

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

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

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**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, Rick Larson, Tim Lemke, Doreen Erbrecht, Dick Lehmann, Carlton Boettcher, and Dianne Doolittle.

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

Erbrecht requested a correction be made to the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. She stated that she does not take lost pets to the Humane Society. She will pick lost pets up and do her research to find their owners. She stated that most that she has picked up this year do not appear to be licensed, and if the Town enforced the dog license requirement, this would not be as much of an issue. Kautza stated that we have no enforcement capabilities. Marien stated that there are many cases where the pets are licensed, but the owners choose not to put their collars on them, in fear of the pets getting caught up on something and choking.

**4. Visitors**

**• Tim Lemke, Service Director of the Birnamwood Area Emergency Service**

Lemke explained how the department is trying to figure out how to take care of the staffing problems. He explained how a few years ago, they tried paying \$3.00 per hour for people just to be on call, but that did not work out very long. He stated now they are looking at paying \$15.00 per hour for two on-duty people to staff the ambulance.

Marien brought up two worksheets put together by Bob Strupp, which contained preliminary estimated costs to owning members and contracted municipalities.

There was discussion about how City of Antigo Ambulance has been assisting Birnamwood when needed, who then charges Birnamwood \$150.00 and bills the patient for their costs.

Kautza stated how when this was brought up last month, he wondered if what they were looking to collect from the communities was going to be enough. He stated he is in total support of the municipalities paying in on this.

Marien stated how the preliminary estimates is based off of \$200,000. Lemke stated he is not sure if this is factoring in costs for equipment, supplies, and maintenance. At their meeting, they will discuss this more.

Lemke stated that if this new program does not work, then the municipalities may end up needing to contract with full-time departments, like SAFER, Antigo Fire Department, Wausau Fire Department, etc.

Lemke explained the training required to be on the ambulance, stating they need at least 1 EMR (basic) and 1 EMT. He stated there are Advanced EMT's who are licensed to administer IV's. He stated how these all need to have 3 year refresher trainings. He stated it is also hard to get licensed as the State requires them to take the NR (National Registry) EMT test.

There was discussion on how the fire department does not have as much of a staffing shortage, and it may be because they do not need as much continuing education as EMT's

There was discussion on how municipalities could use ARPA funds to help offset the costs. Lemke agreed this is not the best time to be talking to the municipalities about this, as the municipalities are setting their budgets already.

Lemke stated that the municipalities may want to take a look at what other neighboring municipalities are doing (Easton, Weston, etc.).

## 5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **October 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

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

- **October 15, 2021 – Special Meeting**

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

***Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve both the October 12 and 15, 2021, meeting minutes.***

## 6. Review, Action, and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board went through the expenditures.

Kautza questioned Parker about American Asphalt billings. She explained that apparently we paid a bill that belonged to Plover, in Portage County, and American Asphalt reimbursed us for that.

## 7. Review 2021 Budget Status

Kautza confirmed with Parker that everything looks good.

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

## 8. Clerk's Report

Parker noted she had nothing special to report at this time.

## 9. Road Report

Larson stated he is done hauling granite. He stated he has now used up the last of the cold mix. Larson explained the culvert on Sportsman Road, on Thomas's was replaced, and next year we can look at lowering our culvert. He stated a 2<sup>nd</sup> culvert to replace next year is the one on the end of Pine View Road.

Larson stated the dump truck has been fully serviced and has the winter equipment mounted and ready for use.

Larson stated he is working again on brushing. He recently picked up 2 new barricades. He stated it is a bit too dry to do any grading at this time.

## 10. Old Business

- **Status of LRIP Program – Sportsman Road Project**

Nothing new to update on this, other than Kautza is not sure yet if this project will be eligible for the LRIP program.

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

Nothing new to update on this.

- **Status on Comprehensive Plan Update**

Parker did not have anything new to update on this.

- **Status on Crack Sealing on Town Roads**

Kautza stated next year we will be doing a bunch of crack sealing on our roads.

- **Status on County Zoning Violation/Complaint & Shipping/Storage Container Code Revision Update**

Nothing new to update on this.

## 11. New Business

- **Discussion and Action on Resolution to County on Zoning Ordinance Amendment: James Gardner Rezone Petition for Dean Krubsack Property at 231405 County Road Y, to Allow for Land Division to Create a Residential Lot**

Parker explained this is based on the property Krubsack is splitting off for his daughter (CSM shown to the Board last month), and now Krubsack has to rezone the property in order to split the land.

The Board was in support of this rezone.

- **Discussion of Upcoming Dec. 1, 2021, Provider Board for the Birnamwood Area Emergency Services Meeting, Regarding Planning the Funding Needs from Owning Members and Contracted Municipalities for Paying 2 On-Duty People to Staff the Ambulance 24/7.**

See discussion under **Visitors**. Kautza stated that he will plan to attend this meeting with Marien, and suggested to McRae that he may want to attend to. Marien stated this meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

- **Review and Discussion on Draft Advertisement for 2022-2026 Assessor Services RFP**

Kautza stated that he had a conversation with Todd Anderson, and after some discussion with him, agreed that we would give Anderson first right of refusal.

Parker explained the draft ad, which she will e-mail off to all the assessors in Marathon, Langlade, and Shawano Counties. She pointed out how Anderson allowed her to use his contract template to have interested assessors use in submitting their proposals to keep everything the same.

Kautza confirmed these will be due at our December meeting, where the Board will review and award a contract then.

## **12. Public Hearing – Proposed 2022 Town of Plover Budget**

- **Open Public Hearing**

Kautza opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

- **Presentation by Board**

Kautza asked Parker to present the proposed budget. Parker explained how the first step in drafting the budget is to put together the Town's Municipal Levy Limit Worksheet. She stated after watching a WTA webinar and after contacting the WI Department of Revenue, she was made aware that the Town can increase its levy by entering in its 2022 scheduled principal and interest general obligation debt payments onto the Adjustments to Allowable Levy Limit worksheet page of this document. The Town has \$77,944 in scheduled principal and interest debt obligation payments for 2022, and by adding this amount onto this allowable adjustments worksheet, this brought the allowable levy limit from \$208,822 to \$286,766. She stated while this is technically a tax increase, the WI DOR does not require us to go through a special approval process of the Town electors. She explained how most of the figures on this document are pre-filled by the State. Next year, when completing this form, there will be a credit of \$77,944, reducing the levy; however, then the Town will add on a new adjustment of what the 2023 scheduled general obligation debt payments will be, which will boost the levy back up.

Kautza stated how this extra money will help the Town by allowing it to take on some road projects. He stated how we plan to do a bunch of crack filling next year, and how those costs have gone up significantly.

- **Public Comment Period**

No public comments were made

- **Close Public Hearing**

Kautza closed the public hearing at 6:51 p.m.

- **Review and Discussion of Proposed Budget**

There was no further discussion

- **Action by Town Board**

*Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the proposed 2022 budget.*

## **13. Remarks from Board**

None.

## **14. Future Items**

- **Special Town Meeting of Electors to Approve 2021 Tax Levy – November 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Town Board Adoption of 2022 Budget Meeting – November 9, 2021, Immediately Following Special Town Meeting of Electors**
- **Regular Board Meeting – December 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. (Revised Meeting Date)**
- **Regular Board Meeting – January 11, 2021**

## **15. Adjourn**

*Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m.*

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker  
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