

**TOWN OF OSCEOLA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2019**

MINUTES

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Osceola met for a Special Town Board Meeting Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Osceola Town Hall, Dresser, Wisconsin.

Town Board Chair Doug Schmidt **CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER** at 7:58 p.m.

Notice of the Special Meeting was posted Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at the Town Hall, the Dresser Post Office, First National Community Bank and the website.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Doug Schmidt, Mike Wallis and Brandon Whittaker

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Jo Everson, Interim Clerk/Treasurer, Neil & Bekah Gustafson, Rick Nelson, Sandra Ball, Josh & Lisa Marincel, Kim Kaiser, Tim Loesher, Eric Hallan, Mark & Denise Skjerven, Glyn Thorman, Alice Moris, Tom & Gae Magnafici, Ed Everson, Michael Joe McCling, Jeff & Kathy Cronick, Jon Cronick, Terese & Jeremy Utke, Amy Middleton, Ron & Ellen Race, Dean & Diane Anderson, Matt Anderson, Matt Ressink, Chelsea Kinse, Philip Mathison, Tony Havronek, Deb Dibble, Jane Carlson, Steve Heichel, Richard Berg, Joyce Robinson, Donna & Jim Berg, Lanette & Merri Johnson, Katie Bruins, James Rochford, Steve Stroshane, Mary Weinberg

Chair Doug Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

The Chair clarified the item on the Agenda to Adjust Compensation for five-Member Board would be a separate agenda item than the agenda item Ordinance to Create a Five Member Town Board.

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #19-09-05 TO CREATE A FIVE MEMBER TOWN BOARD

The Town Board has discussed over the past three meetings the possibility of expanding the Town Board from a three-member Board to a five-member Board. Because the Town has adopted Village Powers (in 1974), under Wisconsin Statute Chapter 60.21, the Board is authorized to increase its size. Supervisor Whittaker proposes that the Board approve the increase so that a special election can be held in April of 2020 to elect two new supervisors for a two-year term with another election in 2021 to elect the other two supervisors (as well as the chair), creating a stagger of terms.

During these past discussions it was decided to hold a public hearing to take public comments regarding the possible change. That meeting was held just prior to this special town board meeting, with forty-six people in attendance.

Chair Schmidt read into the record the proposed Ordinance creating a five-member Town Board.

*ORDINANCE TO CREATE FIVE MEMBER TOWN BOARD
Ordinance #19-09-05*

WHEREAS, the Town of Osceola, Polk County, Wisconsin, has been authorized by the town electors to exercise village powers pursuant to SS. 60.10 (2) (c) and 60.22 (3), Wisc. Statutes on April 2, 1974, and confirmed by Resolution 3-93; and

WHEREAS, s 60.21(1), Wisconsin Statutes, authorizes Town boards with village powers to establish a 5-member town board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a Public Hearing on October 22, 2019 to hear public comments regarding the possibility of increasing the town board from a 3-person board to a 5-person board; and

WHEREAS, the public attending said hearing supported the change determining that a 5-person town board would provide greater representation to the residents of the Town of Osceola; and

WHEREAS the Town Board supports this public opinion.

Be it hereby ordained by the Town Board of the Town of Osceola, Polk County, that pursuant to Section 60.21(1), Wisconsin Statutes, the Town Board elects to create a five person town board as follows:

For the spring election in April 2020, there shall be two supervisors elected. The two (2) supervisors receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected for 2-year terms. For the spring election in April 2021, the chairperson position and the supervisors shall be elected. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for the chairperson position and the two supervisor positions shall be elected for two-year terms. Each year thereafter, two supervisors will be elected in the even numbered years and the chairperson and two supervisors will be elected in the odd number years for two-year terms at the spring elections, creating staggered terms pursuant to Section 60.21(1), Wisconsin Statutes.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication or posting by the Town Clerk as required, pursuant to Section 60.80, Wisconsin Statutes.

Supervisor Wallis stated that he believed there are three realistic options available: 1) to remain with a 3-member board; 2) go with a 5-member board in the 2020 election; and 3) to go with a 5-member board in the 2021 election. Wallis continued with a

MOTION TO ADOPT AN AMENDED ORDINANCE TO GO WITH A FIVE MEMBER BOARD BUT TO GO INTO EFFECT AT THE 2021 ELECTION, WHICH WAS SECONDED BY SCHMIDT, AND FURTHER CLARIFIED TO STATE THAT THE POSITIONS OF CHAIR AND ALL FOUR SUPERVISORS ARE TO BE ELECTED AT THE 2021 ELECTION.

Supervisor Whittaker disagreed with the action, stating that the vote should be made on the existing Ordinance as written. The majority of the 40-50 people in attendance supported the Ordinance, and further cautioned the Board that the potential of a whole new board turnover as well as new staffing could be very risky (with regard to a +\$1,000,000 budget). He questioned the need for delaying the action until 2021.

Supervisor Wallis commented that he has consistently supported a five member board, however, believes that the Board needs to focus on filling current vacancies (the Clerk/Treasurer, Head Election Judge, and Planning Commission Member), and allowing the new Clerk/Treasurer to get acclimated to the town before new members are elected. This will also give the Board time to work on their relationships. The risk of a total turnover is minimal, and waiting will allow the public to become more aware of the election and the possibilities of running for the offices.

Chair Schmidt agreed with Wallis, stating that bringing two new supervisors into the mix of current changes would be a detriment to them. Furthermore, the Consultant hired to do a study on Town

positions have yet to submit their report, and encouraged the public to attend the November 5th meeting to hear the results.

Supervisor Whittaker disagreed with waiting until the vacancies are filled, and challenged the Board to move forward with the 5-member board. With the Clerk/Treasurer position filled indefinitely by a volunteer, the Board should not have to use that position as a reason to delay any immediate action.

MOTION BY WALLIS/SCHMIDT TO AMEND THE ABOVE STATED MOTION TO READ:

~~For the spring election in April 2020, there shall be two supervisors elected. The two (2) supervisors receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected for 2-year terms. For the spring election in April 2021, the chairperson position and the supervisors shall be elected. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for the chairperson position and the two supervisor positions shall be elected for two-year terms.~~

For the spring election in April 2021, there shall be a chair and four (4) supervisors elected. The two (2) supervisors receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected for 2-year terms. The two (2) supervisors receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected for one-year terms. Each year thereafter, two supervisors will be elected in the even numbered years and the chairperson and two supervisors will be elected in the odd number years for two-year terms at each spring election, creating staggered terms pursuant to Section 60.21(1), Wisconsin Statutes.

MOTION CARRIED WITH WHITTAKER VOTING NAY.

MOTION BY WALLIS/SCHMIDT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2019-19-09-05, AS AMENDED, AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FIVE-MEMBER TOWN BOARD. MOTION CARRIED WITH WHITTAKER VOTING NAY. (copy attached)

ADJUST COMPENSATION FOR FIVE-MEMBER BOARD

The Town Board agreed to wait until the 2020 Annual Meeting to discuss wages for the Town Board effective after the 2021 election.

REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET

Interim Clerk/Treasurer Jo Everson reviewed the proposed 2020 budget, which provides for a total of \$865,144.00 in revenues, and includes the levy limit of \$563,571.00 for 2019, payable 2020.

Expenditures were reviewed by the Board, with minimal adjustments, the total equaling \$941,044.00. In order to have a balanced budget the Board must adjust its revenue or expenditures by \$70,640.00 to remain within the \$563,571.00 levy limit. However, the Board could seek voter approval to exceed that levy limit at a Special Town Meeting for that purpose.

Supervisor Wallis expressed concerns that the budget does not address year-end cash balances, or capital equipment plan/purchases, although it does include \$350,000 for highway construction projects. He recommended presenting the proposed budget as printed to the electorate to request the additional levy. He also reminded the Board that the Town potentially could receive grants that may cover some of the additional highway expenses.

MOTION BY WHITTAKER/WALLIS, TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET, AS AMENDED, FOR A TOTAL LEVY OF \$634,211.00. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (copy attached)

SET DAY FOR BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

MOTION BY WHITTAKER, SECONDED BY WALLIS TO SET THE DATE OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019, AT 6:30 P.M. FOR THE TOWN OF OSCEOLA BUDGET HEARING, FOLLOWED IMMEDI-

ATELY BY A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO APPROVE THE 2020 LEVY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The Town Board will seek special voter approval to exceed the \$563,591.00 levy limit at a by \$70,640.00 at the Special Town Meeting for that purpose.*

Supervisor Whittaker recommended the Town investigate using Facebook as a means to inform the public of upcoming meetings and information regarding the Town. The issue will be placed on the November 5th agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY WHITTAKER/WALLIS TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD THIS 22ND OF OCTOBER, 2019. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Jo Everson, Interim Clerk/Treasurer

**The Town Board will ratify Resolution 19-10, "Town Board Directs Question of Increasing the Town Tax Levy for 2019" at the November 5, 2019 meeting.*

APPROVED: 11/05/2019