**Town of Popple River**

**Forest County, Wisconsin**

**June 10th, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes (not yet approved)**

**Call to Order at 6:00 pm**

**Roll Call - In Attendance: Citizens Present:**

Mary (Sissie) Sullivan (Chairperson) Rosie Konitzer

Dale Nichols (Supervisor) Sue Schallenberg

Wade Haen (Supervisor) Cindy Brown

Audi Howen (Treasurer) Jean Peters

Katie Haen (Clerk) Cal Peters

 Chief Paul Behrens

**Pledge of Allegiance**

 **Town Business:**

* May minutes presented by Katie Haen, motion to accept made by Dale Nichols, seconded by Mary Sullivan.
* Treasurer’s Report by Audi Howen.
* Incoming Bills/Outgoing Checks and Reports by Katie Haen.
* Motion to approve Checks and Financial Reports made by Wade Haen and seconded by Dale Nichols.

**Fire Department:**

* Chief Paul Behrens was present to give his report
* One call for Popple River and One call for Newald. Popple River call was an ATV accident using vehicle extraction, north ½ mile north of Popple River Road on the NST.
* Chief Behrens has been in contact with Sam Augustin to follow up on the 911 issues. Both will update us on progress.
* The Centennial committee asked the Department to be a part of the celebration and help with food as a fundraiser for the department and they accepted.
* Chief Behrens stated that the Cascade PSI system is finally up and running. Mary Sullivan asked if it was portable, Chief Behrens stated it is stationary at the moment but can be made portable. He says this is one of the things on the department's wish list.
* Chief Behrens is still working on grants. He has filed for a grant from the DNR, Potawatomi and four others. He is looking to further update the Cascade system, new turnout gear and equipment upgrades with funds granted.
* The department's next training is on Water Supply and Emergency Vehicle Driving.
* Mary Sullivan asked if there was any update on placing a dry hydrant on the Popple River Bridge by the town hall. Chief Behrens was advised that a dry hydrant wouldn't work on the river.There is not enough depth. He was instructed to just use the pumper hose instead. Mary Sullivan asked if he had permission to obtain water from Long Lake’s hydrate. He stated he does, and added they can also grab water from Cleeremen pond, Lake Van Zile and Ross Lake, anywhere they can get within 20ft.

**Maintenance: *Equipment & Buildings***

* The town Grader is all back together and operational.
* The tractor got an oil change and greased. It needs all new belts. And the ditch mower needs new wear bars put on.
* Dale Nichols called around to get a spare key made for the town truck, Ace is $200 and Stateline is $202.44. Wade Haen made a motion to get a spare key made and Dale Nichols seconded.
* The hall & garage, no updates
* The quonset, Katie Haen called the WTA to get direction on selling and removing the building. The only issue to deal with is the liability of someone getting hurt in removing it. Cal Peters wants to move the building down to his land. The liability is if someone gets hurt. Mary Sullivan asked Cal if he would sign a waiver and he said yes. Then Mary instructed Katie to call the WTA again and ask if they have some guidance on a waiver. Follow up on this next month.
* Dale Nichols followed on the shipping containers for storage from Store Pro in Sugar Camp. 20ft containers range from $2500-$2800 delivered. 40ft used $3300 new $5200. Mary Sullivan made a motion to purchase 2-20ft containers to not exceed $5000. Katie Haen will follow up with the company and order 2 by the next meeting.

**ROAD WORK:**

* Mary Sullivan asked if Fahrner started the Chip and Fog Seal job that will run from the bridge by the town hall and end at the town line south on Old 139 Road, Katie Haen stated it has not. Katie will contact Fahrner to see if they have a tentative start date set.
* Wade Haen pointed out that some of the roads are in need of gravel to fix some wash outs. There are washouts on Deidrick, Belunes and Long Lake roads are a few in need. Dale Nichols added, north of Belunes on Old 139 Road there is a washout where the blacktop is, a culvert was deemed unnecessary and it was removed years ago. Seems the culvert was necessary. Dale has a few ideas that will hopefully help. Dale and Wade will work on getting gravel out soon.
* Wade Haen says ditch mowing will start soon.

**Old Business:**

* Mary Sullivan asked if the Town of Ross followed up on needed road work done. Dale Nichols hasn't heard back from anyone on their townboard. Wade Haen noted that the Town of Fence graded Jaquet Road for them. Mary Sullivan will follow up with Jon Cleeremen if we haven't heard from them by next month.
* Mary Sullivan attended the WTA meeting on the 21st of May. They gave a Broadband Update. Wade Haen stated that all towers must be activated according to their contracts. Mary says their focus is now on running fiber. The county is still hoping for Federal funding. Mary doubts it will come but they may have a chance of getting state funding.
* Mary Sullivan says the LRIP cycle is back in play and would like Katie Haen to look into it. Katie has her laptop along and couldn't find any emails on it, she will follow up on it. Mary stated that we were promised the LRIP last cycle but some paperwork was misplaced and they all did the finger pointing which ended with our town missing out. We received promises to get it next time. We must stay on top of it this time around.
* Mary Sullivan asked Katie Haen if she received mailings from the Potawatomi Grant, she answered no. Mary hasn't either which is odd, we usually receive that by April. Mary asked Katie to see if Sam from Armstrong Creek received any information. We will follow up next month.
* Mary Sullivan let the Centennial Committee know there is a grant they could possibly apply for through the Visit Forest County, lodging tax funds. Mary will make sure the committee receives the application.
* Mary Sullivan gave an update on the Ice Storm Damage Grant. The paperwork is a nightmare. And she just received an email asking for a map of where all the debris was located. Wade Haen stated that the worst of the damage was in areas where logging was just completed, on Perenick, Deidrick and Ed Gerl Roads.

**New Business:**

* Cal Peters passed out a Budget for the Centennial Celebration asking for the town for $5000. Its a guess on the expenses, and there will be fundraising. The hope is all the funds will be raised but in case of a shortcomings the festivities would be covered. At this time Mary Sullivan says she is not okay with saying yes, pointing out that the budget adds up to $3000 but asking for $5000, and that she would like the board some time to think on it and possibly ask more questions. Cal added they have a good size committee and aren't looking to add to it. And that the committee shortened the parade route and it now doesn't cross HWY 139. He asked if anyone was interested in receiving the minutes to the meetings they just needed to ask. Katie Haen asked about how to handle any fund received through donations, Mary Sullivan stated it needed to be separated from the town and the committee should open its own account.

**Public Comment:**

* Rosie Konitzer asked about the cabinet made for our election equipment made by the Laona School shop class. Katie Haen said it is finished and she just needs to pick it up.
* Mary Sullivan suggested that we should possibly contact the Laona School Art Department about designing a new town sign for us.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 pm motion by Mary Sullivan seconded by Dale Nichols**

**Next Meeting will be July 8th 2025 at 6pm**

**Respectfully Submitted By,**

**Katherine A. Haen**

**On June 17th, 2025**