

September 12, 2022

Town of Tomah Town Board Meeting

Those present: Vaughn Kuehl, Kathy Flatoff, Dick Baumgarten, Betty Stoltenberg, Ernie Thackeray, Don Kaus, Jeff Lyden, Todd Sparks, Shannon Sparks, Brian Hubert, Al Bartels, Randie Johns, Howard Hanson, Teresa Hubert, Breanne Zaremba, Wes Revels, and Mike Hanson.

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Hanson.
- The clerk's report was read. Randie Johns made a motion to accept the clerk's report. Al Bartels seconded the motion. Motion Carried
- The treasurer's report was read. Al Bartels made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Randie Johns seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Public Comment Period
 - Jeff Lyden asked why ATV/UTV cannot be on Gondola Rd...Howard Hanson replied that at the time ATV/UTV Routes were reviewed, there were no requests to open that road, and no county roads were open in order to get to that road. It could be opened at a later time. Wes Revels requested that Gondola Rd be put on a list of roads to be approved for ATV/UTV travel.
 - Breanne Zaremba (asking for Todd Zaremba) will the county be paying for any damage done by dump truck travel on Gondola Rd due to the reconstruction of County HWY ET. Howard Hanson said it is a DOT project, they took video of the condition of Gondola when the project began and will review the video when the project is complete to assess any damages.
 - Ernie Thackeray just wanted to note that the owner of the dog that would chase him called to apologize, thank you to Howard for putting in a call.
 - Todd Sparks mentioned that some limestone and a tree had fallen and was laying on Highland Ave past Stelter's property and needs to be cleared.
- Tomah Area School District Update by Mike Hanson
 - Superintendent Mike Hanson was present to give an update to the Town. Michelle Clark has replaced Greg Gaarder as business manager. A financial analysis is currently being done to prepare for an operational referendum in April 2023. Mr. Hanson presented a handout on the district's core values and discussed the handout.
 - Don Kaus asked whether curriculum included critical race theory...No, Tomah schools follow state curriculum standards. Don also asked about plans for terrorist response at schools...staff are all trained in how to respond to terrorists, all schools are locked down, no instructors are allowed to carry guns, resource officers present at the schools are allowed to carry them.
 - Betty Stoltenberg asked what the referendum in April 2023 will be for...the referendum will replace the previous operational referendum that will expire this year. Currently, the value is \$1.5 million per year, the school board will be looking at the next referendum next Monday.
 - Don Kaus asked how the schools used ARPA funds...the funds were spent on staff training, buses, substitute teachers, fiber optic service to Warrens Elementary School, and for summer school.

- Report on Tomah Area Ambulance Meeting
 - The meeting contained bare bones information on their operating income/expenses. They are recommending a \$2.50/per capita increase to the Common Council. Total per capita for 2023 would be \$17.50, an increase of \$3,720 from last year. They say the increase is to cover the cost of wages.
- Equalized Evaluation Report
 - The Equalized Evaluation is the value the State of Wisconsin puts on every municipality. The Town of Tomah had a \$28.1 million increase in value. This puts the assessment for the Town at 74%, so we will have to look at another reevaluation in the future.
- The Board of Adjustment will be meeting September 29 at 9am at the Cathy Gnewikow property to decide if they will allow for the building of a new butcher shop after a fire destroyed the building. The proposed building will be too close to the road, and the board will need to vote yes or no to allow them to build that close.
- Scott Whitsett from Jewell called Howard Hanson to let the Town know that the HoChunk Nation has approved possible funding for the reconstruction of the bridge on Highland Avenue. Scott will send in the application for the Town. The project wouldn't happen until 2024-2025. HoChunk would provide 50% of funding,, and then we would apply for the other 50% from a State Trip D application.
- Monthly bills were reviewed and approved.
- Motion was made by Al Bartels to adjourn the meeting. Randie Johns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Breanne Zaremba, Clerk