

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

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

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 both Marien and McRae were present.

Also, in attendance: Clerk, Valerie Parker, Treasurer, Connie Sippl, Rick Larson, Tim Firkus, and Dominique Swangstu.

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

None.

4. Visitors

• Dominique Swangstu, Marathon County Zoning Administrator

Swangstu explained how 2 years ago the County reached out to all the County-zoned municipalities regarding proposed zoning regulations for the metal storage containers. He stated that few responded, but some responses were to either limit or prohibit the containers in residential zoning districts under 5 acres, more for aesthetic purposes. This went before the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) who ultimately prohibited the containers on residential properties zoned U-R, L-D-R, and R-R, which are all residential properties under 5 acres. Owners wanting the containers in all other zoning districts can do so through CUP (Conditional Use Permit). He stated this is becoming a popular issue amongst other municipalities, as he is meeting with another municipality tomorrow over the very same issue.

Kautza questioned if a Town can override the County Zoning and approve of these containers in those districts. Swangstu stated when you are under County Zoning, you are required to follow the County Zoning Regulations. He stated that a revision can be made in the Zoning Code to allow the containers in those residential districts by CUP. This can be done now by municipalities submitting a petition for the change or by waiting until the next Zoning Code revision occurs, which could be some time.

Kautza questioned how many towns are under County Zoning. Swangstu stated there are about 18 or 19 out of 42 towns that are under County Zoning.

Tim Firkus, of 180812 County Road N, was present and stated that by limiting the permitted districts to those properties over 5 acres is basically discriminating those who own less land and can't afford to own more acreage; plus right now with the building supply costs and shortages, it is hard to justify spending the money to build a shed. He explained how he has 2 of the containers, and how he uses the containers to store things like lawn mowers, lawn/garden equipment, snowmobiles, holiday stuff, etc. The containers helps him to keep things stored inside a structure and not just laying out in his yard. He feels it looks better and these metal containers are safer than a wooden structure, pointing out how wooden structures can burn down and create large fires. Firkus requested that the County offer some leniency until this is resolved between the Town and the County.

Kautza questioned Swangstu what the status is of McRae's position as Deputy Town Zoning Administrator. Swangstu stated that the discussion of his position is still on hold. Kautza stated how McRae is our only liaison between the taxpayers and the County. Kautza stated how the Town was promised all this assistance (enforcement of zoning, taking care of complaints, getting junk yards cleaned up, etc.), but nothing seems to ever happen. He feels the County is picking on issues (like the containers) that are not that pressing. Kautza stated he is getting to a point of considering the Town reverting back to having its own zoning.

Marien confirmed with Firkus that he has not received any complaints from his neighbors on his containers. Firkus stated his neighbors are all in support of the containers, and how they feel the containers are a good idea, and are considering the same.

McRae brought up to Swangstu how Robert Hoffman in his department has not been very responsive to his messages regarding possible zoning violations (properties where there junk vehicles, buildings going up with no zoning permits). Swangstu stated he will follow up with Hoffman on those. Kautza stated on the old Ken Markgraf property (236486 Hatchery Road, now owned by Ira Huber as of 12/06/2020), he believes the new owner is making a living quarters out of that shop. McRae stated that he was under the impression the new owner was going to use the property for his business, and was in the process of reaching out, as there was concern about the amount of trash that would start to get accumulated there, and was going to suggest some kind of privacy fencing. McRae stated he did not realize the new owner was in the process of making a living quarters.

Parker brought up about the house on State Highway 52 (180655 State Highway 52, owned by Corey & Linda Curtis), where the owner there has a lot of junk piled up. McRae stated he has contacted Hoffman over that one too. Parker stated the owner there had the opportunity to bring all that junk out to the edge of the road to be picked up during spring clean-up, but did not. How the junk is set too far off from the roadway that Waste Management is not going to walk that far into the property, and try to interpret what the owner considered junk or not. When she was contacted by the owner, the owner tried to tell her that the Sheriff's Department does not allow him to put it out by the roadside for clean-up, due to being on a State highway. She stated how Waste Management went as far as telling the owner, he could put the junk on a trailer and bring it in for free, but how the owner claimed his work schedule would not allow, or that he does not have a way to haul it in. Swangstu stated he would look into this more.

There were other zoning violations discussed, and Swangstu stated that he will discuss with his department, and also how he will forward a copy of that petition to McRae so that the Town can submit that. He stated if multiple municipalities can submit the petition for change together, it will have more power when going before the ERC.

Kautza asked Parker to add on the next meeting agenda "Update on Zoning Issues".

Sippl brought up how she was contacted by someone looking to buy a property for sale on South Pole Road, who wanted to know if it would be allowable to get a kennel license for housing 15 sled dogs. She stated that the County kennel license only allows for 12 dogs. Kautza stated he received the same call, from both the interested buyer and the realtor, and how he told them to contact the County, and how they will need to find a larger parcel of land. He was under the impression the property was on County Road Y. There was further discussion, and it appeared the property being looked at is a small parcel, about 1 acre, with a trailer house over on South Pole Road. Kautza informed Sippl that she can just refer them to the County, and how he is pretty sure it will not be allowed.

Sippl brought up the Town Hall rentals, as far as if she can post a time limit of when people have to be out of the hall, as she returns to the hall afterwards to make sure the hall is properly locked up and cleaned up. Kautza stated a 10pm end time is fine to add to rentals.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Board acknowledged previously reviewing the minutes shared with them in April.

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the May 11, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes.

6. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Parker commented that she cut a check for the 2021 annual grader payment, realizing after-the-fact that the bill will not come out until early July. She figured it has to be paid regardless, and now once that invoice comes in she can just mail the check right away.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the expenditures.

7. 2021 Budget Review and Update

The Board reviewed the budget.

8. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she received an e-mail today from the State regarding the application to be submitted by Friday, June 18th, in order to receive the aid payment from the American Rescue Plan Act. She printed off a copy of the two agreement forms and Kautza signed them. Parker will get these submitted. It was discussed and confirmed how these will be two lump sum payments of about \$38,000 (1 a year apart from each other). The Town then has to keep record of how this money is spent. Parker suggested that once we receive the money, we should open a

separate savings account to put that money in, which will help to keep track of what was spent and what we still have. We are still learning what this money can be spent on.

9. Road Report

Larson stated the Grader is currently in the shop.

Larson stated he has been working on ditching along Sportsman Road. He stated there were some downed trees cleaned up, with the assistance of the Sheriff's Department (Kautza stated the Sheriff's Department now carries chainsaws).

Larson brought up the dead end at the far west end of Pine View Road, if it is possible to find out where the right-of-way actually ends. He said it is tight in there for turning around, and how there have been concerns raised by the owners and by the hauler about turning around in there. He feels there is enough right-of-way to make a turn area. Will need to look at the right-of-way map to see where the boundary actually is.

Larson stated he set up an account with Michel's. One thing that was brought up was getting a CB for his truck, as most drivers coming in there would then call the attendant through the radio to announce who they are and what they are picking up. Since the Town does not have a CB in the trucks, Larson has to find a phone number to call to get in. He asked if this is something he could look in to. Kautza feels that is a good thing for Larson to check out, and then he can move the radio from truck to truck.

Larson questioned if he should start mowing ditches next week. Kautza stated it would be a good idea, since it will be dry, so Larson would not be able to grade anyway.

Larson questioned about pest control at the Town Hall, stating how Marathon Pest Control has not been responsive, or when asking them to contact us first, they would just go ahead and come spray without asking. Larson suggested he could look into picking up spray, where he could spray the hall himself. Kautza stated Larson could look into the spray and a sprayer to use.

Larson stated he updated the Town's contact information for American Asphalt and how he is now able to get cold mix. He will be picking up about 3 – 4 yards of cold mix. He stated that he will scrape out some of the pot holes and fill with cold mix to see how that holds up.

Larson stated he finished painting the fuel shed, and how FS was in recently and topped off the off-road diesel tanks.

Kautza stated he has not heard back from Farnher on base costs for crack sealing, and now will try reaching out to Scott's. It was stated that Sportsman Road, Hatchery Road, and Pine View Road, are in big need of crack sealing.

10. Old Business

- **LRIP Program Updates – Sportsman Road Project**

Kautza stated there was nothing new to report yet, other than he and Larson will do a little exploratory digging to get an idea of what is going on there.

- **Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act – Possible use of Funds**

Discussed under Clerk's Report.

11. New Business

- **Discussion of Short-Term/Long-Term use of Storage Containers**

Discussed under Visitors.

- **Discussion of County Zoning**

Discussed under Visitors.

- **Red Granite Road Work**

Larson stated there are still two soft spots that need to be dug out and taken care of totaling 325' (115' and 210'). He stated last year we did 1,000', which costed about \$30,000. He is figuring this would probably amount to about \$10,000. It was discussed to get bids out to contractors to get these spots fixed this year. Parker will put together a bid ad to go in the Northerner and mailed out to local contractors (like Meverden, Hanson, Kautza, Krueger, etc.), with a bid due date of July 13th. There was discussion on when the project should be completed by. Marien and McRae thought it would be good to have a September 1st due date, so as to not conflict with

school buses. Kautza stated with as late as we are in the year, and since there really are not any school buses going down that road, he feels an October 1st deadline should be good.

Bid ad to include: Red Granite Road, 325-foot length, 24-foot wide, 2.5-foot deep excavation, replaced with 18" of sand lift, and 12-inches of screened red granite, with a completion date of October 1, 2021. Bids due by July 13, 2021, Town Board Meeting, interested contractors to contact Kautza for more information, or to meet on site to review project area. Contract is responsible for the removal and hauling out dug-out material.

12. Remarks from Board

Marien brought up the Sandberg building and asked if on the Zoning Permit if it matters the cost of the building that is listed, as far as if it affects the Town's assessments. McRae stated that it is not that important, and that the permits are shared with our assessor, who follows up.

13. Future Items

- **Regular Board Meeting – July 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Regular Board Meeting – August 10, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Regular Board Meeting – September 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

14. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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