

**Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Regular Meeting of the Town Board
180771 County Road Z, Birnamwood, WI 54414**

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

Chairman Kautza called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Town Supervisor, Pete Marien, and Town Supervisor, Scott McRae

Parker noted Marien and McRae were also present.

Also, in attendance: Treasurer, Connie Sippl, and Clerk, Valerie Parker

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z

Carlton Boettcher, 183216 County Road Z

Aaron Pranke, 209 W. Railroad St, Bowler

Joey Moore, McCoy Construction & Forestry, 601 S. Pine Ridge Ave, Merrill

3. Visitors

Moore gave a presentation on the 3-Year Preventative Maintenance Agreement program McCoy is offering for our new John Deere Grader, where he went over the pricing and what covered services would occur following 500, 1,000, and 1,500 hours of running time on our grader.

Kautza explained that he does not anticipate we would put on that many hours within the time period to warrant signing up for this program, and how he feels we can take care of most of the service ourselves.

Moore stated this offer is good for 6 months if the Town decides to accept it.

4. Public Comments/Concerns (Limit 5 Minutes Per Person)

None.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **October 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
- **October 8, 2024, Special Town Board Meeting**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve both sets of meeting minutes from October 8, 2024.

6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board reviewed and signed the monthly expenditures.

Kautza pointed out to McRae the old Town Laptop computer, which needs to be looked at to see if it is worth fixing or if we should just purchase a new one to keep at the hall, as it would be helpful to have one there for Pranke to use if he needs to go online to research anything or purchase anything online for the Town.

7. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the monthly budget.

8. Clerk's Report

Parker explained that between the Election and 2024/2025 budget and tax levy work, she has been very busy.

Parker stated we saw a very good turnout during the Presidential Election and how everything ran smoothly.

Parker then gave an overview of what occurred, following the filing of the Town's 2024 Tax Levy Limit Worksheet, where a WI Dept of Revenue Auditor requested copies of our loan documents to prove the amount of the debt service adjustment (+\$81,400). How this led to our decision to refinance our grader lease through a loan with CoVantage in order to keep the debt service adjustment and avoid having to re-hear our 2025 budget hearing and

to avoid having to re-hold the special electors meeting for the 2024 tax levy. She stated formal action on the grader loan will take place later on the agenda.

9. Road Report

Larson stated that Hanson Sanitation came and pumped our septic tank, so Parker should be receiving that invoice.

Larson stated that Fahrner is currently crack sealing on Pine View Road. Craig Schwocho, of McCoy, was here today, and how McCoy has sent their people down south for the winter to hold trainings, so they will not be able to train Pranke on the grader this winter. Larson stated that Pranke can watch YouTube videos, and also start practicing with the machine by simply driving it and getting comfortable with it.

Larson stated he is catching up on mowing and will get caught up on grading.

Larson discussed the driveway access for the Hegewald property on Pine View Road (surrounds 182894 Pine View Rd), and how he and Pranke will assist in cleaning up the approach area.

Larson stated our fire extinguishers all need to be checked over this month, so they will take those in to Pomas! Equipment.

Larson pointed out that we will need to get Pranke a Town credit card and get him on the list for Menards, along with the Menards tax exempt bar code. Parker will check on that tomorrow.

Larson brought up the fire number issue on the John Meidl property, just north of 177852 County Road Z. He stated how the son is requesting garbage and recycling carts for their property (which is used for hunting), but how they do not have a fire number there. Larson stated that Meidl's do not want a fire number there, but how one should be there if we are providing carts. Parker stated she can contact the County to get the address for the property. Larson suggested we see if they can give us the address, and we order the address sign ourselves through a different company, other than Lang Enterprises. Parker brought up that if the Meid's want garbage/recycling carts that they must contact her to receive them.

Kautza brought up that Don Dahms contacted him to find out if we will be having them work in our town on right-of-way tree cutting. Larson brought up his hand surgery coming up on December 5th, and how we do not have time to taking on this work this fall. It was agreed we will contact Dahms in the spring.

10. New Business

- **Acknowledgement of the Hiring of Aaron Pranke as Street Maintenance Operator, as of 11/01/2024**

Pranke was present at the meeting. Parker brought up that she did contact our insurance company to have him added. Parker confirmed that he has keys for the hall, and that she will work with him on getting a Town credit card and getting added to the Menards list.

Kautza stated we do not need to take any formal action on this.

- **Discussion and Action on Changes to John Deere Grader Lease – CVCU Lease Buyout**

This was discussed under the Clerks report. Parker stated we need formal action to approve the refinance of our John Deere Grader, with CoVantage Credit Union being the new lender.

Parker informed Sippl that she will be included as a signer to this loan, and how she can sign digitally or in-person, but that she needs to sign the same day as Parker.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien: to approve the refinance of our John Deere Grader, with CoVantage Credit Union being the new lender.

- **Discussion and Action on Resolution #11-24 on Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Casey & Rana Chrudimsky to Allow for Christmas Tree Farming.**

It was explained this is the sold Tim Micke property, and how the new owner wants to turn part of the property into a Christmas tree farm, and in order to do so, they need to rezone it.

Motion by Marien, second by McRae: To recommend to the Marathon County Environmental Committee (ERC) approval of the rezone petition.

11. Old Business

- **Continued Discussion and Possible Action on 2024/2025 Roadway Projects**

Kautza stated he is still working on getting numbers on blacktopping costs for 2025. He stated there is a section to be dug out yet on Hatchery Road. We will look at doing bids in the spring.

- **Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning (Per WI Act 264 – Process Can't Start Until 2027)**

Nothing new.

12. Remarks from Board

Marien brought up there will be a price increase for the Birnamwood Area Emergency Services (BAES). He stated they calculated the cost to each member municipality by 1/3 population, 1/3 # of calls, 1/3 value. He stated the Town's cost (he believes for 2025) will be \$28,417 (currently we are at \$26,018.00).

Marien stated we will not know about the new ambulance for a while yet. He then discussed wages of the Fire Board.

Parker handed out to the Board Declaration of Candidacy papers, stating that these will need to be completed and turned in at the December meeting, and how we will be holding the Town Caucus in January. She stated there is currently only one election scheduled for 2025, which is the Spring Election (unless a Spring Primary is needed).

13. Future Items

- Regular Town Board Meeting – December 10, 2024, 6:00 p.m. (Possible Budget Hearing/Electors Meeting)
- Town Caucus Meeting – January 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- Regular Town Board Meeting – January 14 ,2025, Immediately Following Town Caucus Meeting

14. Adjourn

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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