

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

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

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**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, and Rick Larson.

**4. Visitors**

None.

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

None.

**6. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

• **April 16, 2024, Special Town Board Meeting**

• **April 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**

Marien commented that he pointed out to Parker earlier that the date on the April minutes needed to be fixed.

***Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, meetings, with corrections.***

**7. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures**

The Board reviewed and signed the monthly expenditures.

**8. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget**

Parker explained that Gary Thomas dropped off his invoice, for the Hatchery Road Project, just before tonight's meeting. The way the this breaks down:

\*Total Bid = \$34,500.00

\*Town will pay James Peterson Sons (JPS) directly for their material = \$24,495.12.

\*Town will pay Gary Thomas (Thomas Excavation) the remaining Bid balance = \$10,004.88.

[Gary Thomas paid John Prahl directly for his work (provided receipt of payment) = \$5,000.00]

Parker asked the Board if they wanted her to pay this project with ARPA funds or General funds. Kautza stated this should be paid through General funds. Parker will get these payments out this week.

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

**9. Clerk's Report**

Parker noted that she completed all of the reports that were due by the end of April, including closing out the ARPA grant reporting. She stated with the ARPA grant report, she filed it as general revenue loss. At this point, we can use it however we want, just that we need to track where we are spending it (in case of an audit), and have it spent by the end of 2026.

**10. Road Report**

Larson stated he is doing road grading. He also commented he picked up 13 tons of cold base, from American Asphalt, to use in filling potholes. Next week he will start hauling loads of granite out to our gravel roads to be spread. He stated that Sportsman Drive and a bad spot where he will have to add more granite. There was

discussion on the logger in that area who was using tracked equipment, which is causing a lot of the damage to that area, and how Kautza has had some heated discussions with him about this.

There was discussion about our tractor that is being tested to figure out the issues we are having with it.

Kautza brought up that the new grader is ahead of schedule, where the wings are already getting put on. He stated that we will receive at least a 2-weeks' notice of when it is ready for delivery. Kautza stated it sounds like this could happen in late June/early July.

## 11. New Business

- **3-Year Re-Appointment of Town Clerk (2024 – 2026) [WI Stats 60.30\(1e\)\(c\)](#)**

It was discussed that the Clerk's re-appointment is supposed to take place every three years.

***Motion by McRae, second by Marien: to approve the 2024 – 2026 re-appointment of Valerie Parker as Town Clerk.***

- **Town Input to County CPZ on Petition from Tyler Seehafer for Text Amendments to the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances: Chapter 17 – Zoning Code**

Parker stated she is not exactly clear on what the change to the County Zoning Code is meant to accomplish, as it is hard to follow. She thinks it has to do with if a less than 5-acre piece of farm property wants to either move a house, add a house, or split the house from the farm, that they would not be required to rezone the property from Farmland Preservation Zoning.

The Town Board does not have any comments to make towards this proposed change.

- **2024 Roadway Projects**

Kautza stated that he is still waiting for Fahrner Asphalt to get him costs for crack filling Pine View Road, along with layers of seal coating for mile stretches of roadways. Kautza stated his thoughts would be to seal coat Hatchery Road in 2 phases, with the 1<sup>st</sup> phase being from Sportsman Drive to Village Road, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase being from Village Road to State Highway 52.

There was discussion on fire numbers needed for some properties, and how there should be fire numbers where there are sheds (people gathering), in case of emergencies. Parker commented that she received a message from Cody Weden regarding getting a building permit and fire number for a property of his off of North Pole Road. She will return his call and have him reach out to the County.

There was discussion about truck traffic on North Pole Road and Hatchery Road, and how they are creating a lot of wear and tear. Kautza commented that we could change the weight limits on those roads to below 40 tons, which may help reduce the semi traffic. He stated we could look at passing an ordinance to disallow thru truck traffic on some of our roads, which we can discuss at our June Town Board Meeting.

There was discussion that by adding the "no thru truck traffic" would still allow for local truck traffic (farmers, Jack Kautza, etc.). Kautza stated that Schairer's are usually pretty good about taking to him before hauling on our roads.

## 12. Old Business

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

Parker stated that she still has not received any responses from those she had reached out to on this. She stated that knowing the Town Board is not necessarily in support of this, that perhaps we should just drop the topic and remove from future agendas. Kautza agreed this can be removed from further discussion.

- **Status of American Rescue Plan Act Use of Funds**

Parker questioned, now that the final report has been completed, and with our tracking the funds through our budget reports, if she can remove this from future agendas. Kautza agreed this can be removed from future agendas.

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

Parker stated at the previous County meeting, they ended up tabling the issue again, due to a few other municipalities planning to submit their comments yet. The next meeting is set for June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m.

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

Marien pointed out that in the May WI Towns Association magazine, there was a specific article in there about Town Withdrawal from County Zoning. He stated that due to the 2023 Wisconsin Act 264, the soonest we could withdraw would be in 2029 (we'd have to start the process in 2027). Kautza will review that article.

**13. Remarks from Board**

Marien stated at the last Birnamwood Area Emergency Services Meeting, they discussed the costs for the new ambulance. The Town would still only owe \$1,229 for their portion. Parker can get this payment out, and will pay through ARPA funds.

Marien stated that the Town's portion of EMS wages may go down, as they may be getting some grant funding. He stated this new program seems to be working out pretty well.

Marien stated that there was discussion at the meeting about how it takes so long to receive a new ambulance, that they may already start discussing the next new ambulance to purchase.

*[For documentation purposes – prior to the meeting, Marien informed Parker that the Town Coffee Gatherings are going to be reduced from twice per month (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) to only once per month (just the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday). She will make note of this in her next monthly update to the Town residents. She will also update the Town Hall posted flyer]*

**14. Future Items**

- Regular Town Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

**15. Adjourn**

***Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.***

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker  
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