes were read from the January 8, 2024, Board meeting. Motion was made by Laude/Thomack to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried by voice vote with three in favor, zero against.

Public input: County Supervisor Arlyn Tober reported that the County has adopted the change of ATV/UTV speed limits on County roads from 35mph to 55 mph, **or whatever the roadway posted speed limit is;** if different than 55mph, such as 25, 35, 45, etc.....There has been some work done in the basement of the County library where water issues were found. No mold was found in the process. A type of expanding chalking was used to fill in the cracked areas. Additional work will be done on the outside of the basement wall as weather permits.

As the Board had met with Troy Springborn of EDS Restoration about the renovations to be done in the town hall...**motion was made by Laude/Thomack to accept the bid estimate and proceed with the demolition and upgrades to the interior. Motion carried** by voice vote, with three in favor, zero against. It is noted that if any issues are found once the paneling is torn off, there may be additional costs to the project.....**The Board also discussed putting in an entrance to the town hall from the south parking lot.** An estimate for materials is being sought, the work will be done by Larry Laude. This will be reviewed, and action taken at the monthly board meeting in March. The handicap entrance will remain on the north side.

The Clerk informed the Board that the contract with building inspector Paul Hermes expires in April. She will have further information about several options for consideration at the March meeting. The Board will then set up interviews with potential inspectors before making a decision; either to continue with Hermes or hire someone new.

The Park committee has been informed, (as the Town is responsible for any costs associated with roof repair/replacement of the large shelter per several months of discussion), **the Town will not be pursuing this project at this time due to the renovation costs for the town hall.** There doesn't appear to be any immediate need as leakage is minimal, only from a couple of nail holes.

The Board was informed about the meeting results with the town attorney. They were given a "draft "letter to read concerning the noise issue complaints on Center Street. **Motion was made by Laude/Thomack to approve the draft and instruct the attorney to proceed with mailing this out to the owner in question on Center St. Motion carried by voice vote with three in favor, zero against.** The Clerk also informed them of what came out of the initial meeting concerning the dog barking issues on County D and Riverside Road. The attorney stated that the owners that were breeding dogs and selling the puppies have not been licensed by the State DATCP since November of 2022. They are currently being investigated by the DATCP for two violations, which have nothing to do with the Town of Pella complaints. Treasurer Zahn reported that Mr. Probst had stopped at his residence and told him **that they are no longer breeding/raising dogs to sell.** They are currently in the process of licensing what dogs they have in the Town. The Clerk will inform the attorney that the Board would like this put-on hold for the time being, until we hear about the State's involvement. This discussion will be placed on the March agenda.

Zoning: Zack and Josh Bussian were in attendance to speak about the tire business that is in progress on their property on Elm Grove Road. **It is noted that the proper procedures were not taken from the onset. To rectify the problem(s),** a meeting will be set up as soon as possible with the **zoning committee and the owner;** where it will be spelled out as to *what needs to be done to be in compliance and discuss what fines might need to be incurred for the violations.* **The results of that meeting will be brought to the Town Board for review and approval.....**On another matter, a PODS storage container has been moved onto the Janice Willman property without consent of the Board...this will be checked on.

Roads: The Board discussed the costs incurred by the Town on Stub Road and Apple Road done by heavy farm machinery. This will be reviewed and brought back to the March Board meeting.

The Treasurer reported the January bills totaled \$466,355.92, leaving a balance of \$2,545.84 in the checking account and \$781,082.98 in the Premier Savings Account. Motion was made by Genskow/Thomack to approve the January report and pay the February bills. Motion carried with three in favor, zero against.

Motion was made by Laude/Genskow to approve the application for Donald “Donny” Ewald to the Pella EMS and Fire Department and to approve the application from Erik Johnson (from the July 2023 meeting) to the fire department. Motion carried by voice vote with three in favor, zero against. It is noted that both already have fire training, as they are coming from a neighboring department. Ewald will be attending the EMS training as it becomes available sometime this Fall.

The WTA Unit meeting is this Thursday, February 15th 7:00PM at the Richmond Town Hall, several of the Board may be attending. Supervisor Laude and Clerk Habeck will be attending the WTA District meeting on Sat. Feb. 17th in Stevens Point and will be completing the required BOR training.

With no further business, motion was made by Genskow/Thomack to adjourn the meeting at 8:37PM. **The next meeting will be Monday, March 11th, 2024, 7:00PM, either in the town hall or the fire hall, depending on how the renovations are going.**