

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

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 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. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. 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, and Treasurer, Connie Sippl

Also present, to possibly speak under Public Comments, were:

Tim Micke, 236841 Eau Claire River Road

Steve Steinke, N8546 US Highway 45, Birnamwood (Town of Birnamwood)

4. Visitors

Steinke stated he wanted to attend here tonight to observe our meeting, as he is running for Town of Birnamwood Clerk.

Steinke asked how we track dog licensing, and it was explained how people are supposed to license their dogs, but how we really don't enforce the issue. He asked how we handle lost dogs. Kautza stated it ultimately falls on the Town, but how we do have a few citizens in our Town that will collect the dogs and take them in.

Steinke asked if we ever figured out if we can increase taxes to cover the costs of ambulance service. There was discussion on how we have not received a clear answer from the State. However, it appears that those who are owners in the department cannot raise taxes. Those who are part of an association can raise taxes, provided everyone else in the association does the same.

Steinke asked about the pros and cons of an appointed Clerk, versus an elected Clerk. It was discussed about how existing clerks are retiring, due to the added amount of work, and how Towns are having a hard time finding people to fill those positions. By making it appointed, a Town can advertise the position in other municipalities to fill the position, and they could fill multiple positions. There was discussion about the combined Clerk/Treasurer positions, where those require the Town to be audited.

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

None.

6. Minutes from Previous Meeting

• February 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Parker noted that she inadvertently did not update the date on the minutes, and will correct that and repost.

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023, meeting.

7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board went through the expenditures.

8. Review and Action on 2023 Monthly Budget

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

9. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she is gearing up for the Spring Election. She stated that since Diane Kautza cannot act as Chief Election Inspector at this election, that she will fill that role for the day. Parker stated she may need to ask Larson to help deliver post-election materials to the two school districts, which Kautza stated is fine.

Parker stated she has some quarter-end employment tax reports to file and will start working on the annual CT report.

10. Road Report

Kautza stated that Larson has been busy with grading and snow plowing.

Kautza stated that he talked with the Snowmobile Club about moving and straightening out the snowmobile crossing on Hatchery Road (which will make a safer crossing).

Kautza stated he recently had the Sheriff's Department out on Pine View Road, as there appeared to be snowmobilers driving recklessly and rutting up the road. The Sheriff's Deputy talked to the Vlietstra and Boggs' families, and are hoping this will take care of the issue for now. McRae stated these may be the same people riding up and down South Pole.

It was brought up that the County is putting the road weight limits on tomorrow (15th), but how with as busy as Larson is, our roads may not get posted until Monday.

11. Old Business

- **Reparations for Road Damage on Eau Claire River Road, East of County Road Y**

Kautza is stated he talked to the assessor, and it sounds like the assessor is going to check out the property and put an assessment on it. Once this is done, we will have a firm contact.

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

Nothing new.

- **Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning**

Nothing new. It was stated how we have not heard anything lately from the County.

- **Discussion on Creation and Adoption by Resolution of a Utility Accommodations Policy**

Kautza stated if we tried to re-create this document, it may require an attorney review. Kautza stated he did recently receive an inquiry from a utility company. It was stated we could just take the County's template policy and add our name to it, and adopt that. Parker will work on this, and prepare a resolution for the May Town Board Meeting.

12. New Business

- **Birnamwood Area Emergency Services – Request for Town Portion of New Ambulance (Estimated \$35,000).**

Marien shared a document from Pomasl Fire Equipment, which contained an estimated price for the ambulance. He stated how the cost went up a bit, due to the cost of the cot, which was more than originally anticipated. He stated that there is a chance that Ford could increase the cost once the chassis is built; otherwise, for now they anticipate the cost to be similar to originally discussed.

It was stated that it may be a couple years for the ambulance to be ready, and that none of the municipalities are owing any money until that time comes. Marien stated we could pay our portion out of ARPA.

13. Remarks from Board

[Clerk's note – Kautza will be gone for the April meeting]

14. Future Items

- **Spring Election – April 4, 2023, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Open Book – April 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Annual Town Meeting – April 18, 2023 (6:00 p.m.)**
- **Regular Board Meeting – April 18, 2023, Immediately following the Annual Town Meeting.**
- **Board of Review – April 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

15. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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