

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

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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. Treasurer, Connie Sippl was excused.

4. Visitors

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z
Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road
Sean Janssen, 23440 North Pole Road
Linda and Phil Darr, 234328 North Pole Road
Craig Schwocho, of McCoy Construction Forestry
Eric Stoller, of Fabick Cat

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

Stoller and Schwocho both introduced themselves.

6. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **January 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024, meeting.

7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

Marien questioned what all makes up the Public Safety portion of the Budget. Parker explained the breakdown.

Marien asked about the cost to place an ad, as far as placing an add for the neighborhood gatherings. Parker stated she will give Marien her contact with Multi Media Channels (Antigo & Wittenberg Shopper's).

8. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget

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

9. Clerk's Report

Parker stated since the January meeting she has completed the year-end reports. This month we paid out the February settlements.

Parker explained that in January, she, Kautza, and Sippl closed the Banner Banks Accounts and Sippl deposited those funds into the Town's CoVantage Money Market Account.

Micke requested that Parker show the ARPA funds in it's own line item, to help track that spending.

It was noted that in Parker's monthly budget summary report, she had some errors in the balances (some numbers weren't updated correctly). *[Clerk's Note – Parker will send a corrected version of that out to the Board].*

Parker stated she is gearing up for the April 2nd Election, and is working with her Election Inspectors to arrange their required trainings.

Parker noted she has Marien and McRae set up for Board of Review Trainings. She pointed out the Board of Review will not take place until this fall. It was stated that this is because we are in a revaluation year.

Parker asked Kautza to sign the right-of-way excavation permit so that Frontier can extend a line under Grainery Road. She explained what they are doing (cutting a line through Grainery Road from the west side to the east side) and Kautza signed the document.

10. Road Report

Larson explained he has been working with Don Dahms, of Antigo Arborist, in brushing the right-of-way areas.

Larson stated that our LP tank is at about 20%. Kautza stated Parker can go ahead and call to have that filled.

Larson stated that Marathon County is looking to switch to all brine, and with this, they are looking for places to store about 5,000 gallons.

11. New Business

- **Discussion and Action on Resolution #02-24 Sean Janssen Rezone Request from RR (Rural Residential) to C (Commercial) and Land Division at 234470 North Pole Road, to allow the Construction of a Mechanics Shop.**

Parker explained that Janssen is looking to split off a small portion of land, so that he can build a mechanics shop.

Janssen stated he is looking to construct a 2,400 sq. ft. building, and because of the size, the County is making him rezone. He is planning to use this for personal use and for some local public use.

Darr asked if Janssen will be doing auto painting. Janssen stated he may do some eventually.

Darr asked how this may affect his taxes. Kautza stated with the new building there, the taxes should technically go down.

Darr asked if Janssen will have a bunch of cars stored outside, or other storage of stuff. Kautza stated he won't be able to have vehicles stored outside, for zoning purposes. Janssen stated he does not plan to have any outdoor storage.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve Resolution #02-24 and Recommending approval of the Sean Janssen Rezone Request to Marathon County Environmental Resource Committee.

Parker explained that this is just a recommendation to the County, and how they will be holding a formal public hearing on April 2nd. She explained that the County will be notifying the neighborhood there about the hearing.

- **Discussion and Possible Action on Town Hall Loan**

Parker explained that she was under the impression that this year's payment on the town hall loan was going to be the final one. When she received the annual invoice, it showed we do have another payment in 2025. She explained the 2025 payment will be larger, because apparently sometime in the past years, the Town must have made a late payment.

Kautza stated that we can't pay it off completely yet, so will have one more payment next year. Parker will get the 2024 payment out before our next meeting.

- **Discussion and Possible Action on Town's Portion of New Ambulance Payment.**

Parker read the email she received from Lauri Klumpyan, Secretary of Birnamwood Area Emergency Services, who confirmed the Town's portion is planned to be about \$35,000. Parker asked the Board if she should go ahead and pay that now.

Marien feels we should just go ahead and pay it now, as the rates may go up. The Board agreed. Parker will cut a payment to them.

- **Discussion of Public Internet Access at Hall**

Parker explained how recently her family rented the Town of Texas hall for a party, and how it was very nice to have access to that Town's internet. She feels we should allow people who rent our hall access to our T-Mobile internet. She pointed out that the \$50.00 fee does not increase based on usage. She pointed out that we never get throttled down if we go over so much data.

Kautza was concerned that neighbors would be able to access it. McRae does not feel that would be possible from that distance.

Parker pointed out her sister, who is an IT Director, recently told her that if we were to allow the public to use our internet we should set up a “guest account”. Parker said she will check into this more, but does not see what this matters as nothing at the hall is connected to the internet. McRae pointed out, for example, during our meetings that Parker is connected, and there is always a small chance someone could use that to hack her computer.

The Board was not opposed to allowing people who pay to rent our hall to use the internet. McRae stated we should be able to log in to watch the usage of the device.

- **WisDOT 6-20 Foot Culvert Inventory**

Parker stated this is something we need to complete. Kautza stated he believes we only have one, maybe two, culverts that qualify for the inspection. There was some discussion on what qualifies, and it was explained any culvert that is between 6 and 20 feet in diameter.

Parker stated she watched most of the webinar that the DOT presented last week, and was able to screen shot the presentation. She stated she will share this with Larson, as it shows examples of what qualifies and what does not.

Parker stated the County explained to her that this is a new program under the State.

It was agreed by the Board that we will do the inventory ourselves. Parker stated that according to this program, the Town gets paid \$100.00 per structure inventoried.

12. Old Business

- **Continued Discussion and Action on a Grader**

Kautza explained that if we sign tonight, we would be about 5 months out from receiving the new grader. He stated we would be locked in at their interest rate, and our first payment would not be until next year, as the trading of our current grader acts as our down payment.

Marien questioned again why we need a new tractor. Kautza stated the new machine will come with a full warranty. He explained some incentives to trading our old grader in now is that our current grader is coming up on its 2,000 hour service, which would cost the Town \$10,000 to service, plus then any thing that goes wrong is 100% costing the Town. This new machine will be all-wheel drive.

Stoller pointed out that the Town would be eligible to apply for a new 4-year warranty on the old grader at a cost of \$4,000. Larson stated when he called Fabick they told him it would be \$5,200, and up. He stated we were never given a consistent price.

Kautza stated that while Fabick was technically less money, McCoy offered a better product and better service.

Motion by Marien, second by McRae: to approve the purchase of the 2024 John Deere Motor Grader from McCoy/John Deere, in the amount of \$458,000, and trading in our current 2016 Caterpillar Grader to McCoy, for the amount of \$210,000.00, for a balance owed on the 2024 grader being \$248,000.00. The first payment (financed through John Deere) will be scheduled for 1 year following the date of acceptance of the new grader. The interest rate will be determined at the time of signing financial documents, but will be no more than 5.9% (based on the purchase agreement). [Clerk's Note – some of these details were added after the meeting by the Clerk, to make the motion clearer].

Roll Call Vote:

Kautza – aye

Marien – aye

McRae – aye

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

It was stated that we will use ARPA funds to pay for the new ambulance.

- **Discussion on Filed Petition to Marathon County to Allow for Storage Pods on Residential Property**

Parker stated the public hearing on this is coming up on March 5th. She stated there is a Zoom option and how it is important that someone from our board attend. Kautza stated he will try to attend.

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

Nothing new at this time.

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

It was agreed that to add stop signs would be costly, as you would need to conduct studies, and how sometimes too many stop signs can cause more issues.

Kautza instructed Parker to go ahead and remove this item from future agendas.

13. Remarks from Board

Marien pointed out the Annual Meeting not reflected on this Agenda. After some discussion, Parker stated the election will be on April 2nd, and the April Town Board meeting will actually be held on the 3rd Tuesday (16th), the same night as the Annual Meeting.

14. Future Items

- Town Board Meeting – March 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
- Spring & Presidential Preference Election – April 2, 2024
- Town Board Meeting – April 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m. [*this will actually be held the same night as Annual Meeting on April 16th*]

15. Adjourn

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

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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