

TOWN OF OSCEOLA
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Meeting Minutes

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Osceola met for a regular monthly meeting Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 6:30 PM at the Osceola Town Hall, Dresser, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chairman of the Board Doug Schmidt, Supervisor Mike Wallis, Supervisor Brandon Whittaker, Clerk Tammy Wanchena, Public Works Tony Johnson, Tom & Gae Magnafici, Ed Everson, Warren Johnson, Denise Skjerven, Rebekah & Neil Gustafson, Diana Anderson, John Walsh, Bernie Desmarais, Jim & Donna Berg, Chelsea & Sean Kruse, Matt Anderson, Alice Moris, Jon Cronick, Steve & Rob Heichel, Ty Dodge, Jeremy & Teresa Utke, Glyn Thorman

CHAIRMAN SCHMIDT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:31 PM.

Chairman Schmidt verified that the meeting agenda was posted at the Town Hall, the Dresser Post Office, and on the Town of Osceola website.

Chairman Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Schmidt, Supervisor Wallis, and Supervisor Whittaker all present.

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BILLS: Chairman Schmidt and Supervisors Wallis and Whittaker signed and approved all check stubs provided by Treasurer Chris Stevens.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED AGENDA: Supervisor Wallis suggested "Two Requests for Subdivisions" be moved to the top of the agenda. **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / WHITTAKER TO ACCEPT AGENDA AS AMMENDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Schmidt called for Public Comment. Three minutes allotted for each speaker.

Warren Johnson thanked Tony for doing a good job. He stated the crowd is concerned and have questions about fiscal responsibility and the Plan Commission. Warren feels they are not being heard and should not be called "the squad". He said they expect to have input at the Plan Commission meetings. He is grateful to live in a farming community.

Tom Magnafici felt his public records request from March 2 to receive all emails from the Plan Commission members was not complete as he was unable to open attachments containing personal applications. He said he will not pay the bill accrued from meeting his request. He is angry about an email referring to the Town as "the squad". He asked the Town to wire the Town Hall 14 months ago so he can hear. He plans to sue the Town and charge them for his legal fees.

Ed Everson wanted to know why the Agenda was not on the website. Supervisor Wallis apologized.

Teresa Utke wants a timeline on Annual Meeting items.

Denise Skjerven wants to see Annual Meeting Minutes posted. Clerk Tammy Wanchena pointed out that they have been since days after the meeting took place May 19. Skjerven wants Year-To-Date Budgets presented mid-year. She wants to know how many part-time Public Works staff the Town plans to hire. She asked who was going to pay for a street light. She inquired about the Plan Commission.

Ty Dodge said he does not understand why the Town would want to abolish the Plan Commission. He attends many of these meetings and finds them to be very valuable and worthwhile.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / WHITTAKER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD JUNE 2, 2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Supervisor Wallis questioned if a motion was made at the Special Board Meeting held June 22. The Board determined motion was not made in Open Meeting. **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / WHITTAKER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD JUNE 22. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Public Works Supervisor Tony Johnson reported that 200th Street between Cty F and 110th Ave has been paved. All road work remaining in budget is still on schedule. Almost all ditches have been mowed twice. Mower is being repaired. Busy mowing, trimming trees, and with shoulder repairs. Vehicle fire on Horse Lake Lane and Cty Y did \$2,000 worth of damage. Town is seeking reimbursement from the vehicle owner's Insurance Company. Polk County will be closing Hwy 35 the week of July 20. Detour is set to go down Cty Rd M to 240th St.

CLERK / TREASURER'S REPORT: Chairman Schmidt read account balances provided by Treasurer Chris Stevens. Chairman Schmidt announced we would no longer print packets for residents due to cost but would provide them if the clerk is emailed the request six hours prior to board meetings. Chairman Schmidt reminded the public that there is information the Board will have in their packets that will not be in public packets, such as personal applications with contact information and criminal background checks.

CLASS B ROAD RESTRICTION WITH ORDINANCE ON OAK DRIVE ROAD: Chairman Schmidt read proposed Ordinance 20-07-01. Signs must be posted prior to date of execution. Supervisor Whittaker suggested acquiring a temporary sign. Supervisor Wallis suggested eliminating the words "Road", "Waste Management", the date, and "Driveway". **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WHITTAKER / WALLIS TO ACCEPT ORDINANCE 20-07-01 AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DWIGHT LAKE LAND FOR SALE: Long discussion regarding land the Town owns near Dwight Lake. At the Annual Town Meeting held May 19, 2020, it was suggested that the Town looks at selling the land. It was determined that they need to see the deed prior to any more actions being taken.

TWO REQUESTS FOR SUBDIVISIONS: Ty Dodge presented the Town with a certified copy of a survey map and requested a Town Board Checklist be filled out and signed by the Board. **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / WHITTAKER TO APPROVE LOT DIVISION FOR NON-RENTAL SUBDIVISION FOR RONALD WRENHOLT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Todd Ptacek suggested using the projector for future discussions where maps were reviewed. **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / WHITTAKER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** John Walsh submitted an amendment to the original variance application for 1948 115th Ave, St Croix Falls, and presented a map. **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WHITTAKER / WALLIS TO APPROVE VARIANCE REQUEST. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Supervisor Whittaker will draw up a letter asking property owner to remove items from Town's lake property.

EMPLOYEE NEW HIRES: Public Works wants to hire Jason Johnson and Justin Bowman for part-time help. The Clerk will arrange a background check and drug testing for both. **MOVED AND SECONDED BY WHITTAKER / WALLIS TO HIRE JASON JOHNSON AND JUSTIN BOWMAN AS PART-TIME PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Treasurer would like for the Town to hire Lorraine Rugroden, previous Town Clerk / Treasurer to train Treasurer Chris Stevens in, and to help with her tremendous workload. It was determined at a Closed Meeting that Lorraine would be hired as a contract employee for twelve hours a week at \$20 an hour, working one day from home and one day in the office. Because Lorraine did not own a business, they were unable to hire her as a contracted employee but could hire her as the Deputy Treasurer. Supervisor Whittaker said Jo Everson had offered to help Chris and was not costing the Town money. He said Jo felt "bullied" and chased out. Supervisor Whittaker had concerns about anyone accessing the Town's internet remotely. Supervisor Wallis said Lorraine knows where everything is and paying her \$20 an hour was a much better option than paying a service \$60 to catch things up to speed. Supervisor Whittaker had a huge problem with the fact that Lorraine was seen working in the office earlier this day when there no motion had been made yet in an open meeting. Chairman Schmidt offered to pay for the day's work out of his own pocket if necessary. A very long discussion ensued where the Town expressed their personal opinions about Town staff and their workload. Clerk Wanchena took offense and said she was done working for the Town due to their aggressive nature and an un-safe work environment. Chairman Schmidt begged her to stay and sent her to the office to calm down. The discussion continued. Clerk Wanchena returned with printed copies of emails between her and Jo Everson, along with Jo's resignation letter dated May 21, 2020; encouraging anyone who wishes to read them to do so, and challenging them to find any evidence of "bullying". Tammy did not know there was a problem between her and Jo prior to the June 2 board meeting. She told the Town how lucky they were to have Chris, and how hard she works. **CHAIRMAN SCHMIDT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT LORRAINE'S CONTRACT AS WRITTEN. SUPERVISOR WALLIS MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE CONTRACT TO STATE THAT ALL HOURS MUST BE WORKED AT TOWN HALL AND THE CONTRACT WOULD BE FOR A SIX-MONTH TERM. MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / SCHMIDT TO HIRE LORRAINE RUGRODEN AS DEPUTY TREASURER AT \$20 AN HOUR FOR UP TO TWELVE HOURS A WEEK FROM TOWN HALL. ROLL CALL VOTE: 2 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN - MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVE OPERATOR'S LICENSES: TAMMY COLOMBO, DOREEN JOHNSON, KAREN ROBERTS: MOVED AND SECONDED BY WHITTAKER / WALLIS TO APPROVE ALL THREE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVE OPTIONS FOR WOMEN 5 K RUN AT HOPE CHURCH: MOVED AND SECONDED BY WHITTAKER / WALLIS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EAGLE BLUFF ROADS – SUBDIVISIONS NOT BUILT TO SPEC: Supervisor Wallis provided a letter from the Polk County Zoning Administrator, Jason Kjeseth, as well as a letter he drafted to the Sherwood Forest Development regarding the original subdivision in May 2006. The Town is prepared to pursue all necessary actions under the authorities of Chapter 236 of Wisconsin State Statute and Chapters 8 and 18 of the Town of Osceola Code of Ordinances in order to remedy the road situation at Lotus Ridge Estates (Eagle Bluff). It was determined that the letter would be reviewed by the Wisconsin Towns Association prior to sending it.

WAYS TO IMPROVE TOWN'S INTERNET SERVICE: Town wants faster speeds from Century Link. Supervisor Whittaker said he would look into this. Warren Johnson wants a letter drafted from the Town requesting improvements. Supervisor Whittaker said he will write letter.

CODE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE: It was determined that the Town will accept letters of interest from Town residents interested in joining a Code of Ethics Committee. Interested residents will have until July 29, 2020 to submit their letters to the Clerk stating why they are interested in joining the committee
MOVED AND SECONDED BY WHITTAKER / WALLIS TO POST FOR COMMITTEE APPLICANTS TURNED IN BY JULY 29, 2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Social Media Policy will be discussed at future meeting.

CAFOs 51% OF APPLICANTS RESIDE IN TOWN OF OSCEOLA: Warren Johnson presented his proposal for a resolution approving a conditional use permit for the Town of Osceola. Chairman Schmidt read sample resolution aloud. Very long discussion about whether the Town could create such a resolution legally as it might go against one already in place by the State. Supervisor Whittaker wants to readdress this next month. Chairman Schmidt wants to send a letter to the Wisconsin Towns Association asking about risks in creating the resolution Warren Johnson proposed.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS SPEAKING AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS ARE ON THE RECORD: Warren Johnson would like the Town to draft a letter telling any school board member that wishes to speak at a Town of Osceola Board Meeting they will be held accountable and if the community asks questions they are owed answers within 48 hours. Tom Magnafici suggested that only the School Superintendent can speak on behalf of the school board.

PLAN COMMISSION REPORT: Plan Commission may need to replace a member soon. No decisions have been made.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Schmidt reported Highway 35 detour and Natural Gas Line's shutting off a valve and will be using 248th.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS: Supervisors Wallis and Whittaker did not have any Fire or Ambulance Reports.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: Old Business: Ethics Committee, School Board, Internet, Eagle Bluff Roads, Social Media Policy. New Business: Treasurer's Progress Report

MOVED AND SECONDED BY WALLIS / WHITTAKER TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned 10:18 PM.

s./Tammy Wanchena, Clerk

Approved 8-4-20