

December 18th, 2019
Regular Monthly Meeting

The Regular Board of Supervisors meeting was held at the Town of Grantsburg office on December 18th, 2019. Present were Chairman Ron Burg, Supervisors: Gilbert Meyer, John Hennessey, Treasurer Laura McKeag, Clerk Raylene Swanson, Road Maint. Operator Duane Selander, and 25 others.

- I. **Call to order:** Chairman Ron Burg called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** The December 18, 2019 agenda was reviewed. All voted in favor. MC.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from prior Board Meeting:** Gilbert Meyer made a motion to approve the November 13, 2019 meeting minutes with the removal of John Hennessey seconded the adjournment. John Hennessey was not present. Ron Burg seconded the motion. MC.
- V. **Communications Report:** Notices for this meeting were posted in the Sentinel, on the website, Facebook page, at the Town Shop, at Burnett Dairy General Store and Cheese store. We received the WEC grant money and will be working within the next weeks on purchasing a new laptop for the Clerk to be compliant with the State's security requirements. There are now ads in the local papers for hiring a Deputy Clerk in the very near future to start training with me and take over as the Town Clerk in April. A full list of duties is located on the Town website. Please note that Dale Halverson did suggest that we investigate a separate parcel of land for the new Town Hall rather than use the contaminated one owned by Burnett Dairy or make it fit on the current parcel that we own. The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Town of Grantsburg office.
- VI. **Treasurers Report, Laura McKeag:** Treasurer Laura McKeag submitted the November 2019 Treasurers report. The General Checking Balance is \$69,270.76; The Money Market balance is \$1,089,012.31; the CD balance is \$35,949.63.
- VII. **Public Forum:** (3-minute limit per person, unless arranged in advance): Joel Johnson presented to the Board a copy of State Statute Sec. 19.59(1)(c) which states "Except as otherwise provided, a local public official may not: 1. Take any official action substantially affecting a matter in which the official, a member of his or her immediate family, or an organization with which the official is associated has a substantial financial interest. 2. Use his or her office or position to produce or help produce a substantial benefit, direct or indirect, for the official, a member of his or her immediate family, or an organization with which the official is located." Joel Johnson stated that this transpired from last month's meeting. It is a conflict of interest. Joel stated, "you are required to recuse yourself from all discussion on Big Wood Lake Association, Concerned Citizens of Big Wood Lake and Wood Lake Camp." Ron stated, "I do not feel that there is are any issues at this time." Joel Johnson stated, "I will be filing a complaint with the District Attorney for failure to recuse yourself from this matter." Note: Joel Johnson had requested to be put on the agenda, but Ron Burg stated there was not sufficient documentation presented ahead of time.

Samantha Langenbach stated she had contacted the District Attorney's office and feels the Town Chair could be in violation of the State Statute mentioned by Joel. Ron Burg asked Samantham "are you an attorney?" She replied, "yes." Ron asked, "in Wisconsin or Minnesota?" Sam replied, "both. I have a license but I'm not currently practicing with a firm." Ron asked, "what substantial information do you have?" Sam feels that being put on the agenda month after month and more action is directed negatively toward her. Ron asked, "what substantial benefit would I gain?" Sam replied, "you sat and grilled me last month, asking questions. Furthering the agenda of the Concerned Citizens."

Stan Peer stated that he has been to many meetings and that the so-called member that should recuse themselves should abstain from voting but can listen.

Patrick Hansen stated, “Raylene, I’m sorry for having to have you write down more.” Ron said, “Raylene has been requesting for the last several months to get a recording device.” Patrick continued, “thank you for putting new building permit form on website, which is beneficial to everyone in this room as to what is required.” He feels hard-pressed to see what the relationship between a Chairman selling land to a hog farm for financial benefit and this situation. He has tremendous care for this entire area. This is a political matter and we will duke it out. Wood Lake Camp & RV has a preliminary injunction against them to halt all actions towards construction. Issued in Nov.

Ricky Danielson stated, “thank you Patrick for bringing up the building permit form on the website. This has not been discussed for the last 8 months that I’m aware of. It should be a Board decision.” Ron asked, “what would need to be changed?” Ricky said, “I believe any changes should be voted on by the Board. The wording has changed.” Ron said it would be put on next month’s agenda.

Dale Halverson mentioned he understood there was an amended Ordinance for mobile homes. Ron and Raylene stated that nothing has come before the Board.

Cindy Jensen commented her concerns for the negative portrayal of a group of neighbors that are concerned for the waterways. Perplexed.

Sam Langenbach asked, “why is the fees for the building permits different between what the Ordinance states and the form states?” Ron said it will be looked at next month’s meeting. “Last month were you reading off of the Ordinance or legal consultation information?” Ron replied, “the Ordinance.”

Cindy Olson said that it had snowed last Wednesday or Friday and wanted to know why some of the roads had not yet been plowed, specifically Meyer Road. She had concerns for an elderly neighbor whom got stuck. Ron said more would be talked about this in the Road Maint. section. Duane said it had been plowed that day, the 18th.

VIII. **Former Wood Lake Bible Camp:** Ron Burg read the following report:

Former Wood Lake Bible Camp

1. It appears the camp is Non-compliant in several areas;
 - a. The lack of permits required for construction completed or in process.
 - b. Towns Mobile Home Park Ordinance.
 - c. The Town’s Driveway Ordinance requiring approval for private roads.
 - d. Plans submitted to other agencies that do not align with Town Ordinances.
2. Samantha Langenbach has obtained copies of each of our ordinances and read aloud the town’s requirement for building permits at our November Board Meeting.
3. Samantha Langenbach has acknowledged her awareness of our Mobile Home Ordinance.
 - a. Section 4, Mobile Home or Manufactured Home Parks, reads:
 - i. *a. No person, after the effective date of this ordinance (February 9, 2011), may construct, install, operate, or maintain, or cause the construction, installation, operation, or maintenance of, a manufactured and mobile home community in the Town of Wood River.*
 - ii. *b. Any more than one mobile home or manufactured home is considered a trailer park and these are prohibited by the Town of Wood River.*
4. Jeff Sventek and Samantha Langenbach took a considerable amount of time at our October Meeting convincing the town of their close involvement with the DNR in their development. The DNR contact they provided was Paul Cook. Paul Cook, does not even work for the DNR.

5. Samantha Langenbach had represented having construction permits from the state approving plans for a manufactured home park. It is found that the agency, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, does not issue building permits at all, they monitor and issue licenses for operations that are primarily concerned with food and recreational safety.
6. Samantha Langenbach represented that 12 campsites had electric and plumbing updated to code and waiting on water tests, where previously only six sets of electrical outlets existed.
7. Samantha Langenbach has been asked directly several times (notably 11/13, 11/14, 12/15) to file the past due permit applications. She has been offered personal assistance and she has been offered multiple alternative formats to ease the paper burden of the many overdue permits that are expected.
8. The abundance of requests and offers of assistance have been met only with resistance, demonstrations of unwillingness and retaliatory behavior in the form of multiple open records requests, burdening the town staff while continuing to ignore our town's requirements.
9. Most of the information known about the group's activities have been submitted to the town by private individuals and government agencies. The actual information provided by the camp is not only insignificant, but it appears methodically selective and confusing.
10. The Camps representatives that have appeared claim to not have any authority and have not demonstrated any willingness to comply with our Town's Ordinances which I find odd, since I have seen her signature on applications submitted to other agencies. I am sending Registered letters with copies of the ordinances to the officers at registered address of the developer to assure they are informed.

Ron said he would be sending copies to camp officers of the Town Ordinances.

John Hennessey stated that he didn't understand what needed permits. We don't have an RV ordinance. Gilbert Meyer believes Mobile Home Ordinance is for mobile homes not RV's. Ordinance was created in 2011 and needs to be re-evaluated.

John Hennessey said, "I think it's sad. I love Big Wood Lake. I went down to the camp. I don't know what is wrong. I've just had too much. It's being mean to your neighbor. Mobile Home and RV are different.

Gilbert Meyer said, "it's taking out of proportion. More focus should be on roads. We're opening ourselves up for legal problems.

Us on Board need to be dealt with in correct manner.

- IX. **2020-2021 Election Board:** Gilbert Meyer made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Election Board as presented by the Clerk. Ron Burg seconded it. All voted in favor. MC.
- X. **Road Maintenance Report, Duane Selander:** Duane said he has been trying to hold back on plowing the gravel roads due to it being hard on the equipment and there is not a snowpack.
 Ron Burg reported:
Road Maintenance
 Lot of snow is already testing our abilities, please note the following information and relay to others to help with some of the frustrations with snow removal.
1. There are 53 miles of Town Road multiply by 2 to cover each side.
 2. The plow truck travels at a low rate of speed to keep control.
 3. Most often the plow truck will have up to 50k lbs of sand in the container dramatically increasing the stopping distance. GET OUT OF THE WAY.
 4. Each measurable snow fall requires about 26 hours of labor to plow, sand/salt, then clear with the grader. This does not include maintenance and breakdowns.
 5. Each plowing removes bulk snow, but the type of blade leaves 1-2 inches of snow remaining
 6. Salt/Sand to help prevent icy surfaces, see #1 53 miles x 2

7. The grader will clear most of the remaining snow and clear the shoulders as well, see #1 regarding 53miles x 2.
8. Gravel Roads need to be frozen before grading can be done to preserve the surface and help avoid spring maintenance.
9. Cost estimate per plow is \$180 Fuel, \$400 Salt/Sand Mix, OT \$500, and \$300 wear & tear totaling an estimated \$1380.

We have submitted applications for Grants from; Local Road Improvements Program to resurface LittleWood Lake Road and possibly some of Rylander Road.

Multi Modal Local Supplement to repair the bridge on North Williams Road and resurface proximity. This project will likely cost near 400k and this grant could cover up to 90% of the cost. There is a limited chance of selection.

I was recently informed that FEMA/WEM reimbursement application was abandoned in 2017. I have since completed the paperwork to prevent loss these funds. This \$12,297.98 is a welcome increase to our Town Funds.

I have recently completed the current year WISLR ratings of each our roads. This is a requirement to receive most grants and other highway aids. The last time this was attempted was in 2017. I was disappointed to see that many of the roads, especially near the lakes were rated a 10. This rating would indicate a road is newly resurfaced with no imperfections. That type of misreporting could negatively impact the towns chances of receiving grants from the agencies that rely on the information

This Spring, the supervisors, Dewey and I will tour each road in the town and update these ratings. John Hennessey suggested we put on a future agenda to discuss putting a wing on the truck to save time and costs. Damon Johnson offered to help out with plowing, if needed.

- XI. **New Town Hall Project Report:** Ron Burg reported: I'm aware that a proposal was made to Burnett Dairy for contaminated soil removal. My opinion remains that we continue pursuing the optimal building placement as long as the option is viable. Gilbert feels we need to move forward and focus on getting this done for the contractor's sake. Will need to get new bids for some items. I feel we need to vote in January for what to do. John Hennessey said that there has not been any positive movement in the last 9 to 10 months.
- XII. **Planning Commission Report, Rick Cunningham:** Rick said he would be setting up a date for a meeting to go over items discussed.
- XIII. **Fire Association Report, Gilbert Meyer:** Gilbert presented the November 18th minutes for our review.
- XIV. **Audit bills and sign disbursements:** Bills were audited and paid.
- XV. **Identify agenda items for next meeting:** Picnic License for American Legion, building permit fee form, discuss putting wing on truck. Sub section of Road maint. Hwy 70 slow zone discussion.
- XVI. **Adjournment:** John Hennessey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Gilbert Meyer seconded it.

Raylene Swanson, Clerk