

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

Tuesday, January 9, 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, and Treasurer, Connie Sippl

4. Visitors

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z
Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road
Mike Schairer, 182167 Pine View Road
Matt Szews, 184001 Pine View Road
Craig Schwocho, of McCoy Construction Forestry

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

Micke commented on the Town tax bill insert, and how it would have been a good opportunity to announce what the Town accomplished in 2023 and what the goals and plans are for 2024. This insert could have included an announcement about the Town looking at purchasing a new grader. He stated it is the Board's responsibility to make the residents feel good about the town that they live in.

6. Minutes from Previous Meeting

• **December 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting.

7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

Parker explained there are two sets of vouchers to be signed. One set is the remaining 2023 invoices to be paid and the other set is the January invoices.

Marien asked if the Town received an interest rebate from the Town's loan at CoVantage. Parker stated the Town received an interest rebate on both the tractor loan and our Money Market account, in the amounts of \$116.29 and \$132.14.

8. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget

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

9. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she had completed all of the end of year reports. She pointed out the Town will not have a February Spring Primary Election.

Parker explained to the audience she handed out expenditures and revenues sheet, and how the lines in blue color are the "pass thru" amounts. These are amounts collected in property taxes, but then paid out to the other taxing jurisdictions (County, NTC, and Antigo & Witt-Birn School Districts), so those are not included in the Town's monthly budget.

10. Road Report

Larson stated he has been taking care of sanding and plowing roads. He stated he received 5 loads of salt/sand from Fraaza Rocks and Sand. He was told by Dustin Fraaza that the cost would be the same as last year.

Larson stated there were 40 trees removed from the right-of-way along Hatchery Road.

11. New Business

- **Formal Action by Board to Close Banner Banks Accounts and Transfer Funds to CoVantage Credit Union**

Parker explained that Banner Banks needs to have official minutes on record in order to close a municipal bank account. She stated that if approved, she will initiate the transaction with Banner Banks by stopping in their Hatley location with the minutes and signing her portion, then she will have Kautza go in and sign his portion, followed by Sippl signing hers and withdrawing the funds to be deposited at CoVantage Credit Union.

The Banner Banks ARPA Savings Account funds (currently \$72,263.06) will go into its own CoVantage Money Market account, and after some discussion, it was agreed to move the Banner Banks Checking Account funds (currently \$109,766.83) into the Town's CoVantage general Money Market account.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve closing the Town of Plover's Banner Banks Checking and Savings Accounts, and depositing those funds into CoVantage Credit Union. The Banner Banks Checking Account Funds will be deposited into the Town's General CoVantage Money Market Account, and the Banner Banks Savings Account Funds will be deposited into a newly created CoVantage Money Market Account.

- **Ordinance #01-2024 Amendment to Town Fee Schedule**

Parker explained that back in June, 2023, the Town discussed the official creation of a Fee Schedule. She stated during those discussions it was agreed that in 2024 the Town Hall Reservation fees would be increased from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and the Special Assessment Letter/Property Search fee would increase from \$25.00 to \$75.00. She stated the Town then officially adopted the 2023 Fee Schedule in July, with the intention to amend it in December for these changes to occur January 1st, but she forgot to add this to the December meeting schedule.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve Ordinance #01-2024 Amendment to Town of Plover Fee Schedule.

12. Old Business

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

Kautza brought up the upcoming new Birnamwood Area Emergency Services ambulance, and asked Marien if he heard what the Town's portion of the cost would be yet. Marien stated it was going to be around \$35,000, though the cost may increase as we get closer to receiving the ambulance. Marien suggested Parker reach out to Lauri Klumpyan to find out a more approximate number. Kautza stated then we can pay our portion of the ambulance with our ARPA grant monies.

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

Kautza stated we are continuing this discussion. Kautza asked Szews if he would be interested in taking on building inspections within the Town, if the Town gets out of County Zoning. Szews stated he would be interested.

Parker stated if we are able to get out of the County Zoning, then we will need to create a schedule of fees for the different types of inspections.

It was stated our agreement with the County goes through 2026, but the Town may be able to get out of County Zoning during times of Zoning Code amendments.

Marien brought up the Town may have to have its own Comprehensive Plan if we get out of County Zoning. Parker stated if the Town went with no zoning, then it would not need a Comprehensive Plan.

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

Parker explained the petition has been filed with the County. She explained the petition was filed with the request these containers be allowed in all districts via a Conditional Use Permit, which will require property owners to jump through a few hoops and spend some money on hearing and permit fees with the County. These would hopefully sway people from just going out and buying containers to place wherever on their properties. She explained the County sent out an email, seeking input, to all municipalities under County Zoning. Parker decided to tag on to that and send out her own messages to the same municipalities urging them to share their feedback. She stated she also went so far to include our County Board Member representative, Mike Ritter. The public hearing is on March 5th.

Marien stated that he and his wife were primarily concerned that people are going to start placing these out front on their smaller lots. Parker explained the County would have to have some set setbacks that property owners would have to adhere to for placement of the containers.

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

Kautza stated he is still looking in to this.

- **Discussion and Action on a Grader**

Kautza supplied the Board with copies of proposals received from McCoy Construction Forestry, on a John Deere grader, and from FABICK Cat, on a Caterpillar grader.

Kautza expressed his displeasure with the salesperson he dealt with at FABICK, how the salesperson was not consistent with the figures being given (verbally and in writing) to Kautza and Larson.

Kautza explained that while the proposal from FABICK is less than the proposal from McCoy, the comparisons between what the two are offering are not the same. He explained that McCoy's proposal has some better features and more equipment that FABICK is not able to offer. He stated how McCoy is offering to send Larson (and whoever Larson's replacement will be once he retires) down to their plant for training on the equipment.

There was discussion on the pros and cons of keeping our current grader, which is now out of warranty, for another year. Some included the fact that we are near our 2,000 hour service deadline, which will cost the Town \$10,000 to do. How the grader is still quite valuable, as far as a trade-in. With warranty out, any repairs can be quite costly. The new grader would come with a new 7-year warranty. Current grader is a 4x4, and the new one we are looking at is a 6x6.

There was discussion on pros and cons of financing through the dealer versus the State, and/or leasing. It was explained that a loan through the State, you are limited on the payments you can make. With a lease, you don't own the equipment and can't sell it. If we finance through dealer, we can pay off sooner if we wish.

McRae and Marien both agreed it would be easier to make a decision if the proposals were more comparable. Parker suggested putting a complete list of what we are looking for and having both proposals based on that so they are comparable. Kautza feels and Larson have already spent a lot of time between the two dealerships, with the sales people getting the proposals from them, and how they should not have to keep pursuing the FABICK salesperson for more accurate numbers.

McRae stated that he is not comfortable making a decision at the moment without looking further into the two proposals. Marien agreed. Parker asked if there would be any harm in giving the Board more time to review the two proposals, where we can bring this back up in February. Marien was concerned as the McCoy proposal stated the proposal was only good for 30 days. Schwocho stated those figures would not change before the next Town Board Meeting.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien to defer action on this until the February 13th Town Board meeting.

13. Remarks from Board

Marien commented in the recent Towns Association magazine, it announced the upcoming Board of Review trainings. He stated there was an in-person training in Stevens Point on February 17th, that he would like to attend. He stated there was a virtual one on April 1st. Parker asked McRae if he would like to be signed up for the virtual meeting, and he stated yes, if that is not too late for the Town's Board of Review. Parker will verify the dates and get back to Marien and McRae on those. *[Clerk's Note: The dates for the BOR Training, through WTA, will be 02/17/24 in Stevens Point, and 03/18/24 & 03/19/24 Virtual]*

14. Future Items

- Town Board Meeting – February 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
- Town Board Meeting – March 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

[Clerk's Note: Just after the meeting, Marien brought up to Parker potentially scheduling morning community gatherings "coffee clutch" at the Town Hall. This would be an opportunity to get residents together to meet up. Once something is planned, Parker can put an announcement out. She stated this could be like holding a Neighborhood Watch Meeting.]

15. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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