

POUND

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of tax-exempt bonds.

Templen said the law requires local authorities to officially state that they have no opposition to having PFA approve the bond issue. That can be done on the basis of a statement signed by the highest local elected official, which in the Town of Pound would be Town Chair Curt Tisler. It was noted during the public hearing that Marinette County Board Chair John Guarisco had signed off on behalf of the county earlier in the day after conferring with Corporation Counsel Rebecca Lindner and County Administrator John LeFebvre.

The Coleman Ponderosa project had been discussed at the Pound Town Board meeting in April, with owner JJ Pagel on hand to answer questions. According to the minutes, at that meeting Tisler had said all documents had been sent to the attorney for review, and by unanimous vote the board supported an initial resolution regarding the proposed solid waste disposal project and the proposed revenue bond financing for the Coleman Ponderosa LLC and Dairy Farms LLC project.

An initial request had been made to authorize bonding for a proposed total \$14.5 million at two Pagel farm operations, one in Pound and the other in the Town of Lincoln in Kewaunee County. That request was withdrawn after submission of a petition signed by Town of Pound residents, according to background information from Michelle DeWitt, one of the petition circulators. The information further stated that the Town of Pound has supported the project "based on Pagel farms' statement that it would create 18 jobs."

The public hearing was just one issue on the agenda for the Pound Town Board at its June 13 regular monthly meeting, with all board members present. They are Supervisors Jeff Nowak, Ron Soletske, Dave Pellman, and Mike Zeitler and Town Chair Curt Tisler. Other town officials present were Clerk Jessica Olson, Treasurer Janelle Rymer, Assessor Jerry Pillath, and Zoning Administrator Tom Rich. County Board Supervisor Glenn Broderick also attended. Among the crowd on hand were Coleman Ponderosa legal counsel and Dan Rosner, their animal operations manager.

The meeting started with opening of bids for the Belgium Road project, and after brief discussion the board unanimously voted to award the contract to Northeast Asphalt for the low bid price of \$281,780. The only other bidder on the full project was Murphy Concrete & Construction for

\$293,006.07. Dan Risner & Son had submitted a bid of \$138,983.80 for the job excluding the pulverizing and paving, but after calculating components the board agreed that Northeast Asphalt had made the best offer.

Tisler then introduced Templen, who explained she does not represent the town or the farms, but is a bond counsel. She said ability to issue the tax exempt bonds originated with the United States Congress, which wanted to find a way for private owners to borrow money for beneficial projects. Originally, only municipalities could issue the bonds, but that changed, and now municipalities have no responsibility for the money, but must be the conduit through which the funds can be handled in order for borrowers to pay lower interest rates than on the regular bond market because the interest is tax exempt.

Congress created the program because they wanted to encourage investments in projects that would be good for the environment, create construction jobs, and promote economic development for the community, Templen said. She said to be eligible in Wisconsin businesses must fall into one of three categories, which include small issue manufacturing bonds, 501(3)(C) corporations, or be used for an exempt facility, which would include the proposed Coleman Ponderosa project for disposal of manure that would otherwise be solid waste.

Templen said any farm in Marinette County would be eligible, and they had done a \$41 million bond issue for a farm in Gillett.

She explained the manure digester unit scrubs the methane gas and converts it to natural gas that goes to California, which makes it a very eligible project, because congress has said they do not want the methane released into the atmosphere, and they also want to reduce use of carbon based fuels, so this project is a benefit for both goals.

She explained about the first funding application for the \$14.5 million, and said the request was reduced because the Pagel farm had gotten a grant for the portion of the project located in the Town of Lincoln.

She explained about a bank letter of credit backing the bond issue, and said if the borrower fails to make the payments the bank would foreclose, and the town would not even know it.

She repeated that the town has no responsibility, and once they give PFA assurance that they do not object, the town is out of the picture.

"Contrary to some of the communications, the bonds will not be issued by the Town of Pound," she repeated. She said the only responsibility of the town is to hold the public hearing, listen, and

tell that to the PFA.

DeWitt was the main opposition spokesperson at the public hearing. One of the main issues raised was a call for more or better communication from the town board. DeWitt said of the 60 persons who signed the petition opposing the initial bond issue resolution, not one had seen the public notice that was printed in the Peshtigo Times. She and a few other speakers said no one reads the newspaper, and suggested the board should have mailed notices to neighbors, and in regard to this meeting, should have notified signers of the petition about this public hearing.

Tisler explained the owners of Coleman Ponderosa want to expand their farm, add more cows, build the first-ever digester in marinette county, and build an electrical building and a scale house. He said there will be no manure trucked in. This will not be "a community digester" available for use by other farm operations who truck in manure because Pagel farms does not want to take a chance that manure from other operations could contaminate their products.

Another opposition speaker mentioned problems with the Pagel farm operations in Kewaunee County, and citations that had been issued for violations there.

Tisler quoted a Wisconsin livestock facility siting law that prohibits towns from limiting the number of cattle on a farm. He said the DNR and the state have sole responsibility, in order for all farms in the state are treated the same and follow the same rules.

In the course of discussion, Templen said the PFA holds its public hearings in Marathon County, and comments can be resented in person or in writing. She added if Pound were to refuse to sign off, the farm operation could seek non-tax exempt bonding and go forward with the project anyway.

Broderick asked if Marinette county also should have had a public hearing before Guarisco signed off and Templen said no, only the town was required to do that. He was concerned that Guarisco had signed without notifying him.

Main objections from speakers were to expansion of the farm into what some called a "mega farm," and others said was not even as large a herd as another nearby farm already has.

One speaker asked if the objectors would opposed to expansion of any farm, or just this one.

Those who said they were not notified were told again that the Peshtigo Times is the designated official newspaper, town information is posted on the web, and meeting notices are posted on the web, at the recycling center, at Equity and at the Town Hall.

remain as it is, where it is.

Rau said plans are to restore the 1934 entrance as an emergency exit. All the glued laminated beams will again be shown, and in fact will almost be showcased at one end of the commons.

Coble recalled there was a mural of the Incredible Hulk on one wall when he went to Peshtigo High School, and he is really curious to discover what is back there now.

Kukuk asked about space for science classes and was told there will be two middle school science rooms on the second floor and three high school science rooms on the first floor. He noticed that two of the planned first-floor science rooms have no outside windows and therefore no source for natural light. Raiten said they are looking at running solar tubes from overhead skylights to bring daylight into those classrooms. Boettcher said those tubes work so well that they come with dampers so they can dim the amount of light that comes into the room.

Coble and Kukuk had questions about space for wood shop, auto lab and manufacturing equipment, and was told these are provided for. Equipment will include welding booths, CNC equipment and laser cutters, and wood shop will have table saws, band saws, and a C&C Laser saw. The CAD lab will be a little bigger and will have windows, and in fact the whole north side of the building will have more windows.

Kukuk asked if there is provision for more students should enrollment go up. This year there were 500 students using the building, 160 in Middle School and 320 in High School. There were 79 graduates in the class of 2023, but Rau said the numbers fluctuate. The current sophomore class has 103 students, but there are only 80 incoming freshmen. Kukuk asked about open enrollment, and Rau said they only take what they can handle. For example, because of the large sophomore class this year they did not accept any open enrollment students for the sophomore class.

The special ed area

One speaker declared there is public interest now, but only one person other than the town officials had attended the Annual Meeting.

To some questions in regard to studies and impact on wells, Tisler said the town board does not have the resources to do those sorts of studies, and decisions in regard to permits are up to the DNR.

To objections about the amount of water the cows will require and impact on local groundwater, there was mention that 1.5 million gallons of water a day were being used when the Canning Factory in Coleman was operating and wells did not go dry.

The discussion continued for two hours, until Tisler cut it off and after a brief break the board continued on to the rest of its business for the evening.

(A report on the remainder of the meeting will be published in next week's Peshtigo Times.)

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salaries and staff should be trying to help the public in any way possible. Haley Malke was unable to attend due to her work schedule, so she gave authority to Mayor Malke to speak on her behalf.

In response to the letter, Committee member Tom Gryzwa stated, "We have a procedure in place for water and sewer bills and if that procedure was followed there is nothing we can do about it. If it was not followed, this becomes a Personnel issue. To me it is not a water and sewer issue". Committee member Dan Seymour commented, "Right, if all the correct steps were taken I don't think we can reimburse it and if they weren't followed then we could have that discussion". Committee Member Fred Mientz added, "Even if, it is still not our committee's responsibility of making someone follow it in the office. We are not going to be a referee for this issue". Gryzwa said, "Right we are not enforcers".

Mayor Malke then replied, "I disagree with this, I believe the procedure was not followed. We have the list at the counter and at no time was Haley's name on the list that she hadn't paid the bill. She hadn't received a bill and when Madden showed up at her door step is the first time Haley was aware of this and it is very upsetting. This is not just Haley, as you read in her letter, there was another gentleman that had the same issue. Another person was waived the \$40 why aren't people being treated equally here?" Gryzwa replied, "Before we go further it is out of our hands it should be referred to Personnel, my feeling, our feeling". Mayor replied, "That is your Water and Sewer guidelines, but if that is what you wish that is

includes six spaces for a life skills lab for those students, and several board members suggested all kids should be required to take classes that teach life skills like how to cook and how to do the laundry. Rau said the only required life skills high school class is on Personal Finance, and Middle School students are required to take a life skills class that includes exploratory cooking, laundry and personal finance.

The current fitness center will be converted into new restrooms and storage areas across from the concession stand. The traditional 2-station gym will include a portable stage to be put in place for performances. There is to be space for cardio activities, dance and Yoga. Locker space will be expanded, and there will be locker space for male and female officials.

"Our goal with the referendum was to stretch the dollars as far as possible," Rosteing told the board. She passed around samples of various flooring and wall covering materials, and explained the advantages of each. Most of the tile, she said, is of a type that will absorb sounds and last for years. Using carpet tiles in vestibule areas rather than regular carpeting eliminates need for entry rugs and makes it possible to replace just one tile rather than an entire carpet if one tile gets damaged.

The weight room floor is to be light orange, and of a compound rubber that will not be damaged when weights are dropped on it.

The entire main entrance and the Green Street entry will be brick. Paint will be removed from areas that are currently painted. Glass blocks that were painted over will be restored or removed.

Windows will be restored to their original size. Coble said lots of windows were partially or totally blocked in the 1983 remodeling.

Boettcher said they are looking for the original colors of bricks and plan to restore it as much as possible. The roof was re-done a few years ago and does not need to be replaced.

where I will send it". Gryzwa questioned Attorney David Spangenberg.

"Mainly because it sounds like it is a Personnel issue that the procedure was not followed am I correct

Attorney Spangenberg"? Spangenberg agreed that Gryzwa was correct in his statement. It was then greed to send to the Personnel Committee for further discussion".

The CMR Maintenance resolution WS-2023-01 was then approved that it has been resolved that the City of Peshtigo informed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that action was taken by the Water and Sewer Committee reviewed the 2022 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report which was attached to the Resolution.

Project Manager Taryn Nall of Ruekert Mielke spoke on the agenda item in regards to the Water and Sewer from City Hall EMS Expansion Project to get input from the Water and Sewer committee because of storms sewers not under their jurisdiction. The water and sewer design is in process and we are right at the point of submitting the plans and specs to water and sewer for their approval in Madison because it is a change of sanitary sewer location and we are putting in water across and behind city hall. Nall said, "I just wanted to mention we explored a lot of different options of running water through a 20 foot right of way which is not very much to run sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water. As I told you in the past meeting, we are looking at directionally drilling the new water main about two feet from the north property line. Then we can meet all of the separation requirements that the DNR wants. We will then not reduce the service to the customers along there or not the rest of the city, customers to the standpoint of the water main and distribution network, but without doing water modeling in the city I don't want to impact fire flows or the ability to serve any customers around the city hall area, so that is our proposal and the lay-out is very similar to what we submitted in the past. The plan will be submitted to the DNR and after it comes back for approval the city can proceed and go out for bids for that project.

Interim Waste Water Director Rich Sparks then advised the committee of blower repairs that are needed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Sparks stated "I received quotes to put bearings on both ends and also seals. All three blowers can use some TLC. I recommend to get one done and get it back into service. One needs service and the other two are just for bearings and seals as well as the other one could use the bearings and seals. Each will be done separately so they can still operate with the other two blowers still in place. We can't have three blowers out of service at one time. Gryzwa stated, I think we should proceed forward with this and work with Matt. Seymour added, "I think we should start bidding this out and we know it will be approximately \$30,000 and do them back to back as stated". Gryzwa mentioned to Rich to look at ordinances, restrictions and statutes and we will go forward. Sparks said, "We could do two this year and the third one next year". Gryzwa stated to Sparks and Decur, "This falls under the maintenance budget so we can go ahead and move forward with quotes and repairs".

Next on the agenda was a brief discussion of replacement of a Water Department Vehicle. Gryzwa noted, the vehicle has seen its better days, and the department would like to get one that they can put the valves and equipment on the vehicle so when they go out on calls they have everything on the truck. Hopefully by July we will have a quote and we can move forward.

Nall then gave a report on the River Crossing stating, "Yesterday we had an onsite meeting at the Street Garage with Decur, Mayor Malke, Contractor Shane Davis and the driller. They have been in the process of putting up sill fence and erosion control devices. On Friday there was a pipe connection break on

DNR Report Highlights Volunteer Contributions

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the recent release of the 2022 State Natural Area Volunteer Annual Report showcasing the hundreds of volunteers who contributed to the care of Wisconsin's State Natural Areas (SNA).

Last year, volunteers spent more than 9,589 hours maintaining and improving State Natural Areas through a variety of projects across 54 sites. Volunteers worked individually as well as at organized volunteer events around Wisconsin. More information about the accomplishments can be found in the full report.

"Our volunteers continue to gain valuable experience taking care of State Natural Areas. As they learn by doing, they are skillfully removing invasives, helping with prescribed burns, and collecting seeds," said Jared Urban, DNR State Natural Area Volunteer Program Coordinator.

the bag they were using for dewatering out of the trench and was reported to me at 4:55 of a plume that was there and during the day the contractor was already dealing with it and correcting the problem. We had stopped the dewatering out of the holes until we get an acceptable erosion control plan through our office and through DNR. North of the USGS monitoring station there is a ditch line that takes care of drainage from the street garage that was a little too short and they have revised that and put in waddles to prevent erosion of the sediment. Plans and specs have been given to Matt with the addendums in it and we will involve him with a construction meeting every two weeks at the sight to discuss any issues and discuss what the future work will be so we can plan ahead and not have to react like we had to with the sediment issue. Sarah Anderson of the DNR was in town to view the site of what is happening and they are planning to start drilling by the street garage from that side over and will be assembling pipe on the east side by the street garage and be pulling the pipe back through when they are ready.

Nall added, "Other than that, we are waiting on the Railroad permit. We had two comments back on the permit and there is no request for additional money from the City for us and now are waiting for a response for approval of the permit from Noel Paulson of Stevens Point. A contractor mentioned they may want one of the dewatering wells within the railroad right of way and we will have to see how that works out. They also arranged with Biehl to take some of the trench water away so that they don't want to discharge the water through their erosion control system. Nall will be calling their office to verify how that process will work. We are waiting for the Railroad. At this point there are approximately 60 de-watering wells being put in there and they have a permit issued by the DNR allowing them to have the dewatering wells. The water that comes out of the dewatering wells is clear and drinkable, but the stuff from the trenches is not as clear. We are doing everything we can to protect the environment. It is good to have the DNR involved instead of being a reactionary, and we are being as pro-active as we can".

Madden then gave his Water Utility report stating, "We are continuing to do our water main flushing on Thursday nights working the East side now and are about half way done. We should be done sometime in July. We are also still putting in replacement water meters in on Thursday nights.

Sparks then gave his Sewer Utility/Waste Water Treatment Plant report advising they are working on RAG ISSUES in the lift station and cleaning sand from basins and final clarifier".

The next meeting of the Water and Sewer Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 11 at 8:30 a.m.

State natural areas are designated to conserve the best of Wisconsin prairies, forests, wetlands and other habitats. These special places provide support for 90% of rare plant species and 75% of rare wildlife species.

Nearly all properties are open to the public to enjoy while bird watching, hiking, hunting and fishing. Visitors should note that State Natural Areas are largely undeveloped and do not have restrooms, trails and other facilities like state parks do.

Although the DNR holds more than half of these sites in trust for Wisconsinites, the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy and more than 50 other partners own and manage sites under a system established in 1951 and spurred by Aldo Leopold and other Wisconsin conservation giants.

Workdays are one of the main ways volunteers help the DNR care for State Natural Areas. Workdays

Area Students Graduate From Marquette University

Last spring, the following students graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Area students include from Lena, Sarah Sprout, Master of Arts, Communication; from Marinette, Mitchell Vanvooren, Bachelor of Science, Real Estate; from Menominee, MI, Elizabeth Horn, Master's, Physician Assistant Studies, Caleb

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take place at different state properties across the state and throughout the year. They are a great way to get some exercise, have fun and make a positive impact on our pristine public lands.

The public is encouraged to sign up to receive email updates on upcoming volunteer workdays in their area or areas of interest on the DNR's State Natural Area Volunteer webpage.

No experience is necessary, and training and equipment are provided on-site.

Marinette Legion To Meet June 21

The regular monthly meeting of the Teddy Budlong-Robert Smith Legion Post 39 of Marinette will be held on Wednesday, June 21 at 6 p.m. at the KC building on Main Street in Marinette. All members are encouraged to attend and all veterans are welcome.

Kleiman, Juris Doctor, Law, Caleb Kleiman, Master's, Business Administration, Braeden Parrett, Bachelor of Science, Operations and Supply Chain Management. Also from Peshtigo, Joseph Brostowitz, Doctorate, Dentistry; and from Sobieski, aylor Williquette, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences.

RESCUE

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jobs on Middle Inlet roads that the town may want to do if there is enough money available. The said they will have crews working in the area at the end of June and again in late August, and locking in prices now could be beneficial for the town.

Wenzel asked if Scott would give the town a discount if they used ground recycled asphalt for the paving, and the Scott representative said they would, but he has none available, and the virgin material they will use holds up for a longer time.

As to a job Scott had done in Middle Inlet last year that did not hold up well, the Scott representative said they will re-do the road at no cost to the town as previously agreed, whether or not they get the contracts for this year's work.

He explained that the chip seal work was placed in late September, when the weather was already too cold, and there was too much moisture in the road bed, so the stones did not stick. "The weather up here in fall is very different from weather in southern parts of the state, for example Dane County," he explained. This time he wants to do the work early this summer so it has time to set before cold weather sets in.

The board voted to accept the Scott price for chip sealing. Wenzel said they will probably have any additional jobs done in August. He said he and the Scott representative had spent about six hours traveling the Middle Inlet roads a few weeks ago to identify where work is needed.

Wenzel said four firms had asked about the contract to replace the culvert on Wayside Road, but Richlen Excavating had submitted the only bid, which was for \$133,507. Marinette County will pay half. He said the DNR agreed is making them divert water around the culvert area, and there will be single-lane travel while the

work is in progress. Wenzel added they have been pounding rock into the culvert area for years to try to stop the erosion, but it just is not working.

There had been an inquiry from someone who wanted to purchase the 20-acre property that holds the former town dump, but the board agreed unanimously that they do not want to sell it.

A certified survey map to separate a 5-acre parcel with an existing house from a property on Wood Duck Lane was approved.

After some discussion with the daughter who was at the meeting on his behalf, board members suggested that Larry Heard should apply to the Plan Commission for a variance that will resolve an issue with location of a building on their property that had been constructed by the previous owner. The realtor had not informed them of the issue when they bought the property. The building is not located on a neighboring property as had originally been thought, but is too close to the property line to comply with the town ordinance.

Wenzel said Mary Lou Jacomet had told him she will have someone cleaning up the fire debris on her Dropp Lane property before the end of August.

The board was informed that two houses in Sweetheart City that have not been used for 15 years have been condemned.

Supervisor Chuck Stanek reported the cemetery "looked pretty decent for Memorial Day compared to last year," and said fertilizer has been applied and moving has been done.

There was discussion on repairs needed to the chimney at the town hall, and a decision that the automated smoke/fire alarm system Wenzel had suggested for the town hall would be prohibitively costly, particularly given the short amount of time it would take for fire to destroy the old wood-construction town hall and the hardwood floor in the main hall.

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