

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

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Tony Kautza

Chairman Kautza called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Parker noted Marien and McRae were present.

Treasurer, Connie Sippl was excused

Also, in attendance: Clerk, Valerie Parker

Town Electors Present:

Rick Larson, 185153 County Road Z

Carlton Boettcher, 183216 County Road Z

Doreen Erbrecht, 176680 County Road Z

Kim Dolezal, 238095 County Road Y

Don Dolezal, 238095 County Road Y

3. Visitors

Kelly Fassbender, Business Services Director, Unified School District of Antigo – to Provide Information on Upcoming November Referendum

Kautza asked why the consulting firm, Donovan Group, is not the one presenting tonight. Fassbender stated since they wanted to reach all the meetings of the municipalities, and with most having meetings on the same night, they chose to save taxpayer money by sending salaried school representatives to each of the meetings, versus paying the consulting firm to do this.

Fassbender stated that the reason they are going to each of the meetings is to present the facts to the community, not trying to sway people one way or another.

Fassbender handed out paper copies of the School District's Referendum presentation, and played a recording that gave an overview of the paper presentation, which can be found <https://watch.screencastify.com/v/cYzBTf7wRcsfm3AbKgzf>.

Kautza stated that he did not hear anything in the presentation about future enrollment numbers, and how he feels most of the kids are going to private and/or parochial schools. Fassbender stated the school does provide funding to those private schools.

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

None.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

• August 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2024, meeting.

6. Review and Signing of Monthly Expenditures

The Board reviewed and signed the monthly expenditures.

7. Review and Action on 2024 Monthly Budget

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

8. Clerk's Report

Parker stated she is gearing up for the election, and absentee ballots will start going out next week. She stated she has been working on setting up the 2025 budget.

Parker pointed out the County Board of Adjustment public hearing will be held on September 26th. She stated this is where Joe Frailing's Conditional Use Permit request will be heard. She stated that she wanted to attend that (virtually); however, she will be out of town camping that day. She asked if one of the Board members could attend to provide support for Frailing.

Parker explained to the electors in the audience the County Zoning Code change that took place to allow for shipping containers, via Conditional Use Permit, and provided more information about Frailing's case. Parker will share with the Board the public hearing information when she receives it.

9. Road Report

Larson stated he has been hauling granite and grading the dead end roads, such as Grainery Road and Pine View Road. He stated the tractor has not been repaired or brought back yet from Weyer's, so he is unable to complete the ditch mowing.

It was discussed that Larson and Kautza had looked over the spots to be dug out on Hatchery Road and Sportsman Drive, in preparation for obtaining bids.

Larson stated he has to pick up posts yet for the No Truck Traffic signs, he is going to put those in right where the weight limit signs are. He asked if we would want to go with green or yellow posts. The Board felt yellow posts would be good.

10. New Business

• Discussion on 2025 Street Maintenance Operator Position

Kautza stated we have only received one application so far, which this person would be a potential candidate. In order to try to get more interest, he is thinking it would be helpful to post something online in Indeed, to attract people from out of town.

• Approval of 2025 Annual Marathon County Cooperative Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling Education Program Agreement (Bonus Grant to Annual Recycling Grant)

Parker stated this agreement is basically stating that the Town agrees to provide recycling services, and provides us with bonus grant monies, on top of the recycling grant we will receive, which she will be filing at the end of this month.

• Discussion on Draft 2025 Budget

Parker explained the Tax Levy Limit Worksheet, which guides the Town on the base tax levy amount it can request.

Parker explained the base amount is \$218,879, plus \$315.17 personal property tax, which equals \$219,194.17.

Parker pointed out that last year we added on \$36,365 for our 2024 principal and interest loan payments, which is shown as a deduction on this form. For 2025, we can add as much as 81,400 (\$13,545.39 final town hall loan payment, \$23,329.80 Case tractor loan payments, and \$44,515.40 John Deere grader loan payment). This brings our allowable levy limit up to \$300,279.

Parker stated while this does increase the levy some, it will allow us to comfortably take on some road projects next year.

Parker then explained with the budget worksheet, she takes the allowable levy limit, then will add in all the estimated 2025 State payments (which she should be notified of all these soon), and then once those numbers are all in, will start filling in the expenditures section so that the expenditures and total revenues match.

Parker stated next month we will be holding our public hearing and electors meeting on this.

11. Old Business

- **Continued Discussion of 2024 Roadway Projects**

Kautza stated he and Larson measured the soft spot section on Sportsman Drive, just east of North Pole Road. He stated that section needs to be dug out along with the culvert being replaced. It was stated this would be about a 435' stretch of repair work. He is considering having this bid out this year yet.

Kautza stated then on Hatchery Road, about 275' north of Village Road, there is a soft spot to be dug out as well. He is considering bidding this out too, and maybe contacting Peterson's, since they have a pit right on Highway 52.

Kautza stated that he talked to Fahrner Asphalt about crackfilling on Pine View Road (from County Road D to County Road Y), and they sent him an estimate of \$16,512.00.

Kautza stated when he talked to American Asphalt about paving costs, he was told they are estimating \$180,000 per mile, for 3-inch, 22-foot wide paving, and this would be with the Town doing the prep work.

It was then discussed that we may as well go ahead and try to get bids for this fall to do the work on Sportsman Drive (similar to what was done on Hatchery Road, but along with a 40' culvert replacement). Parker will draft a bid notice and will send to the Board. Kautza stated we would look at a special board meeting to hold a bid opening around the last Tuesday of this month (September 24th). Once the bid notice is ready, Parker will mail and email it to contractors, and will also post in the two area Shoppers.

It was also discussed that since we do have the funds available, that Kautza will go ahead and have Fahrner do the crackfilling job on Pine View Road this fall yet.

- **Continued Discussion on Possibly Ending County Zoning (Per WI Act 264 – Process Can't Start Until 2027)**

Nothing.

12. Remarks from Board

Nothing.

13. Future Items

- Town Assessor Open Book Period – Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Board of Review Meeting – Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Town Board & Public Hearing on Proposed 2025 Budget Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
- Town Special Meeting of Electors on 2024 Tax Levy – October 8, 2024, Following 6pm Meeting
- Town Board Meeting for Adoption of 2025 Budget – October 8, 2024, Following Electors Meeting

14. Adjourn

Motion by Marien, second by McRae, to adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully,

Valerie Parker
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