**Town of Greenfield – Monroe County**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

August 12, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Greenfield Town Hall, Tunnel City

Board Members Present (5) : Chairman David Pierce, First Supervisor Don Hall, Second Supervisor Scott Berg, Treasurer Cindy Berg, and Deputy Clerk, Deb Stott. Ten township members were in attendance.

Call to Order/Pledge: Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order. The pledge was recited and Covia Plant Manager, Mark Massicotte, led us in the pledge because he just became a US citizen. He received a round of applause and can vote tomorrow.

Clerk’s Report:

Deb Stott read the July, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Supervisor Hall to accept the minutes as read. Supervisor Berg seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s/Financial Report

Treasurer Cindy Berg read the July 2024 financial report. It included bills paid on the clerk’s reconciliation report and income from Wisconsin GTA aid, shared revenue, computer aid, and 2% fire dues. Also included was personal property tax collection monies, garbage and recycling, and burial fee income. The report also showed that we had taken out a loan, with proceeds of $175,000 less a $250 closing cost and the check we received from Monroe County for the Covia rescinded tax of $177,730.50. Two transfers were made into checking, one for $100,000 to help cover the Covia settlement and the other for $82,000 to cover a chip and seal. Treasurer Berg stated that it is no longer the treasurer’s responsibility to collect personal property taxes for taxes levied in 2023 because the law has changed this year. All personal property taxes will go on some type of real estate instead and this mainly affects Spring Bank and Flora Del. There are currently three outstanding unpaid fire calls. A motion was made by Supervisor Berg to accept the treasurer’s report. Supervisor Hall seconded. Motion carried.

Oakdale Fire Assn. Report

Don Hall attended last Thursday’s bi-montly meeting where there was a lot of discussion on getting a new pumper truck. The truck they are interested in would cost $997,000 and the same truck cost $450,000 just seven years ago. The department likes to rotate in new trucks every 20 years but the one they have currently, which is 19 years old, passed recent inspection with no issues. Don said if they order one, it takes 40-45 months to get. It was suggested that they get a price quote from the South Dakota unit, not just Pierce. Don said the department has $500,000 saved up. He also stated that Fort McCoy is automatically called in the event of a fire plus La Grange has their main truck so a new truck is not that necessary. LaGrange has three trucks at their station alone. Oakdale Fire had 13 calls in June and 18 calls in July, an average of 150 calls a year and both Oakdale and La Grange get called to every accident/fire. Don asked those attending the meeting for their input so he could report back to the Oakdale Fire Assn. Resident, Ed Tomko,was not in favor of getting a new truck now. More discussion on this is forthcoming at Oakdale Fire Assn. meetings. Don also mentioned that they need more people to field the team. There are currently around 42 between the two stations.

Amy Paddler Event

The Paddlers who live on the other side of 21 across from Tunnel City have a wedding scheduled at their place October 12 and would like permission to park cars in Tunnel City rather than along Hwy. 21. They expect as many as 50 cars. Chairman Pierce suggested they shuttle people back and forth from the town hall area for parking purposes. Initially he said they would charge them $50 but when it was mentioned they could use the

Amy Paddler Event (cont.) Page 2

hall for the day for bathroom access and pay $75, they were seriously considering doing that instead. We will lock in date of October 12 to rent the hall to them.

Roads Report

Chairman Pierce discussed the Elder portion off of Egret and how there will be some archeological work involved after talking to Jewell representatives, Scott Whisett and Nick Pehler. They are currently working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and trying to abide by their rules and stipulations.

Chairman Pierce mentioned that the temporary easements were filed with the Register of Deeds office, requiring signatures from adjacent landowners to use their land during the renovation. This involved Dorothy Shutter, Doris Hall and Don DeVoe. He said he received permission from Dorothy Shutter to remove a tree that is just off the right-of-way. Cody can do the removal.

The Tomah School District’s transportation director reached out to get input from all towns and villages about any roads that are under construction which could affect school bus traffic. Dave said he would call and Deb Stott will follow up with an email mentioning that Egret Avenue is currently under renovation. We are not sure if school buses use this road currently.

State Retirement for Cody Johnson

The Board stated that they have agreed to set Cody up with the state’s retirement program- WRS (Wisconsin Retirement System) and drop the plan we currently have in place at the end of this year. Supervisor Berg made a motion to enroll Cody Johnson in the state plan which begins January 1, 2025. Don Hall seconded. Motion carried.

Patrolman’s Report

Cody said he has been doing some ditching, catch-up work, replacing signs, and putting black dirt in soft spots in ditches. He will be mowing again shortly. He said the Egret project is just getting started with relocating phone lines and doing some retrenching. There was discussion about a ditch issue by

Rich Meyer where the rain accumulates and goes over Elder Road. Cody was going to see what he had on hand in his inventory of culverts at the Shop to fix the situation.

Egret Avenue Hot Mix

The specs indicate that there will be 2 ½” of Hot Mix used for surfacing. There was discussion that it should be 3” so the Board will discuss with Scott Von Haden at Gerke since it will affect the amount of gravel used on the shoulder. We have both Ho Chunk and DOT state funding on this project.

Covia Report

Mark Massicotte reported that they are still working to get 60 hourly employees but did just hire two new ones. Business has been steady and feels the last six months of the year will be better than the first six months. He said rail cars are sometimes an issue when we don’t have enough returns.

Covia Settlement Resolution

All the PC-201’s (settlement chargeback forms) were submitted through the DOR the end of July and a check was issued to Covia for the full amount owed in back taxes. Dave has reached out to the TASD and WTC to get them to act and get their portion paid to us as soon as possible so we can end our loan. Mark Massicotte said his plan is to come to an agreement with the DOR for year 2024 so we can move forward and possibly disregard the contested 2023 taxes. He wants a fair and equitable agreement and work toward a resolution

Covia Settlement Resolution (cont.) Page 3

before taxes are done at the end of this year so things look good going forward. He said his goal was to make it as easy for the township as possible in resolving this.

Chairman’s Report

We discussed the Little Library issue where there is some uncertainty as to where this will be located. Deb Stott will email them and let them know that it cannot be on M & Flag Ave. and M and Flaten is where we agreed to originally.

Other Discussion

**WTA Unit Meeting**, Thurs., August 15, at Oasis Supper Club and put on by Town of LaFayette

**ARIP Funding approved** for Edgewater Road and Fireworks Ave. It is one of three projects awarded in Monroe County with a 90/10 funding ratio. Project must be completed by June 2026 and we submitted for $1.6 million. We are eligible for $1.54 million. Dave Pierce reported that the governor came on July 24 and took a road tour of the project along with DOT officials, board members and legislators. Supervisor Hall received an email since stating that the Governor would like to come back to see the project when completed.

**New Lawn Mower** We recently purchased a new John Deere for the shop.

**Internet Service** A new service is coming and approved for certain counties and towns depending on location.

**ET Signage under one lane railroad overpass** – Fred expressed concern over the one-lane and how it presents a safety hazard traveling through. Chairman Pierce said he had talked to the County and they do not want to sign it.

**Fire Cabinets Purchased** –two fire cabinets were purchased for the township off Surplus Auction and we paid $600. They are usually $1,200 for one.

**Termination of VLK Lawn Service** A certified letter was sent ending our contract with VLK Lawn Service, the guy who mows the cemetery. We could not reach him by phone. He has been causing serious damage to flowers, has not been doing a good job of mowing and trimming, and we’ve been getting complaints.

**Election Day** –Tomorrow, August 13, is the Primary for local and state elections along with two referendum questions. Polls open from 7am to 8 p.m.

Adjourment

A motion was made by Supervisor Berg to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Hall seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

**Agenda Meeting** – September 5, 8:30 am. Greenfield Town Hall

**Monthly Town Meeting** – September 9, 7 p.m. Greenfield Town Hall

**Hall Rentals** - October 12 for Paddler Family

– October 26 for Pierce (Baby Shower)