

**Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Regular Meeting of the Town Board and
Public Hearing on Proposed 2023 Budget Meeting
180771 County Road Z, Birnamwood, WI 54414**

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

Kautza 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

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

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z
Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road
Tina Jensen, 178808 Pine View Road
Cathy Marien, 184949 County Road Z
Karla Larson, 185153 County Road Z
Chris Crawford, 234905 Clay Road
Erin Crawford, 234905 Clay Road
Shirleyann Wellhoefer, 179601 Pine View Road
Terry Wellhoefer, 179601 Pine View Road
Noah Kroll, 234754 North Pole Road

Erick Jensen, 178808 Pine View Road, who was out of state, called in to the meeting via phone.

3. Visitors

None.

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

Micke requested that the Town start their meetings off with the Pledge of Allegiance, and requested everyone state the Pledge of Allegiance tonight.

Micke requested that the Clerk start sharing a public list of monthly budget transactions, so that people attending meetings have a better understanding of what is being paid and what is being receipted.

Micke questioned what the estimated fund balance for the year end will be. Kautza stated the Town typically leaves about \$20,000 in general fund at the end of the year, moving the rest of the funds into contingency savings.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **October 11, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting & 2023 Budget Hearing**
- **October 11, 2022 – Special Board Meeting to Adopt 2023 Budget**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022, meetings.

6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board went through the expenditures.

7. Review and Action on 2022 Monthly Budget

Kautza confirmed with Larson that the salt shed is full and that we are good on plow blades. He discussed that we have been working with Antigo Arborist on right-of-way tree trimming/cutting, and will be expecting a bill around \$10,000 for the work. Larson stated they have been out for about 4 days, and have probably another week of work yet (along North Pole Road and Corner Drive).

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

8. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she just finished the election. We had a good turn out at the General Election with 318 voters. She stated she will be looking into the caucus process as that is coming up in December.

9. Road Report

Larson stated he is done with grading, has started plowing and sanding roads. He stated he is continuing to work on brush cutting in the ditches.

Kautza confirmed that the new patch on Sportsman Drive is holding up good. Kautza stated next year we will also need to look at that other, longer, spot along Sportsman Drive, and do similar work. Larson stated in the spring we may want to look at Hatchery Road where those soft spots are forming.

10. Old Business

• **Status of Crack Filling Project by Fahrner Asphalt Sealers**

Kautza stated this project has been completed, and the work turned out good. He stated that due to the lateness in the year that the project was completed, Fahrner has assured Kautza that they will stand behind their work, and if any of this starts to peel up in the spring/summer, they will come back out and fix it.

Kautza stated next year we will see about adding a project deadline to road project contracts.

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

Kautza stated he just needs to get together with Parker to go over the billing on this.

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

Kautza stated will most likely use these funds to cover the Birnamwood Area Emergency Services billings.

11. New Business

• **Discussion and Action on Resolution on Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Marathon County to approve a zoning change from RR (Rural Residential) to GA (General Agriculture) for Dan & Carolyn Krimmer, at 182779 Sportsman Drive, to allow expansion of an existing pole building that exceeds the size of the zoning district maximum.**

Kautza explained how Krimmers want to add on to their pole building, but in order to do this, the County is requiring them to rezone their property from a residential district to an agricultural district.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the Resolution for Dan & Carolyn Krimmer.

• **Start Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning**

Kautza explained the Town's looking at getting out of County Zoning, as it seems the County is not doing anything for the Town and just costing the taxpayers more money with their high permit fees.

McRae commented if we do this then we would need to set up some kind of ordinances or bring back our old ordinances into effect.

Kautza stated how Norrie is operating under no zoning and he believes Harrison is the same way.

Parker is under the impression that if the Town goes back to having its own zoning, that we would need a Plan Commission again. Kautza stated he is pretty sure we would not need a Plan Commission.

Kautza stated how we would still work with Mike Block on new home constructions, and would set something up for general building permits for the Town. McRae commented how then the Clerk would just need to send a list of issued permits to the Assessor.

McRae commented about how he was technically hired by the County to help with zoning permits in the Town, and how he recently received a letter from the County on their changing this. He stated if we had our own zoning again, we would just need to reach out ourselves to property owners who need to take care of issues on their properties.

Micke asked if the Town could simply resurrect their old Zoning Code.

Kautza stated we will keep this topic on the Agenda, but he would be interested in moving forward with this by the end of the year.

12. Public Hearing – Proposed 2023 Town of Plover Budget

- **Open Public Hearing**

Kautza opened the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

- **Presentation by Board**

Kautza explained why this process is being reheard again, being that we are pulling the \$26,018 off the proposed levy, which would be to cover the 2023 Emergency Services costs. He stated based on responses from the State, this may or may not be allowed on the levy, and how we did not want to take a chance of adding it in and finding out after the tax roll has been processed that it can't be in there. He stated how we will look into whether we can add this in next year or not.

Parker explained how the budget was also reduced some, as she removed the \$2,000 FCL/MCL. She stated during her more recent call with the State, it was explained to her this is a "pass through" tax, like the Lottery Credit, and is part of the overall tax levy, so should not be shown separately.

There then was some discussion on rules of forest crop/managed crop lands.

- **Public Comment Period**

Erin Crawford asked about the ARPA funds and questioned if those could just be used to offset the overall Town budget. Kautza explained we need these funds to cover our emergency services. She then brought up concerns about how assessed values are going to be going up. McRae commented on how this is due to all the high property sales. He stated how this will balance out at some point. Parker pointed out we are not scheduled for a revaluation with our Assessor until 2024. McRae commented that this is why people should attend the Open Book session with the Assessor to discuss their property assessments.

Chris Crawford questioned the amounts in the Public Works portion of the 2022 budget. Parker explained when initially planning the budget, we do not always know where the costs are going to come from, but how she needs to spread the allowable expenditure amounts out. She pointed out the bottom line of the 2022 budget showing we have about \$22,615 available in our budget to spend this year.

Micke stated he feels there is too much government, and how he stands by revenue caps and revenue controls. It was brought up that inflation is a big issue. He stated again that he would like to see a list of budget transactions and loaned Parker a copy of the Town of Easton 1993 Annual Report, to show an example of what they used to do. He stated while he understands why the Town purchased the new tractor, he questions if we were able to pull \$40,000 from the general fund as a down payment, why we need to add the \$36,274 adjustment on the levy to cover principal and interest loan debt. He would prefer to see the first option that was presented last month, with no adjustments and a total levy of \$210,185.00. He stated when Dale Seymour was the Chairman, the taxes for the last 8 years remained steady with no surprises. Micke asked the Town to provide a list of their three "must do's" (as far as projects).

There was some discussion on speed limits in the Town. Kautza stated we cannot reduce the speed limits without taking on traffic studies, etc. Erick Jensen stated how Norrie was able to reduce their speed limits. Kautza was pretty sure all they did was post signs. Kautza stated he can check with Norrie on what they did, but is pretty sure they did not follow the proper protocols.

- **Close Public Hearing**

Kautza closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

- **Review and Discussion on Proposed Budget**

There was no further discussion by the Board.

- **Action by Town Board**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae to approve the proposed 2023 Town Budget as presented.

13. Remarks from Board

None.

14. Future Items

- **Special Meeting of Electors – November 15, 2022, Immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Meeting**
- **Town Adoption of Budget Meeting – November 15, 2022, Immediately following the Special Meeting of Electors**
- **Regular Board Meeting – December 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

15. Adjourn

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

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
Town of Plover Clerk
230801 County Road Y
Birnamwood (Town of Plover), WI 54414
(715) 581-4603
vparkerplover@gmail.com
www.townofplover.us