

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

Tuesday, March 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. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Parker noted Marien and McRae were present.

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

4. Visitors

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z
Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road

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

None.

6. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **February 13, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024, meeting.

7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

Parker explained that she moved \$35,000 from the ARPA funds into the general checking account to pay for the Town's portion of the new ambulance. She stated that she also moved \$20.60 from the Neighborhood Watch funds into the general checking account to pay for the purchase of coffee and supplies for the bi-monthly coffee gatherings.

8. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget

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

9. Clerk's Report

Parker commented that she received the election ballots yesterday and mailed out the 9 current absentee ballot requests. She discussed how with the weight of the envelopes (that we purchase from the County) it puts the overall mailing just over an ounce, where we have to pay the extra .24 cents in postage for each. She stated how some Post Offices are not requiring the extra postage and some are. The County checked with the State on this, and how the State advised it is up to the individual Post Offices to determine the amount to charge. She also pointed out there is a State-wide referendum on the ballot.

Parker stated she has some annual reports that need to be completed along with getting ready for our Annual Meeting, set to occur next month.

10. Road Report

Larson explained he put the weight limit signs up 2 weeks ago, and removed them all yesterday. He stated he was able to grade some roads, and is getting caught up on right-of-way ditch brushing.

11. New Business

- **WisDOT 6-20 Foot Culvert Inventory/Inspection Program**

Marien stated that during the WTA training he was at, he learned that most municipalities are contracting through Delmore Consulting, and how Delmore will only charge the Town \$100.00 per 6 – 20-foot culvert inventoried, and

then in return, the Town will get reimbursed \$100.00 for each culvert. He feels we should consider going this route.

Parker pointed out we sent in the signed form to the County last month stating we would inventory our own, since there are only a few. Marien stated we can still change our minds on that.

Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to sign a contract with Delmore Consulting to take care of our WisDOT 6 – 20-foot Culvert Inventory/Inspection Program. Parker will send the signed contract to Delmore.

- **Discussion on 2024 Board of Review**

Marien stated that we still need to hold a Board of Review meeting this spring, but then simply adjourn the Board of Review until a later date. If the official date for the Board of Review ends up being later than the adjourned-to date, then we open that meeting and adjourn it again until a later date. He stated this is something we only need to post on the bulletin boards, not the local paper.

Parker commented she spoke with the Treasurer at the Village of Weston, who also explained the same information.

Parker pointed out how McRae is signed up for the virtual BOR training, scheduled for next week. She stated she signed herself up to participate in that too.

- **Discussion on Community Sharps Drop-Off**

Parker brought up that she was recently at a recycling conference, and met with a representative of ARXG (American RX Group), who sells sharps collection services and containers. She pointed out that at one of the last Town Board Meetings, Kautza made a comment about installing a sharps drop-off box at the hall, which is what peaked her interest in talking to this sales rep. She explained the large steel drop-box comes at a single cost of \$2,000, and then you initially buy 3 pre-paid mailer boxes (\$200 each). One mailer box goes into the drop-box until it is filled (which it could take a year to fill), then once it is filled up, you simply attach the safety lid to the mailer box and mail it in. Then you place one of the 2 left over pre-paid mailer boxes into the drop-box, etc.

She explained they also have their “technology” drop box, which has a computer in it and can alert you when it is starting to get full. This would be something that would get placed in a park, or somewhere that is not monitored regularly.

She explained these drop-boxes are supposed to be bear proof and unbreakable. The opening, however, is large enough to allow for a small sharps box to be deposited in it, so there would not be anything really preventing someone from placing trash in there.

Marien stated he would feel better if we contacted our insurance company to see if we would be opening ourselves up to liability, if residents decide to pick up needles found in the right-of-way to drop off in this container. Parker stated the goal would be that people would hopefully use this drop box to dispose of their used needles, versus tossing in the ditches.

Parker explained how the Sheriff’s Department will not come around and pick up any needles found, and how she was advised by the Sheriff’s Department that people finding these just need to be careful and find a jug to place them in. Parker stated how the issue is that people are too afraid to pick these up, but at the same time don’t want to leave them lay there, in the event a child or a pet walking through, not paying attention may step on those.

After some discussion it was agreed we would start a conversation with our County Board Member, Mike Ritter, the County Highway Commissioner, Sheriff’s Department, Health Department, and our Insurance Agent, to see if we can come up with some kind of solution.

Marien pointed out we could possibly use ARPA funds to pay for this. Kautza stated there may be some County funding that could go into this as well, by our creating a central drop-off site for people in our part of the County.

Kautza advised Parker to leave this topic on the agenda and to start the conversation.

- **Start Discussion on 2024 Roadway Projects**

Kautza stated that we would like to fast-track (while the swamp area is still dry) a project on Hatchery Road, where the paved section ends and the seal coating starts (about a 728-foot stretch). He stated that he would like

us to arrange for a contractor's pre-bid meeting in the next few weeks to go over the necessary work and to then have bids come in.

He stated we will let it be up to the contractor's to determine what needs to be included in their bids, and that we will accept the bid that is the most advantageous. He stated attendance at the pre-bid meeting will be required.

Parker will draft something and share it with the Board and Larson for their review, and then will get something out to the area contractors.

Larson suggested digging a test hole to determine if there is any corduroy in there. Kautza feels the area is just very wet. Larson suggested we not necessarily place a completion date on this, instead place a required start date.

Kautza stated he would eventually like to budget blacktopping the rest of that roadway all the way out to Highway 52. For now, this repaired area will be left gravel. Similarly, with the section of Sportsman Drive that was repaired last year.

Larson stated he will contact Digger's Hotline to get this area marked.

Kautza stated we can start a discussion on crackfilling projects at our next meeting.

12. Old Business

• Status of American Rescue Plan Act Use of Funds

Parker stated she is trying to get the final report submitted on this (reporting that we are using the funds for "Revenue Loss"); however, she thinks she is somehow locked out of the account, and has a message in to SLRF to get her assistance in getting back in.

• Status of Filed Petition to Marathon County to Allow for Storage Pods on Residential Property

Marien stated the County met last week, and how nothing was really accomplished. Parker stated how there actually were several other municipalities in the County that supported this. She stated they had a lot of discussion at this meeting and ultimately, it the action got postponed until their next meeting.

Marien pointed out how one of the reasons they wanted to hold off was there were a few more municipalities that were holding meetings that particular night, and the County Board wanted to see what discussion came out of those meetings.

Parker stated the County CPZ Department put together some recommended language, which she felt was a fair compromise. Some of that language consisted of requiring the container be painted a similar color to match the dwellings, that they will not be used for human habitation, and that they must be placed in a side or rear lot area, not a front yard.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2nd.

• Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning

Nothing new at this time. He stated how we have a few years until our agreement ends.

13. Remarks from Board

Marien brought up that he received a call from Marty Bever (179944 County Road N) who was asking when our garbage/recycling collection dates switched from Fridays to Mondays. Marien stated Bever told him how it was recently that his collection changed. Marien explained that he told Bever this change started a year ago, and how there has been plenty of notification out there. Parker thinks she may have talked to him, as his name sounded very familiar.

Marien stated we should add on the calendar that the Board of Review meeting will open at the May Town Board meeting.

14. Future Items

- Spring & Presidential Preference Election – April 2, 2024
- Town Annual Meeting – April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- April Regular Town Board Meeting – Immediately following the Town Annual Meeting

15. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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