

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

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

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**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza**

Chairman Kautza called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Parker noted Marien and McRae were present.

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

**4. Visitors**

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z  
Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road  
Alicia Esker, property owner of 229713 County Road D  
Daniel & Wendy Agee, 234888 North Pole Road

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

Esker explained she owns property at 229713 County Road D, where they have a shed. They recently constructed a fence on their property, which they did obtain a permit from the County. She stated that they recently received a letter from Marathon County Zoning that they need to either relocate the fence to the side of their shed or adjust the fence so that it is no taller than 6 feet in height, by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Esker explained they have the tall fence to keep deer out of their apple trees that they have there, and that they do have some small animals there. She asked if the later agenda item about ending County Zoning had to do with this.

Kautza stated that ending County Zoning is something the Town has been discussing for some time now, and that it is not linked to Esker's issue. Kautza stated the Town can't do a whole lot in Esker's situation, because we are under County Zoning.

Kautza felt that the fact that since Esker did get a permit and with the way the Zoning Code is written, where it states "Additional considerations may be made at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator", she should try talking to the County to see if they can make an exception. He stated that she can let them know the Town supports her leaving the fence as is.

Agee explained he and his wife have a new home built at 234888 North Pole Road. He stated the house is completed, but they are waiting to hear back from the Building Inspector, Mike Block, on when they can move in. He stated how Block has not been returning his calls. McRae stated that he has not been able to reach Block either.

Kautza suggested Agee go ahead and start moving into the house. The house is done, and Block is unresponsive, so they should just go ahead.

**6. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

- **November 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting**

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

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

Parker stated there was nothing out of the ordinary.

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

Kautza stated there should be an invoice coming from Antigo Arborist before the end of the month, and that Parker should go ahead and pay that.

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

**9. Clerk’s Report**

Parker stated she is catching up on all the end of year reports and payroll tax reports.

Parker asked the Board if they had any issues with the idea of Sippl getting a Town credit card. After some discussion, while the Board was fine with it, Sippl stated she did not feel it was necessary.

Parker pointed out we received two invoices from the Fire Department on Fire Assist calls. One was for a Carbon Monoxide call and the other was for a grass fire. Both were on properties owned by Town property owners, so if those affected owners do not pay the Town back by the end of 2024, those charges will get put on their tax bills next December.

Parker stated as far as the Rural Mutual Insurance claim message we received last month, she sent an email tonight to them to get more information. We are assuming they sent this to the wrong “Town of Plover”.

**10. Road Report**

Larson stated he finished working with Dahms (Antigo Arborist) on cutting trees in the rights-of-way. He was hoping to get more done along Old Lake Road, but they ran out of time. He stated that Dahms would like to come back and work again in the spring. As far as weight limits, Dahms has smaller trucks that they can use.

Larson stated he has been plowing and sanding roads, and is continuing brushing along the shoulders.

Larson asked if we have an updated plat book. After some discussion, Parker stated she will contact the County to get some plat books for the Board and one for the hall (that Larson can use).

**11. New Business**

• **Petition to Marathon County to Allow for Storage Pods on Residential Property**

Parker stated she drafted two versions of the petition. One version allowed the storage pods in all districts as permitted uses and the other version allowed storage pods in the R-E, C-V/R-C, U-R, L-D-R, and R-R Zoning districts via Conditional Use Permit. She feels the Conditional Use Permit version would more likely be approved by the County. The Board agreed that this made sense.

*Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve submitted the petition to the County, asking to amend the zoning code to allow the storage pods in the R-E, C-V/R-C, U-R, L-D-R, and R-R Zoning Districts via Conditional Use Permit.*

• **Resolution #12-23 Amendment to Town of Plover Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance**

The Board did not have any issues with this.

*Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve Resolution #12-23 Amendment to Town of Plover Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance.*

• **Appointment of Election Inspectors for 2024 – 2025 Term**

<b>Diane Kautza, Chief Election Inspection</b>	
<b>Theresa Jansen, Election Inspector</b>	<b>Karen Lehmann, Election Inspector</b>
<b>Virginia Swanson, Election Inspector</b>	<b>Barbara Brown, Election Inspector</b>

Parker stated that Diann Vlietstra and Donna Pietz have both asked to “retire” from this position. In the meantime, Diane Kautza had informed Parker that Barbara Brown had indicated her interest in working as a pollworker, which Parker reached out then to Brown, and Brown accepted.

Parker stated that if the Town were in a pinch, she felt that Pietz and Vlietstra would help out, but we should be fine with those we currently have.

*Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the 2024 – 2025 Election Inspector Appointment Terms for Diane Kautza, Theresa Jansen, Virginia Swanson, Karen Lehmann, and Barbara Brown.*

## 12. Old Business

- **Status of American Rescue Plan Act – Possible use of Funds**

Parker plans to get the report to the IRS filed by the end of this month.

- **Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning**

Kautza explained to the Visitors that we are in an agreement with the County, on County Zoning, until the end of 2025; however, he has been doing some research and is pretty sure we could get out sooner if we wanted.

- **Discussion on Adding Stop Signs on Town Roads**

Kautza stated this can stay on the agendas, but no updates at this time.

- **Discussion on a Motor Grader**

Kautza brought up that he and Larson met with the representative of the Merrill John Deere dealer, McCoy Construction Forestry. He stated that McCoy supplied very detailed information and explained they will offer financing. If we order through them, we would not have to make our first payment until 1 year after delivery. He stated we would be looking at about \$39,000/year for 7 years. It would only be about 4 months to receive the new grader, and trading in our old grader would be the down payment. The salesperson informed them that they would send Larson down to their training center to see and train on the equipment. Kautza feels we would get a lot more from our money by going through McCoy. Kautza went over some of the specifications on this grader.

Marien asked what happens if we hit our 2,000 hour maintenance time before the new one comes in. Larson stated there currently is 1,865 hours on our grader, and it would not be until mid-summer before it hit 2,000 hours, so we would probably be okay.

McRae feels we should try to get an updated estimate from Fabick along with what they would offer for trade-in value.

Kautza confirmed with Parker to have this on the next agenda for action.

## 13. Remarks from Board

Marien stated that at the October ambulance meeting, there was discussion on purchasing a LUCAS chest compression system device. He stated that since then there was a \$29,000 grant opportunity opened up, but BAES missed the opportunity to apply. Now that Resch and Bauch are managing the department, they contacted the State and explained the situation and was able to apply and receive the grant. He stated that the Department then used \$5,000 from their fundraising fund, along with receiving a donation from the Legion, to cover the balance, and was able to purchase two LUCAS devices.

Marien stated if anyone knows someone from the Legion, to be sure to thank them for their donation.

## 14. Future Items

- Town Board Meeting – January 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

## 15. Adjourn

***Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.***

Respectfully,

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