

**Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin  
Regular Meeting of the Town  
180771 County Road Z, Birnamwood, WI 54414**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Annual Meeting of Electors**

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**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza (or Designee Town Supervisor)**

Supervisor Marien called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Roll Call – Town Supervisor, Pete Marien, and Town Supervisor, Scott McRae**

Marien noted that Kautza was excused.

Parker noted both Marien and McRae were present.

Also, in attendance: Clerk, Valerie Parker, and Treasurer, Connie Sippl, and Rick Larson

**4. Visitors**

None.

**5. Public Comments/Concerns (Limit 5 Minutes Per Person)**

None.

**6. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

**• March 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting**

*Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023, meeting.*

**7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures**

The Board went through the expenditures.

Marien asked about Multi Media Channels (MMC) invoice. Parker explained that she posted in the Antigo Times and Wittenberg Northerner, twice each, about the April Open Book, Annual Meeting, Regular Meeting, and Board of Review. She also pointed out that next month, there will be a higher cost also, as she is posting twice each about the Spring Clean-Up, so that all Town residents have an opportunity to be made aware of this. She also has this information posted on the Town's bulletin boards. She stated there will be an additional posting in MMC papers about the utility resolution coming up.

**8. Review and Action on 2023 Monthly Budget**

*Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the monthly budget.*

**9. Clerk's Report**

Parker stated she has all the required reports (quarterly and annual) filed, with the exception of the annual recycling grant report. This is because the State was having an issue with their website, and has "locked" everyone out from reporting. She stated that she had just one more number to plug in the report before filing, and as soon as it is back up and running will get that completed.

Parker stated that next month, the Board will review and pass a resolution on the Utility work in the Town Right-of-Ways.

Parker stated she was contacted by Chris Crawford who suggested the Town invite a representative of Bug Tussel to come to a future meeting to give a presentation on what their plans are for the Plover area. Parker stated she did send a message to Ashley Bolden, of Bug Tussel, on April 16<sup>th</sup>, to see if she (or another representative of Bug Tussel) could come to the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Parker stated she has not received a response yet.

Parker stated that Chris Crawford also suggested the Town look into the use of an available permanent call-in bridge for monthly meetings, and suggested the Town look at a conference tool called "Ring Central". Parker stated when she initially looked at this, it appears the Town might have to have a permanent phone line for it. McRae commented how they use that at his work, and how it is not real effective. Parker stated how the Village of Weston has switched over to a brand new media system in their Board Room, and that she could find out what the Village is doing with their old "Zoom Room" equipment, how perhaps the Town could purchase it – but then there would be monthly costs involved with that. Marien stated he is not in favor of our paying for virtual meeting equipment. Sippl agreed we have other expenses we need to concentrate on, like our roads. Parker stated if anything, we can allow for the periodic call-ins through her cell phone for meetings (which we have done in the past). She also commented on how at the 2023 Budget Hearing, when Eric Jensen called in and voted via phone call, per the WI Towns Association (WTA), we technically did not have to count that as a vote. She explained how WTA stated at the beginning of a budget hearing, if someone calls in, the Board needs to indicate if they would allow call-ins to count, or if voting electors need to be physically present at the meeting. It was agreed that while offering a virtual option for residents may get more participation from our residents, it may also lead to disorder of the meetings, where it is hard to stop people when getting off on long tangents, and how people should attend in person.

Marien and McRae agreed it would be good to try to arrange a representative of Bug Tussel to come in and discuss their plans for bringing fiber optic in, as a lot of residents may be interested to hear this, but they are both not in favor of continuing any further discussion of virtual meeting options.

Parker then gave a quick summary of the local spring election results, and pointed out how there were several write-ins for Chairman and Supervisor (consisting of Chris Crawford, Terry Wellhoefer, and Eric Jensen). These few right-ins did not effect the outcome, however.

Parker brought up tomorrow's Eastern Marathon County Towns & Villages Unit Meeting, being held at the Town of Reid Hall. Marien and McRae are both considering attending that.

## **10. Road Report**

Larson commented that the Town weight limits were pulled. He stated how both Jack Kautza and Stuart Hanson are needing to start hauling material. Parker commented the County is going to look at their weight limits, she believes, on the April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Larson then brought up some of the poor road conditions, such as Red Granite Road having some very bad soft spots, the bad area on Sportsman Road over by the Eau Claire River, couple bad spots on Hatchery Road. He stated how we really need to get bids on road repairs and get some work done this summer. After some discussion, it was agreed that Marien would meet out with Larson to get some measuring and staking of the trouble spots, and how they will work with Parker to get bid requests written up to be sent out to contractors for potential bid openings in May, or June at the latest. If bids are within budget, we can schedule to get a few projects done before the next school season starts. Larson pointed out the estimate he received from Northeast Asphalt, on what the general cost would be to reconstruct 1 mile of a 22-foot wide roadway would be, which they estimated \$250,000. He pointed out this does not include any of the prep work.

Larson stated once the County road limits are off, he can check with American Asphalt to get a load of cold mix to help with some of the bad pot holes in the meantime.

Larson stated all gravel roads were graded, just prior to the recent wet weather. Once things dry up again next week, he will go back out and grade again.

## **11. Old Business**

### **• Repairs for Road Damage on Eau Claire River Road, East of County Road Y**

Marien suggested that perhaps at our May meeting, the Town consider dismissing this issue. He commented on how the Town already paid for it through their budget, and it may not be worth the cost of getting an attorney involved.

### **• Status of American Rescue Plan Act – Possible use of Funds**

Parker stated she needs a refresher on when the funds need to be planned and spent. Marien and McRae both thought we just need to have a plan of what we are spending it on by 2024, and then spent by 2026.

### **• Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning**

Nothing new.

- **Discussion on Creation and Adoption by Resolution of a Utility Accommodations Policy**  
Parker stated she will put a resolution together for this, for the May meeting. She will get a draft permit document put together also.

**12. New Business**

- **None.**

**13. Remarks from Board**

Parker stated she will be out of town on vacation the first week of May.

**14. Future Items**

- **Board of Review – April 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Town Board Meeting – May 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Town Board Meeting – June 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

Marien and McRae both indicated they will not be available on June 13<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the June meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. This way, if we are unable to open road bids at the May meeting, it can happen early in June.

**15. Adjourn**

***Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 6:47 p.m.***

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker  
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