

**DRAFT**

# *TOWN OF MARENGO*

## MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

Chairman Stephen Walston called the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Marengo to order at 6:11 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 several attending via Zoom.

Motion by **Reas** second by **Schultz** to approve the agenda as presented. Vote taken and motion carried.

Chairman Walston read minutes from the regular meeting of **Tuesday, December 19, 2023**, Motion by **Walston** and second by **Reas** to approve regular minutes with changes. Changes to cemetery as follows: purchase of 4 acres that is the cemetery not 4 lots. Also changed Blakeman to Granger. Vote taken and motion carried.

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

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

### **Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Schultz discussed inspection of the gravel pit. Also, discussed what the Town can and cannot do about properties that need to be cleaned up. Discussion on Board of Review and where to attend. Culvert training meeting on Wednesday, 1/17 (see flyer) Supervisor Reas discussed maintenance on the heater in the garage. He stated that the employees were working on the Forest service roads.

**Chairman's Report** - Chairman Walston discussed the gravel pit. He stated that the bridge to the pit has been rated for 100,000 pounds, it has a railing on it, and the pit has all the necessary permits. They are willing to sell the Town 3,300 yards for \$20,000 and will deliver for free.

## **OLD BUSINES**

### **Grants**

Jennifer discussed her research of the US DOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to determine if the Town could apply and meet the

criteria for 100% funding. Jennifer informed the Board that after attending an online seminar on January 4<sup>th</sup> regarding project locations as they relate to areas designated as “disadvantaged” or “persistent Poverty” the Town does not fall within either of these designated areas. If a grant were submitted the Town would have to plan for a 20% match which could range from ~\$200,000-\$800,000. This is due to the updated census data used for this grant as compared to the Reconnecting Communities Grant submitted last fall. The board confirmed that we should not pursue this grant at this time.

Jennifer is also researching the current recycling grant to see if there is an opportunity to increase the grant award amount and will be looking into other recycling opportunities. She will give an update at the February meeting.

Jennifer also informed the Board that she has written a letter of support for an upcoming collaborative grant proposal to NOAA by Northwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and Wisconsin Wetlands. She will also be attending a “Project Management” workshop on behalf of the Town on January 30-31 and a local Bridge and Culvert inventory webinar on January 17<sup>th</sup> to learn what is the intent and if the data may be useful in the future for possible grants. She will report back to the Board on both meetings. Also, still waiting for news on last fall’s LRIP and RCN grant submissions.

### **Cemetery**

Jennifer discussed a website called “[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)” she is using to search for additional data on every person interred in the Maple Grove Cemetery. This website will help ensure the Town has the most accurate birth, death, and interment date records possible. It will also capture images of records such as military registrations, immigration naturalizations, marriage, birth, and death records and then they can be attached to the appropriate records. Jennifer stated that once this is all completed, she will compare our database records to the Maple Grove Find-A-Grave website records to make sure they are in-sync.

## **Town Hall cleaning/organizing and Town Record Retention schedule**

Jennifer stated that an ordinance will eventually be needed for the adoption of the Municipal record schedule, once approved by the WDOA. The ordinance which is already drafted and ready for submission can be discussed at a future meeting. Jennifer also informed the Board that she had downloaded the full General Municipal Schedule to a spreadsheet and had reviewed and color-coded sections to identify the clear categories of record types and their required retention periods.

Jennifer also said there are two benches from the back room available for use at Midway Park if needed.

### **Public Comments**

Motion by Walston second by Reas to move up public comments before gravel status. Vote taken and motion carried.

Ambulance – Kurt Blakeman discussed what to do with Marengo ambulance service now that we are getting our services from the Ashland Fire Department. Kurt suggested maintaining an EMR level service which would cost the Town very little and not a lot of equipment would be needed. EMR is a non-transporting service and there is no need for an on-call roster. He stated that the Town could still assist the Ashland Fire Department and be first responders to the scene, especially in areas that are hard to reach like the Southern part of the Township. Kurt also stated that lots of the supplies and equipment came from grants, and they are currently discussing what can be done with these items because there are stipulations when purchased with grant monies. He is also willing to direct the EMR service at this point. He said the UTV will stay with the Marengo Fire Department. Also, the State has recently allowed EMR services to apply for grant funding.

Equipment - Kurt would like to sell the ambulances and items that were not purchased with grant money. May need to put a reserve on the equipment and supplies that go along with each ambulance.

Motion by **Schultz** second by **Reas** to lower the services of the Town of Marengo's Ambulance Service from an EMT service to an EMR service. Vote taken and motion carried.

Oath of Office read - Lance Ritola sworn in. Walston signed.

Motion by **Walston** second by **Reas** to approve Lance Ritola as Marengo Fire Chief. Vote taken and motion carried.

Monthly Unit meeting – nobody from Ashland County attends these meetings. Next meeting 1/22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pilsen Town Hall.

## Gravel

Chairman Walston will talk to Daniel Granger regarding further costs of gravel at his pit.

Junk Yard Ordinance –discuss at next meeting.

Board of Review changes – Clerk will send list of places and dates to Board.

Discussion held on Ensinger Road and which Township, White River or Marengo, should be grading and snowplowing a small portion of the road approximately 1/8 of a mile.

Vista Road update – need to get the bids and money started before it is too late. Chairman will talk to Matt

## NEW BUSINESS

Town resident discussing people trespassing on his land. Would like his road removed from ATV and snowmobile routes. Discussion was held on roads and speeding with ATV's, snowmobiles, and vehicles.

Discussion of a solar light for the streetlight in front of the town shop – hard to change the light.

Future Agenda Items – Junkyard ordinance, gravel

Next meeting will be a regular meeting held on ***Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.***

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.