

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

Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 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 both Marien and McRae were present.

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

Also present, to possibly speak under Public Comments, were:

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z

Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road

Jack Kautza, 181530 Sportsman Drive

Mike Ritter, County Board Supervisor, 233145 Pleasant View Road, Ringle

4. Visitors

Ritter pointed out, as County Supervisor, he has joined several committees:

*Environmental Resources Committee

*Broadband Taskforce

*Board of Directors for MCDEVCO

*Board of Adjustment

*Marathon County Groundwater Planning

*Board of Directors of Air, WI Lands, and Water Association

He briefly explained his role in each of these committees. One of the topics he brought up was the Marathon County Groundwater Planning Committee is making plans to test 1,000 private wells in Marathon County this year. They will be putting out a notification about this. These tests will be paid for through County grants.

Kautza brought up our issues with the County Planning & Zoning. He also brought up our issues with the Parks Department, where when someone gets injured in the Dells of Eau Claire Park (where the County profits from camping fees, etc.) how the County will not take responsibility for fees incurred from when the Birnamwood Fire Department responds to calls, and how the Town gets stuck with the bills and has to attempt to get payment from the injured on the incident.

Ritter stated he will talk to the County about these concerns, and will follow up with Kautza on these.

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

Micke questioned if the Board has heard about the issues happening in the west side of the County about windmills (wind turbines). The Board had not. He feels something should be put in place to make it difficult for these to come into our Town.

6. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **April 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023, meeting.

7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board went through the expenditures.

McRae questioned if we should be waiting to pay the Fire Department bills until we have a chance to receive a payment from the injured property. Parker explained it is much cleaner and easier to track what is owed by paying right away.

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 with the last meeting being late in April and her being on vacation, how she does not have much to report at this time.

10. Road Report

Larson stated with the help of Marien, they got the two road areas (Sportman Road and Red Granite Road) marked where road work needs to be done.

Larson recently spoke with Randy Christiansen who requested to be notified of any Town road work.

Larson explained how he recently worked with Gary Thomas on Sportsman Drive, where Thomas took some of the large rock out and in turn helped with grading ditches. Larson mentioned Twin Forest Co., let us dump fill on their property. He commented how Twin Forest is planning to do some logging (hauling out 400 – 500 loads) on Sportsman, and is planning to put in a driveway from their land on Sportsman Road out to County Road Z.

Larson commented on the beaver dam issue on Red Granite Road. The owner, Damon Cronce, of 178709 Red Granite Road, does not want the Town to trap or kill the beaver that keeps blocking the culvert, and said he would clear the debris each time it builds up. Larson stated last time he looked, the metal grate over the culvert was pulled away, and feels we need to send the owner a letter stating either he keeps that culvert clear from the beaver dam, or the Town will take care of it. Kautza stated we can send a letter.

Larson brought up issues with the spring clean-up. After some discussion, Kautza stated how he did make contact with Chad Koehler, of Waste Management, and it appears most stuff got cleaned up.

Larson stated he picked up about 11 tons of cold mix from American Asphalt today. He discussed the pot hole issues on the roads, and how in areas of slag seal how that got pulled up with plowing this winter.

Larson stated he will be going to Langlade County Highway Department to pick up some more wing and plow blades.

Kautza commented how on Red Granite Road, he received a request to log the woods and use Red Granite Road to get out to County Road Y.

Kautza suggested we use a couple of loads of recycled asphalt to patch the holes on Hatchery Road. Larson explained why the Town prefers cold mix. There was some discussion on costs of cold mix in the area.

Jack Kautza asked if he could hire the Town to grade his driveway. Tony Kautza stated Jack Kautza can coordinate with Larson to grade his driveway (the Town will invoice him).

11. Old Business

- **Reparations for Road Damage on Eau Claire River Road, East of County Road Y**

Marien requested we remove this item from further agendas, as it does not appear we are able to get anywhere with this, and it would cost too much in attorney fees to continue going after this. Kautza was fine with this being removed from future agendas.

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

Parker confirmed we have some time to decide on a project to use the funds towards.

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

Nothing new.

12. New Business

- **Ordinance #05-2023: Utility Accommodations Policy**

Parker stated she will publish a summary of this Ordinance and how she believes it will need to be published at the County.

Parker stated she will draft some kind of a permit application for this.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien to approve Ordinance #05-2023: Utility Accommodations Policy.

- **Review and Discussion on Draft Road Project Bid Ads and Scheduling Bid Opening**

The Board and Larson reviewed the draft bid ads and gave suggested changes to Parker, who will make the revisions and share with the Board. There was some discussion on the timing of the bid openings, and it was decided to hold the bid opening at the June 6th meeting.

Parker stated once the Board is okay with the language, she will post a few times in the local papers, will post on our website, and will direct mail out to contractors (via e-mail and USPS mail).

- **Discussion on Creating/Updating Town Fee Schedule**

Parker commented how we really should have an official Fee Schedule adopted, which would list fees for things like dog licenses, hall rentals, and other fees we may charge for services. She stated she will draft something for the next meeting.

Parker questioned if there should be a permit fee for the Utility Policy. Kautza commented we primarily just need to know where the work is being done, and how the policy should cover the Town, in the event a utility contractor does not complete restoration work – so we do not need to add a fee for this.

The Board feels we should discuss raising the hall rental fee to \$75.00, starting the 1st of next year.

13. Remarks from Board

Marien commented that his phone number has changed. Parker will update the contact lists on the website and bulletin boards to reflect his new phone number.

Marien pointed out that Birnamwood Area Fire Department is looking into purchasing a new Jaws, which is estimated to cost over ~\$30,000. The Fire Department has about \$23,000 to put towards the cost, and will request the Towns split the rest of the cost for this. He stated he will have more at the July Town meeting. Marien also stated how the Town of Norwood pulled out from the Birnamwood Area Emergency Services.

Jack Kautza asked the Board if it will be okay for him to fill in the ditch (along property he owns along North Pole Road) so that he can mow it. He stated he will taper it off nicely.

14. Future Items

- **Town Board Meeting – June 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m. [Revised Meeting Date]**
- **Town Board Meeting – July 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

15. Adjourn

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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