

**Town of Plover, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Regular Meeting of the Town Board and
Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget Meeting
180771 County Road Z, Birnamwood, WI 54414**

Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

Chairman Kautza called the meeting to order at 6:02 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

3. Visitors

None.

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

None.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

• September 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting.

6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board reviewed and signed the monthly expenditures.

7. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget

Parker noted that she submitted the 2025 Recycling Grant last month and that we will be receiving our next Shared Revenue Payment in November.

Kautza stated that the work Sportsman Drive that was recently done by Kautza Excavating will run about \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Marien questioned the amount of funds that the Town will be carrying over into 2025. Parker stated in December, she will transfer all but \$25,000 from the Town's General Fund Checking account into the Town's Money Market account, which could amount to a balance in the Money Market account of just over \$300,000. Marien questioned if we carry a high amount if it all needs to be earmarked or spent. Kautza stated he thinks we can carry over \$500,00, but also that we will have some costly road projects next year.

Parker brought up the potential usage of the remaining ARPA funds (\$35,468.96), which she believes needs to be spent by 2026. She clarified that it can be used on pretty much anything (the Town still has to track that spending for potential audit purposes). Marien questioned if we can just earmark the rest of the ARPA funds for a potential new ambulance (and not spend it before 2026). Parker stated she believes it needs to be actually spent.

Kautza stated we will have an expense this year with Fahrner Asphalt of about \$16,500 to crackfill Pine View Road (from County Road D to County Road Y), and then we are still looking at an overall projected cost of \$25,000 between Kautza Excavating and James Petersons Sons for the Sportsman Drive project that took place.

There was some discussion that we may do some more digging on Sportsman Drive and Hatchery Road next year. Kautza stated next year we will then look at blacktopping the patches and we can consider possibly paving the rest of Sportsman Drive, along with some sealcoating work.

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

8. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she submitted the annual recycling grant, has been working on preparing all of the budget and meeting documents, and keeping up on election stuff.

Parker brought up the WTA Law Conference Meeting and how she signed Kautza up to participate virtually on October 25th (from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). Kautza stated since this is virtual, he figured by just him registering, that Marien and McRae could have access through his provided link, if they wanted to watch also. Marien commented that they could all watch it together at the Hall over the tv here.

Parker brought up a Wisconsin Electronics Recycler, named COM2, who has approached all municipalities regarding offering free public electronics recycling services. She stated with them being a State-registered recycler, when they collect electronics (which includes things like tv's, monitors, etc.), they dismantle them back at their facility, and all the separated elements are shipped to Wisconsin-only manufacturers. With it all staying within the State of Wisconsin, the State gives grants to the manufacturers who then subsidize the costs COM2 incurs by taking in the electronics, which is why they can offer services to municipalities free of charge. She stated they offer two different programs: 1) permanent/long-term drop-off sites at the municipality and/or 2) public one-day electronic drop-off events. Kautza stated that while it is a good idea, he is not in favor of either, as it would draw people in to drop off all their junk. Parker commented that Weston may consider holding events with them next year, and if so, we could see how that goes and revisit this then.

9. Road Report

Larson explained the road project that took place on Sportsman Drive, and how there are some more areas that we may have to dig out, as there still are some logs further along there.

Larson explained his conversation with Susan Mortenson, and how her sons are dumping and piling up her grass clippings along the right-of-way on Hatchery Road, by County Road Z. Kautza stated if this continues, he will go and talk to her.

10. New Business

• **Discussion and Action on Resolution #10-24 Jeffrey Gunderson Conditional Use Permit Request for the Permanent Use of Storage/Shipping Containers as Accessory Structures at 179621 State Highway 52.**

Parker commented that she had mailed a copy of the notice to all the adjacent neighbors. The only neighbor she received any written comment from was Michael Wirth. She shared his comments with the Board and will forward to the County.

The Board discussed that this property owner has not been cooperating with the County on their violations, but also how the County has not been real assertive on enforcing their code there.

Parker pointed out how Frailings' case was similar, but how he was at least being proactive and working with the Town and County to obtain the required permits, which is why the Town supported his case.

The Board agreed that we will take a neutral stance on this particular issue and let the County decide.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien: To take a "No Opinion" Stance on Resolution #10-24 for Jeffrey Gunderson Conditional Use Permit Request with Marathon County.

[Clerk's Note – Also see comment at end of this meeting.]

11. Old Business

• **Continued Discussion on 2025 Street Maintenance Operator Position**

Kautza stated he talked on the phone with a potential candidate, and how this individual was potentially going to attend tonight, so that the Board could meet with him following the meetings. He discussed some of the other candidates who applied through Indeed.

Kautza stated that once we have someone in mind, we will then have to take formal action during a Board Meeting to hire that individual.

• **Continued Discussion and Possible Action on 2024 Roadway Projects**

Kautza discussed that next year we will potentially do some digging on Hatchery, Sportsman, and Crescent, followed by some blacktopping. He commented we may need to look at working on Old Lake Road as well. He commented with blacktopping, we can see if the County would do some of that work with their own equipment.

- **Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning (Per WI Act 264 – Process Can't Start Until 2027)**
Nothing.

12. Public Hearing – Proposed 2025 Town of Plover Budget

- **Open Public Hearing**
Kautza opened the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.
- **Presentation by Board**
Parker explained the process in drafting the budget, which starts with the drafting of the Tax Levy Limit Worksheet, followed by adding all the estimated revenues to be received by the State, then using those numbers to create the allowable expenditure amounts.

She explained how the amounts throughout the expenditures can be moved around, but the overall amount needs to remain the same, for the purposes of this public hearing. If the overall amount is changed (such as if we were to choose to lower the Tax Levy Limit amount), then we need to re-hear the budget next month.
- **Public Comment Period**
There was no public comment.
- **Close Public Hearing**
Kautza closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.
- **Review and Discussion of Proposed Budget**
No additional discussion.
- **Action by Town Board**
Motion by Marien, second by McRae to approve the proposed 2025 budget in the amount of \$502,856.89 (with 2024 tax levy to be \$300,279).

13. Remarks from Board

None.

14. Future Items

- Town Special Meeting of Electors on 2024 Tax Levy – October 8, 2024, Following 6pm Meeting
- Town Board Meeting for Adoption of 2025 Budget – October 8, 2024, Following Electors Meeting
- Presidential General Election – November 5, 2024, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Regular Town Board Meeting – November 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

Clerk's Note: During the Special Meeting of Electors, Steve Thompson stopped in to give his public comment on the Gunderson Conditional Use Permit –

Steve Thompson, who runs the Hogarty Church, 179705 State Highway 52, briefly walked in to the meeting to make his comment on the Gunderson Conditional Use Permit request. He stated he has no issues with the shipping containers on that property. He commented that a previous employee with the County had told Gunderson the containers were okay. Kautza commented on how things have changed with the County Zoning and how because Gunderson is under a certain amount of acres, in order for him to keep his shipping containers, he needs to obtain the Conditional Use Request. Thompson agreed that the containers allow Gunderson a place to store his outdoor belongings, in order to keep his property clean.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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