

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

Tuesday, November 14, 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 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

Joe Frailing, 235555 North Pole Road

Tony Ebben, 1512 S Walden Avenue, Appleton, WI 54915

4. Visitors

Shad Harvey, Land Resources Manager, of Marathon County CPZ (Dept of Conservation, Planning & Zoning)

Garrett Pagel, Land Use Specialist, of Marathon County CPZ (Dept of Conservation, Planning & Zoning)

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

Micke pointed out the \$1.075 million in new construction the Town has received in 2023, which increases the Town's tax base by 1.78%. He explained how this added value will help spread out the taxes, reducing tax bills. He stated how the Town went from an assessed value of \$60.3 million to \$70.5 million, and now with the extra shared revenue things look good. He brought up the ARPA funds the Town has saved, and how we should consider using that towards the upcoming ambulance payment. Marien stated even though it will be a while before the ambulance is ready, the Town could pay for that now

6. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **October 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting & 2024 Budget Hearing**
- **October 10, 2023, Special Town Board Meeting to Adopt 2024 Budget**

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve both of the minutes from the October 10, 2023, meetings.

7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

Parker stated there was nothing out of the ordinary.

8. Review and Action on 2023 Monthly Budget

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

9. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she recently attended some Clerks Institute classes, pertaining to the upcoming elections. She stated that in December, she will have on the agenda the appointments of Election Inspectors. She stated that currently she has enough people to fill the need, though was notified of another interested person (if needed). She stated that she should be receiving notification from the two political parties soon, on any lists they have (which she would have to use first).

Parker stated she will also be working on property tax bill reports so that the County can process those.

10. Road Report

Larson stated he just completed grading and filling of potholes, now he is getting more into the heavier brushing.

Larson commented on the wired signs that are popping up again in the Town. He stated he has noticed in Easton a bunch of those Bug Tussel signs popping up, and is anticipating they will start showing up here. He commented we should have something in the tax bill newsletter about not putting signs in the right-of-way. Sippl stated it is already in there.

11. New Business

- **Joe Frailing, 23555 North Pole Road, Storage Pod Issue (with Marathon County Zoning)**

Kautza stated to Harvey and Pagel that he felt this topic was on hold, that they were not enforcing these in our Town.

Harvey explained that in April of 2022, the ERC (Environmental Resources Committee) took action to not approve the request by the Town, since the Town was requesting this change for its own municipality, not the full County. With that the CPZ Staff is required to start enforcing that part of the code again.

Pagel explained that what needs to happen now is a petition needs to be filed again, with CPZ with proposed zoning code language changes. He stated this can be filed by a resident or by a municipality. If a resident files it, there is a fee of \$600.00, but if the Town files it, the fee is waived. He stated that the proposed language needs to be written to reflect the County as a whole, not just the Town. He stated if this application comes in soon enough, it can be reviewed before the ERC in January (Pagel will send us a schedule).

Kautza stated how the Town is in support of all Town properties being allowed to have these storage pods. It was brought up how the storage pods allow a place to residents to store things, which helps to clean up yards. Kautza stated the Town will draft a petition and get it filed with CPZ.

Larson pointed out how in our Town, in a way to avoid applying for Zoning Permits, residents are popping up little huts that are less than 100 square feet each to put their things into. Parker brought up how the storage pods looks way better than seeing junk all over the properties.

Kautza brought up about potentially getting out of County Zoning, Pagel stated the next update (opportunity to withdraw from County Zoning) would be in 2026, though Kautza feels we could get out sooner.

Kautza brought up about the Krimmer rezone, and how Krimmer had to pay \$700.00 to be allowed the addition to his building, which to Kautza, it appears the County is just trying to get more money out of people. Harvey and Pagel gave more background on that issue.

Parker pointed out CPZ staff are required to enforce their code, and how if we had complaints about the process, we would need to bring that up to ERC.

After further discussion, it was agreed that Parker will get the petition and tonight's minutes, to CPZ staff. In the meantime, Harvey and Pagel will put a hold on the pod enforcement until after the ERC meeting. They recommended that there be Town representation at that ERC meeting, along with any other municipalities that may be in support of the same petition.

It was brought up that there could be two petitions, one to allow the pods by permitted use and one to allow the pods via Conditional Use Permit, but with a notification of what our preference would be.

Parker could reach out to her Clerk's listerv to find out what other municipalities would support this petition.

- **Discussion of Draft Amendment to Town of Plover Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance**

Parker explained the Town was audited by the DNR on our recycling program. She stated they do random audits, and we were picked. She stated how everything was fine, but that we are required to update our Recycling Ordinance to include a Compliance Assurance Plan (CAP). The auditor had provided her a sample Recycling Ordinance, and since the Town's ordinance was way outdated, Parker basically drafted a full new ordinance (using the DNR's template), which includes the CAP.

This is just for review, and the official ordinance adoption will be on the next agenda. Parker has until the middle of next month to provide this adopted document to the DNR.

- **Discussion on a Motor Grader**

Kautza stated the 7-year warranty on our Grader, which is from 2015, is now up. He stated a relay needed to be fixed, which costed us about \$1,000.00. He stated how our 2,000-hour service is coming up, and that is going to cost us between \$7,000.00 - \$8,000.00. With this, he is starting to look into trading this in or selling outright for a new grader. He stated when talking to Fabick, they would take this grader as a trade-in for \$175,000.00, towards a new grader (which is estimated at about \$375,000.00). He stated the new one he was looking at is all-wheel drive, where our current one is rear wheel drive. We would get a 7-year warranty with this.

Kautza stated if we ordered this now, the grader would not be ready until next summer; however, Fabick would extend our warranty on our current grader until the new one is ready.

Kautza stated that we could sell the grader outright, and potentially get more money, but we would not get that extended warranty, and there would have to be a clause in the private sale that we keep the old grader until our new one comes in.

Kautza stated he is looking to get estimates from John Deere, as well (but through Fabick most likely will be a better deal for the Town).

Micke suggested if the Town does purchase a new grader, we need to communicate this clearly to the Town, and if we do get a new grader, we should use our fund balance to pay off the tractor first. He feels this would make the Town taxpayers happy.

- **Discussion on Town of Plover Neighborhood Watch Bank Account**

Parker brought up the Town of Plover Neighborhood Watch Committee, which is technically a private group in our Town. The Town of Plover Neighborhood Watch Committee has a small bank account with Banner Banks. Parker stated from what she understands, years ago Ardyce Norton was the Chair of this group with another town resident, who were named on the committee's bank account. Norton had Eileen Manusos (Parker's previous neighbor) partner on the committee's bank account. Then, when Norton passed away, Manusos added Parker to the bank account, but then in 2019, Manusos passed away, leaving the bank account solely in Parker's name.

Parker explained since she has been involved, there have been just a few Town of Plover Neighborhood Watch Committee meetings, until COVID hit. She explained there is only \$92.00 in this account. She asked if this account could just be part of, and managed by, the Town of Plover, versus a private account. This way she can add Sippl to the account, so that Parker is not the only one on this.

Marien pointed out that years ago, he was Chair of this committee, but how it was hard to find people to be part of it, and eventually, he stepped away from it.

Micke read from the Town of Plover's website (<https://townofplover.us/town-neighborhood-watch>) the background of the Town Neighborhood Watch Program. He does not see why the Town could not take this on, but to keep it in a completely separate fund.

The Board felt it would be fine to go ahead and create a special account with CoVantage Credit Union, for this small account.

12. Old Business

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

Nothing new.

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

Discussed under New Business.

- **Update on Guyette Drive Road Damage**

Kautza stated this is a road that we may consider doing an overlay on next year. It appears they are not running equipment here anymore, and this item can be removed from future agendas.

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

Kautza stated it was found that you have to go through traffic studies in order to add stop signs on Town roads.

Kautza brought up how in the Town of Knowlton, on Old 51, he noticed they have 10-ton weight limit signs, along with "No Truck Traffic" signs. He is going to look into if this is something our Town can do.

13. Remarks from Board

Sipl bought up dog licensing, which we charge \$10.00 and \$15.00 for. She is wondering if the Town would consider reducing it down to \$5.00 and \$10.00, as this is what the County charges. Kautza stated we should leave this where it is.

14. Future Items

- Town Board Meeting – December 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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