

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

Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

Kautza, present via call-in, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Parker noted both Marien and McRae were present.

Also, in attendance: Clerk, Valerie Parker, Treasurer, Connie Sippl, Rick Larson, Gary Thomas, Jack Kautza, and Dawn & Gary Merriam.

The Board moved the meeting down to the Bid Openings.

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

Dawn & Gary Merriam were present, who reside at the southeast corner of Pine View Road and County Road Y. They asked when the end of the road will be repaired, where the blacktop was removed, stating that while this is much better than the hump that was there, a bunch of potholes are forming. Larson explained that we are waiting to hear from the County on if they would want that culvert replaced and if the County will pave it. Larson stated that he will add some more gravel to it to pack it in better.

Merriam's also brought up concerns about all the young people who are riding up and down Pine View Road on 4-wheelers and motorbikes. They also brought up a gold truck (with no plates) and a red truck (with no rear window) who have been racing up and down the roadway, and spinning their tires on the west end of Pine View Road where it is gravel.

Marien commented that as far as the 4-wheelers and motorbikes go, people have to be over 16 years old, and how they need to contact the Sheriff's Department when this occurs. There was some discussion on the gold truck that has been seen driving recklessly around the town, and how people have to call the Sheriff's Department when witnessing those too.

Jack Kautza confirmed with Larson that it was found that a culvert broke on Hatchery Road.

Tony Kautza excused himself from the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

4. Visitors

None.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Board acknowledged previously reviewing the minutes shared with them in June.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the June 8, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes.

6. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

McRae and Marien went through the expenditures.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the expenditures.

7. 2021 Budget Review and Update

Parker gave an update as to the revenues the Town received since the past meeting, along with where we are at with financial accounts and loans.

Jack Kautza suggested the Town consider depositing the ARPA funds into a Money Market account, versus a basic savings account, as it will earn more interest. Parker and McRae do not think we are allowed to be accruing

interest on that money, which is why we are planning to just have those funds transferred into a savings account at Banner Banks.

8. Clerk's Report

Parker stated that she went ahead and ordered checks that can be printed on through QuickBooks, once the current checks, which are hand-written out, run out. She stated we received our ARPA funds, and how Sippl will transfer those funds into a savings account.

Parker gave details of the car accident that occurred on the Town's property back in June. She stated she sent an invoice for the property damage and clean-up, though is unsure it will get paid.

Parker brought up the accident that happened on Sportsman Road, by the Larson Co-Op driver, and asked if there is anything related to that, that she needs to invoice. Larson stated there would not be anything to bill, as it was cleaned up by an environmental group hired by the trucking company.

Parker brought up an announcement she received from the WI Towns Association regarding a meeting they are holding in Marathon City on July 29th. They plan to go over the ARPA grants. Marien stated he will not be available. McRae noted it in his calendar. Parker stated she will try to attend that too.

Parker stated that Larson asked about the possibility of the Town offering him health insurance, as his will be running out soon. This could be in lieu of a pay increase. Parker stated that she is not familiar with how this works, but could check with the Village of Weston Clerk, who she works with on how it works. Marien asked if Parker could check with our current insurance carrier, Rural Mutual. Parker stated she can certainly check with them.

Parker stated she is going to start working some hours at the town hall, as a way to not have to keep Town files in her house. She stated that it will only amount to an hour each time, and will be at the end of her regular job's workday. She stated she will still do some work from her house, but is planning to start storing Town files at the hall.

9. Road Report

Larson brought up the two culverts that need replacing, one on Crescent and one on Hatchery. He commented that the one on Crescent, rather than being removed years ago, it was just buried, as the previous Chairman did not want to replace it.

Larson stated that tomorrow he will have his first full round of mowing completed. He stated once we get some rain, he will go back to grading. There was some discussion on the work recently done to the grader. Jack Kautza questioned why Larson is bringing the grader in to town for service, versus having a technician come out. Larson stated he has done that in the past, but you pay for their mileage and travel time, on top of the service fee. While it is not that expensive, if the technician needs an additional part, then we have to pay for that technician to go all the way back to the shop and come back on site to where the grader is. Larson mentioned we have 1 year left of warranty (we have 1 year left to pay on the grader).

Larson stated he has to go check out the culvert by Donnie Matsche, as Matsche is concerned there is another beaver issue. Larson is thinking the issue may just be brush floating to the top and laying on the side there from when Easton did their ditch mowing. He will check into it.

McRae brought up a yellow truck and a white truck that have been seen racing and spinning up Old Lake Road, and this is the same for Pine View Road. McRae stated the driver of the yellow truck is a bearded man.

Larson commented that there has been a lot of theft going on in the town.

10. Old Business

• LRIP Program Updates – Sportsman Road Project

Nothing new to report. Larson stated that he and Kautza are going to get together to go through this, and how Kautza will need to meet with Jim Griesbach to find out how to transfer the LRIP grant to this project. Larson stated it sounds like even if the project is under \$60,000, it may need to be engineered in order to qualify.

• Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act – Possible use of Funds

McRae stated that it sounds like we may be able to use these funds on infrastructure projects, based on what he read in the Wisconsin Town's Association monthly magazine. Jack Kautza stated he heard from the Chair at the Village of Aniwa that you can use it on infrastructure.

Marien commented how the Ice Age Trail runs along a long stretch of Sportsman Road, and how we might be able to use these funds to do work on that road for recreational purposes.

11. New Business

• Red Granite Road Work Bid Opening

McRae and Marien opened the bids at about 6:05 p.m., which resulted in the following:

1. Kautza Excavating \$13,647.00
2. Gary Thomas \$15,999.99
3. K&D Construction \$16,000.00
4. Meverden Materials \$16,366.00

Tony Kautza confirmed with Jack Kautza that his bid included compaction, which Jack Kautza answered yes.

Motion by McRae, Second by Marien to accept the bid submitted by Kautza Excavating, in the amount of \$13,647.00. Question: Tony Kautza asked Jack Kautza when he will be able to start, and Jack Kautza stated it will be a while yet, but he is aware it needs to be completed by October 1st.

The Board then moved back up on the agenda to Public Comments.

• Update of Zoning Issues

Parker stated that she will send the petition to the County Zoning for the text amendment, but first needs to know what the Town Board wants the amendment to say.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the County should allow the storage containers as a Permitted Use, if they are being utilized on a permanent basis, but that those containers need to be treated as a permanent structure, meeting required setbacks.

• Discussion and Possible Action on Comprehensive Plan

Parker stated she received a letter from Dennis Lawrence last month from NCWRPC (North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) recommending that Town's update their Comprehensive Plan, which the State requires be done once every 10 years. She explained how NCWRPC is willing to assist towns in updating their plans for a cost of \$6,000 (Clerk's note – I stated \$2,000, but in re-reading the letter, it was \$6,000).

The Board agreed that this would be a waste of money as we are under County Zoning, which we have to follow all of their land use rules. It was pointed out how the Town has a preference for a minimum of 2-acre lots (for land division), but it does not matter, as the County will allow parcels to be split into smaller sizes through a rezone.

After some discussion, Parker stated she will contact Dominique Swangstu, at the County, to verify that we are covered under the County's Comprehensive Plan, and that it is not necessary to update ours.

• Discussion on Town Computer

McRae stated he has not had a chance to plug in the Town's desktop computer at his house. He questioned if the same guy installed security software in the laptop as in the desktop, and Parker stated yes. McRae stated that it may be best just to bring the desktop back over to him (Northern Computer Guy) to have him look at it so see if he can fix it. McRae stated either Parker can take it there, or he can take it there when he passes through Antigo next.

Parker explained the reason she has this on the agenda is she wants to see if there is a way we can use our ARPA grant funds to purchase a new and better laptop for her to use, as our current laptop is extremely slow and frustrating to use when attempting to do town work early in the mornings. She stated if so, then she would give this laptop back to Kautza to use.

Parker explained how while she wants to hold some hours at the hall, she will still need a portable laptop to use at her home, as she does work on it all through the week. She stated in her opinion, the desktop that stays at the Town Hall, is a computer that can be used by the full Board (Kautza, Marien, McRae, Sippl, and herself) along with Larson, if they need to pull up a document to print off on the Town's printer. She stated there is not log-in for that computer and how she has not saved anything on that computer.

McRae brought up internet needs, and Larson brought up how we could contact Bertram Internet regarding getting a possible tower put up in the Town, and how if we mention we are looking for internet to benefit the entire Town, how they may give us a really good price. Parker will make contact with them to see what they have to offer.

Parker brought up if the Town were to pay to have a cell tower installed, how other companies would rent space on that tower in order to offer their services to residents.

McRae stated to add to the next agenda discussion of purchasing a new laptop for Parker.

12. Remarks from Board

Marien brought up from the last Birnamwood Area Emergency Services Board meeting that how because they cannot find enough EMS help, how they are looking to create some kind of incentive to get new people to work for them. They are preliminarily, talking about looking to raise \$30,000, and apportioning that cost across all the municipalities they serve. The preliminary amount the Town of Plover would be asked to kick in is \$4,786.00.

Marien stated this is going to be further discussed at their 7pm, July 28th, meeting, and he will not be available to attend that meeting. McRae noted the meeting on his calendar, though he and Marien agreed that Kautza should probably attend that meeting on behalf of the Town.

Parker stated we do have \$2,500 budgeted in the Fire Equipment Fund, but also, if this goes through could use ARPA funds to cover the cost.

13. Future Items

- **Regular Board Meeting – August 10, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Regular Board Meeting – September 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

[Clerk's Note: It was brought up after the meeting to add discussion on the next meeting agenda on bidding out crack sealing in the Town along with possibly purchasing cameras to try to catch the people damaging our granite roads and causing theft]

14. Adjourn

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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