

March 13, 2023
Town of Tomah
Monthly Board Meeting

Those Present: Vaughn Kuehl, Brian Hubert, Doug Bauman, Don Kaus, Jeanette Kaus, Betty Stoltenberg, Ernie Thackeray, Dennis Durec, Dick Baumgarten, Terry Christian, John Ollendick, Al Bartels, Randie Johns, Howard Hanson, Teresa Hubert, Todd Zaremba, Shannon Sparks, Todd Sparks, Valarie Holmes, Brenda Kroener, Mike Hanson, and Michelle Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Hanson.

The clerk's report was read. Randie Johns made a motion to accept the clerk's report. Allan Bartels seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read. Allan Bartels made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Randie Johns seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment

- Vaughn Kuehl asked Todd Sparks (County Supervisor) about Rolling Hills not paying for itself...Todd said change orders are still happening, the project is not complete. Doug Bauman asked how far they are over budget, but Todd does not know the numbers. There will be income coming in to help pay for the project, the tax payers have not seen the cost of the project on their taxes yet.
- Todd Sparks mentioned he is on the committee that is working on the counties strategic plan on where the county wants to be in the future.

Terry Christian Review on Insurance Renewal

- Last year, an increase was made to the coverage of the loader and the grater
- No other big changes will be made to the current policy.
- The premium will increase from \$12,106 last year to \$13,588 starting on April 9, 2023
- Howard Hanson made a motion to renew the Town of Tomah insurance policy with Tricor (aka Glatfelter) for \$13,588. Randie Johns seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Tomah Area School District Referendum

- Superintendent Dr. Mike Hanson, and Business Manager Michelle Clark were present to explain the upcoming referendum. The new operational referendum will be for \$2.5 million for each of the next 4 years.
- TASD is projected to have an increase revenue limit from the state, which should make taxes go down...the addition of the referendum would keep taxes at the level they currently are at.
- Vaughn Kuehl asked how many millions of dollars would be saved if the district switched to private bussing. Mike Hanson and Michelle Clark both explained there would be no difference in cost, the school district has done a study to explore the differences in cost.
- Randie Johns asked if the school board had any long term plans for the school district. The representatives could not answer because it all depends on the outcome of the referendum.

- Brenda Kroener asked about the monies that the state gives for each student...it was explained that currently the district get roughly \$10,000/student, the governor wants to increase that to \$10,300/student, but if the referendum fails, the increase will not happen.
- Todd Sparks asked whether there will be an increase in taxes whether the referendum passes or not...question couldn't be answered...how has school population changed...it has gone down to 3082 students...what about pay raises...an increase in 2% for wages and an increase of 8% for health insurance
- Val Holmes asked about making the buses more efficient, she only sees 12 or so students on the bus daily in the morning...bus routes are determined by number of students, how often they ride, many kids don't ride the same bus every day
- Mike Hanson let the Town know that there is more information on the school website, and more information will be coming in the Howl in the mail.

Appointed Clerk Term & Pay

- The clerk will begin her appointed term on the 3rd Tuesday of April.
- It was suggested that she should have a 3 year term, with an evaluation of salary every year.
- Her current pay rate is \$16,000/year, the average in the state is \$17,000/year
- Randie Johns made a motion to appoint Breanne Zaremba to a 3 year term, as the clerk for the Town of Tomah, starting April 18, 2023, with a salary of \$17,000/year, and a salary evaluation every March. Al Bartels seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

BIL-Federal Infrastructure Bill

- Bridge P41-0180 on Interior Road is eligible for 100% funding for reconstruction & engineering with this Federal Infrastructure Bill.
- In order to apply, the Town must vote to allow Howard Hanson to apply for the program on behalf of the Town.
- Randie Johns made a motion to allow Howard Hanson to apply for the BIL-Federal Infrastructure Bill for Bridge P41-0180 on Interior Rd. Al Bartels seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The Spring Election is April 4, 2023.

Monthly bills were reviewed and approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Breanne Zaremba