

DRAFT

TOWN OF MARENGO

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Chairman Stephen Walston called the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Marengo to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken present were Chairman Stephen Walston, Supervisor James Schultz, Supervisor Ken Reas, Treasurer Diane Eid, Clerk Kimberly Padjen (via Zoom). Also, present were Town residents attending via Zoom.

Motion by **Schultz** and second by **Walston** to approve the agenda with the change of moving Stuart Matthias, Ashland Fire Chief under the Chairman's report. Vote taken and motion carried.

Motion by **Schultz** and second by **Walston** to approve the *regular minutes* as presented for Monday, February 17, 2025. Vote taken and motion carried.

Motion by **Walston** and second by **Schultz** to approve Treasurer's report for main account, ambulance account, and Northern State Bank accounts as presented. Vote taken and motion carried.

Motion by **Walston** and second by **Schultz** to approve vouchers and pay bills as presented. Vote taken and motion carried.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Schultz discussed several meetings that will happen in the upcoming weeks. Comprehensive Planning will be held on March 24th, Ashland/Bayfield Unit meeting, Climate Change meeting will be held on 3/19.

Supervisor Reas stated that the town crew has been busy unplugging culverts, sanding, and snowplowing. The Town has two employees, one full-time and 1-part-time. Jared's was moved to part-time as the work is slow right now.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Walston discussed the texts that came out a couple of weeks ago regarding the winter snowstorm that hit the area. Town residents who signed up for Bright Arrow should have received these tests and the systems seems to be working the way we need it too.

Ashland Fire Chief, Stuart Matthias

Mr. Matthias was present at the meeting and discussed his department's Annual Report for the Town of Marengo. Chief Matthias stated that AFD covers 400 square miles of service area which includes the City of Ashland, Towns of Sanborn, Gingles, Eileen, Pilsen, White River, and Marengo. The AFD currently has 25.5 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff and 6 cross-trained RN's.

During the Town of Marengo's first year with AFD there were 12 calls. The calls consisted of 8 EMS calls, 1 MVC vs pedestrian, 1 EMS standby for hazardous conditions/fire and 2 calls were cancelled prior to arriving on scene.

Supervisor Schultz also discussed the population of certain areas and the ages which may determine how many calls come into that area.

OLD BUSINESS

Grants Update

Stevens stated that she repurposed the PDFRG for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). The preapplication was submitted to WEM on January 16, 2025, and the Town was invited to submit a full application for the "State's Allocation" of BRIC funds by February 28, 2025.

Stevens said she attended the Community Development Block Planning Grant webinar on January 23rd where she learned that the Town does not meet the low-moderate income eligibility requirements. This grant requires that eligible applicants must have a low-moderate income population of at least 51%. For the Town of Marengo, our percentage is approximately 41%.

Stevens also attended a Zoom meeting on March 6th to learn about remedies included in the Hydrologic Research Report to improve the Box Culvert site on Old County Road. This could be implemented under another funding source to make the site more resilient to extreme rain or snowmelt runoff events. The Town along with 4 other county sites participated and received this planning information at no cost as part of the USDA Task B Climate Plan for Ashland County.

Stevens stated that the Lake Superior Climate Champions team has finalized the Town's new Emergency Preparedness and Action Plan (EPAP), with just a few final details to be discussed at our next meeting. She stated that the next step is to seek review and approval of emergency management officials at the county and State levels.

Also, from the Town's Emergency Preparedness Survey, the Town received the contact information for the list of participants which was incorporated into the Bright Arrow messaging system. We now have over 180 contacts in the system. Recently two messages were sent out regarding the snow storm the area had.

Cemetery

Stevens proposed a final presentation scheduled after Crystal's graduation. The Board chose Friday, May 30th, or a back-up date of June 9th for the final presentation.

Comprehensive Plan

Stevens stated that the Housing background and forecasting was discussed at the January 15th meeting and Transportation background and forecasting was discussed at the February 26th meeting. The March meeting will go back through updated materials to finalize goals, objectives and action plans for the Board and Town to consider. Specifically for housing, Supervisor Schultz will present information from the Town Association on Town Building permits and possible next steps and future recommendations to the board. Stevens said the review of Utilities and Community Facilities will also start at the March meeting and everyone is encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom.

Direct Congressional Appropriations.

Stevens discussed the Direct Congressional Appropriations (AKA Earmarks) process which is similar to grant applications and two possible project proposals for the Town.

She stated that one project would be an upgrade to the Town Hall to stabilize the building Foundation and add a back-up solar power system with battery storage for continuous power especially during emergencies as an emergency shelter for the community. She stated that the community responses from the Emergency preparedness survey last fall supported an investment in solar backup power and batter storage.

Stevens explained that the second project was the construction of a Road Salt/Sand and Equipment Shed - 24x40x16 pole barn for road sand/salt storage plus side awnings for supply and equipment storage.

Stevens also mentioned that with some work over the next year, the Town might use this earmark process to submit a project for the 2027 Budget year's earmark process. She stated that because the Town is not eligible for the CDBG grant we could use the earmark process to submit a request for funds for a CDBG-like planning grant for the planning and design of a New Town Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Martinsen, Health Insurance

Dave was not able to make the meeting and will be rescheduled for a later date.

Bid for gravel trucking

Supervisor Schultz received a quote from M. Jolma regarding spreading and/or stock piling gravel. Jolma would charge \$21.50/ton, and the Town would need approximately 2500 tons. Bids will need to be solicited for this.

District Meeting sign-up

Clerk Padjen will sign up Supervisors, Reas and Schultz to attend the Spring New and Continuing Workshops in Lakewoods on Saturday, April 5th. – April 5th Jim Schultz and Ken Reas – Lakewoods, WI.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town resident questioned the Town Hall being used as an emergency center. Discussion led to the possibility of the Marengo School also being used.

Future agenda items: None

Next meeting will be the Annual meeting which will be held on Tuesday, April 15th at 5:00 p.m. The regular meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by *Schultz* and second by *Reas* to adjourn. Vote taken and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.