

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

**Tuesday,  
October 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

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**Minutes**

*[Prior to the start of the meeting, Dean Krubsack and James Gardner were present. It was explained that since the time the Town went under County Zoning, we no longer have a Land Division Ordinance; therefore, the Town does not have authority to approve land divisions. Krubsack and Gardner left the hall prior to the start of the meeting.]*

**1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza**

Kautza called the meeting to order at 6:03 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, Charlie Geimer, Dick Lehmann, and Mark Dodge.

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

None.

**4. Visitors**

**• Mark Dodge, Bertram Internet – Discussion on Internet Service Options Within the Town**

Mark Dodge, of Bertram Internet, was present. He explained the locations of his current towers. He explained four different terms of things you need for service:

Transport – try to get transport

Internet – the service you put on the transport

Backhaul – the large round tube you see on the towers

Vertical Assets – the tower

Dodge stated that he is working with 7 counties to get transport to “dead pockets”. He commented that the average user uses only 6.5 meg of bandwidth. The tallest you can have a free-standing tower (no guy lines) is 300’. Anything under 200’ does not require the lights. He looks for grants from places like the County, EMS system, Telehealth. He stated they look for the highest elevation points to locate a tower (1,325 feet above sea level is preferred). He stated they have a software system that allows them to scan surrounding areas to see if the service will work for service, when locating sites. Their service will reach low areas, with the exception that households within the low areas may need to install a secondary personal antenna. He explained how the southwest portion of the Town has the highest elevation, and would be the preferred location for a tower location, and that it could provide service out about 7 miles.

Dodge explained how DSL and cable works with their underground fiber optic lines, and how those can lose speed due to all the connections from the lines. He explained, though, how oak and pine trees can affect their signal, as the vegetation reflects, or gets in the way of the signal. He explained why lower frequency works better than higher frequency.

Dodge explained the average cost to locate a site and construct a tower is about \$250,000. He commented on how there is a lot of cost and a lot of time (minimum 90 days) just in the permitting process.

Dodge stated that a self-supporting tower would be placed on a 65-foot by 65-foot concrete pad, which would be fenced in (and possibly landscaped in). A permanent easement from the property owner with a one-time payment of \$5,000 (or more) to the property owner would be required.

Dodge summarized that first a site needs to be selected (offered) and reviewed for service capability. Then he looks at who should all be involved (County, Town, clinics, etc.). Then he looks for funding mechanisms for those involved and possible grants available. Permanent easement is granted, construction occurs.

There was some discussion on how we can look for interest from residents of the Town to consider having a tower on their property, which will help bring internet service to the Town. It was discussed we could include something in the annual mailer. Parker stated that while she supports promoting Bertram Internet, she does not feel comfortable listing Bertram's business name, as other providers may question why they are not being advertised too. It was discussed that we can generically seek the interest of residents who may be willing to have a tower put on their land, and for those residents to contact the Board, who can then direct those residents to Dodge.

- **Surveyor, James Gardner, and Landowner, Dean Krubsack – Discussion on Proposed Land Division**

See note above *Call to Order*.

## 5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- **September 14, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

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

***Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to approve the September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes.***

## 6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board went through the expenditures.

## 7. 2021 Budget Review and Update

Parker stated that we will be receiving our final payment from the State for Shared Revenue (of \$26,243.00) in November. She explained what is currently available in the checking account (\$118,927.35), and the remaining bills we have for the rest of the year.

Parker stated that she will be using the last of the "hand-written" checks, so the Board will see the new printed checks in November.

Parker stated she is still planning to purchase a laptop computer within this 2021 budget season.

Larson explained that we will be getting loads of salt/sand delivered by Fraaza and will be picking up a few loads from Langlade County.

Kautza stated that Kautza Excavating did complete the job on Red Granite Road, so that invoice will be coming.

Kautza stated he would like to end the year with about \$20,000 in the general fund checking account.

Parker brought up the 2022 draft budget document she provided for the Board to review. She explained how she added extra money in the election equipment budget, as she is looking at possibly getting a Badger Book system, which serves as an electronic poll book and voter registration system. She explained how it is not required by the State now, but will be in the near future. The estimated cost is about \$2,300. She is not for certain going to get this in 2022, but wants to put money in the budget just in case.

Kautza stated that the dollar amounts within the Public Works budget could remain similar to this year. There was some discussion on the costs to include in the budget for the proposed new tractor. The Board felt comfortable using \$40,000 for annual payments. It was clarified that in 2022, the grader and Freightliner will be paid off.

Larson stated how he heard it would be possible to use ARPA funds towards the tractor purchase, if it has snow removal equipment on it.

Parker explained how when she was preparing the draft 2022 budget, as far as the 2022 Assessor costs, it occurred to her that our contract with Assessor, Todd Anderson, expires at the end of this year. Following some brief discussion, it was agreed that it would not hurt for the town to seek bids or proposals from other assessors for the start of the 2022 season. Parker stated she will draft an ad and will share with the Board. It was mentioned that she may be able to find a list from the State or the County, of assessors to send the advertisement to. Parker stated she did increase the annual assessor costs in the draft budget. The goal would be to finalize a 2022 contract sometime before the end of the year.

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

## 8. Clerk's Report

Parker pointed out that she recently picked up the new Express Vote machine, which replaces the outdated Automark machine. She explained how this new machine works, and how it is easy to use and will be even more helpful in the elections, and how it could save money, as far as ballot printing costs.

Parker explained how she recently learned that as of December 31, 2021, per State Statutes, the Town has to appoint or re-appoint its election inspectors. State Statutes requires that the Town must first appoint people whose names are provided by the Republican and Democrat parties, and if no lists are provided by either party by November 30<sup>th</sup>, then the Town is allowed to go ahead and re-appoint the election inspectors who have been serving. She stated how the County suggests the current election inspectors contact their political parties to get on those lists. Kautza asked Parker if she found someone to serve as Chief Election Inspector yet. Parker stated she is hoping Diane Kautza will be willing to take that role. Kautza pointed out how if Diane Kautza did serve as Chief Election Inspector, that if his name is on the ballot, she can not work that particular election. Parker stated in that case, she would just step in and oversee the election (since she is now an appointed Clerk). Parker stated the December agenda will include the appointment of Election Inspectors.

Parker stated she will be working tax preparation.

## 9. Road Report

Larson stated he has been working on grading roads. He stated how he has hauled 64 loads of granite to Sportsman Drive so far. He stated he still needs to bring some loads to Old Lake Road.

Larson commented we have a small amount of cold mix left, and when he was out doing some patching, he noticed in the ditch along Old Lake Road, there was 5 large tires. Kautza suggested Larson pick those tires up and bring them to the hall. Kautza stated how we could use those tires around culvert projects.

Larson commented on how he priced out some items with Rent-A-Flash, and how fire number posts are \$6.95 each, the 8-foot reflective barricades are \$262.00 each, the LED lights to go on those barricades are \$17.25 each, and how the small barricades are \$95.00 each. Larson stated how we could use ARPA funds to purchase needed barricades. Larson stated he recently talked to Jack Kautza who told him he has a trailer full of large barricades that he no longer uses, and would be willing to sell them.

Larson stated he is making a list of Town roads that have had work done on them. He said the Town records are not real descriptive.

## 10. Old Business

- **LRIP Program Updates – Sportsman Road Project**  
Nothing new to update on this.
- **Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act – Possible use of Funds**  
Nothing new to update on this.
- **Status of Red Granite Road Work**  
Kautza stated this project has been completed.
- **Status on Comprehensive Plan Update**  
Parker did not have anything new to update on this.
- **Discussion on Possibly Requesting Bids for Crack Sealing on Town Roads**  
Kautza is still looking to get some estimates of pricing. He stated this will be a project for in the spring. Parker gave Kautza a list of contractors who perform crack sealing that she recently obtained.

## 11. New Business

- **Discussion and Possible Action on a CSM for Land Division at 231405 County Road Y (Krubsack)**  
The Board acknowledged that the Town does not have a Land Division Ordinance. Parker will relay this to the County. McRae stated how other land divisions approved by the County has occurred, so he is not sure why they are just now asking this.
- **Zoning Violation/Complaint & Shipping/Storage Container Code Revision Update & Petition**  
Parker pointed out the Kautza just needs to sign the revised petition.

- **Discussion on Dog Licensing and Dogs at Large Issues**

It was explained to Parker that the Sheriff's Department will not pick up dogs running loose in the Town. Marien has picked up dogs in the past, and has delivered them to the Marathon County Humane Society, which then pet owner needs to pay to pick their dog up from the Humane Society. It was stated how Doreen Erbrecht has done the same. The issue is the potential liability if someone gets bit.

Kautza stated for now, our best efforts is to send a message out to all our Town contacts to try to locate the owner. Marien could be called, if needed. Parker feels if someone has a roaming dog on their property, and if it looks threatening, that she would hope the Sheriff's Department would pick the dog up then.

Marien stated the State Statutes states that all dogs must have registered tags on them, if they are not under control (via leash or line) of the owner.

- **WisVote / Election Services Agreement – Marathon County**

Parker stated Kautza just needs to sign this agreement. This is a formal agreement that spells out the services and costs between the County and the Town for election administration (printing of ballots, posting notices, absentee envelopes, etc.).

- **Discussion and Action on Local Redistricting Resolution #10-2021 Creating Election Wards**

Parker explained that the Board needs to sign this document. Basically, this notifies the County and State that the Town only has one election ward.

- **Discussion on Planning/Budgeting for New Tractor and Mower**

Larson stated he talked with a sales representative from Weyers Equipment. They will be doing a demo of a tractor and mower at Plover, over in Portage County. The representative explained to Larson that at that time, either our Board could come there and also see the equipment and test it out, or the representative could bring it to our hall to show us. Larson stated that he has been talking to Easton and the County about their tractors.

The Board discussed the different options available for this tractor and mower. They asked Larson to let them know when the demo was taking place in Portage County.

Larson told Kautza that Schairer did not indicate that he would be interested in our current tractor, but that Weyers does offer trades and would be willing to come to our hall to look at our tractor and give us a value.

## 12. Remarks from Board

Marien asked if the Board would have any issues with moving the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting up to December 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone seemed okay with that.

## 13. Future Items

- **Regular Board Meeting – October 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Regular Board Meeting & Annual Town Budget Meeting – November 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Annual Meeting of Electors – November 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
\*The Board suggested the Meeting of Electors be held "immediately following the Budget Meeting"
- **Regular Board Meeting – December 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**  
\*The December meeting will be moved to December 7<sup>th</sup>\*

## 14. Adjourn

***Motion by McRae, second by Marien, to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.***

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker  
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