

January 8th, 2020
Regular Monthly Meeting

The Regular Board of Supervisors meeting was held at the Town of Grantsburg office on January 8th, 2020. Present were Chairman Ron Burg, Supervisors: Gilbert Meyer, John Hennessey, Treasurer Laura McKeag, Operator Duane Selander, and 28 others. Absent was Clerk Raylene Swanson

- I. **Call to order:** Chairman Ron Burg called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** The January 8, 2020 agenda was reviewed. All voted in favor. MC.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from prior Board Meeting:** Gilbert Meyer questioned the verbiage of the Wood Lake Camp items. Gilbert asked it be noted that part VIII numbers 1-10 (specifically 7& 8) of the 12/18/19 minutes were Chairperson Ron Burg's remarks from a printed report that he read at the meeting- not items that were actually discussed or agreed upon by all members of the board. Gilbert made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/18/19 minutes if it will be noted that part VIII reflects that this is Ron's opinion and not the opinion of the board as a whole. Motion 2nd by John Hennessey, motion approved.
- V. **Communications Report:** The clerks' communication report was read by Ron in Raylene's absence as follows: "Notices for this meeting were posted in the Sentinel, on the website, Facebook page, at the town shop, at Burnett Dairy General Store & Cheese Store. We have received some applications for the Deputy Clerk position. We will be performing some initial interviews shortly. I am hopeful a decision can be made by the Board within a month. February 18th is the spring primary. Absentee in-person voting will start after January 28th. One may call after that time to set up an appointment. I am on vacation through January 18th. The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Town of Grantsburg office". (See new business for meeting date changes)
- VI. **Treasurers Report, Laura McKeag:** Treasurer Laura McKeag submitted the December 2019 Treasurers report. The General Checking Balance is \$282,291.42; The Money Market balance is \$1,090,075.96; the CD balance is \$35,949.63. It was also noted that \$253,925.64 is the amount of Property taxes received/in hand as of December 31, 2019. John Hennessey made a motion to approve, 2nd by Gilbert Meyer, motion approved.
- VII. **Planning Commission Report, Rick Cunningham:** Rick read the following statement "Having gone through all nine chapters of the Comprehensive Plan and knowing that the Comprehensive Plan was initially set up to aid our township in the event that the people of Wood River Township wanted to be zoned, in 2010 the people of Wood River voted not to be zoned. However, every 10 years we revisit this plan to see if anything needs to be updated or corrected. Having gone over the nine chapters in the Plan Commission that refer to zoning, the Planning Commission finds no reason to change or alter anything in the plan. Simply put, we find that there is no point to change, correct, alter, or fix a series of documents that aren't broken. Last night (referring to the Planning commission meeting that was on January 7th, 2020) the Planning Commission voted unanimously to not change anything in the 2020/2040 Plan."

The Board will review what the Planning Commission has submitted. No zoning planned in the near future.

Stan Peer suggested we should have some type of regulations in place for the future, Ideas should be submitted to Planning Commission Chairperson Rick Cunningham.

VIII. **Road Maintenance Report, Duane Selander:** Duane reported problems with water running over the road on Wood Lake Rd near the intersection of Maplewood Rd. With the snow & cold temperatures there was a considerable amount of ice/compacted snow in that area. Plowing was needed to remove the frozen chunks from the roadway. Some ditch work was also done to get the water to flow towards the culvert. The road was barricaded for a couple days to warn drivers of the hazard. There is a low spot there that usually only floods in the spring. There are new culverts for this area, but they have not been installed yet.

Discussion on adding Wing blade to the plow truck: John did some research and found that adding a wing blade to our current plow truck could cost as much as \$32,000.00 including installation. In comparison purchasing a new truck with a wing blade included could cost as much as \$164,000.00 plus \$84,000.00 in add-ons. A new truck would be costly, but we need to weigh the cost of maintaining our present truck that is a 2008 Sterling model with 80,000 miles on it that is starting to show considerable wear and tear. The Sterling has had some maintenance issues in the past, parts are becoming harder to find and in turn are expensive. John recommends that we keep the Sterling for awhile. Ron stated we should look into replacing the Sterling in a few years and that it should be a budgeted item. Ron asked Damon(Johnson) for his opinion on the Sterling as Damon works for Burnett County Highway Dept. Damon said the box of the truck is rusting out (from years of salt/sand mixture) and the electrical wiring is corroded. Damon said the box could be repaired/welded to limp it along for a few years.

IX. **Fire Association Report, Gilbert Meyer:** Gilbert presented the December report for our review. Peneflex & USB Financial checks were given to Fire Chief Corey Barnett. Fire Chief Barnett in turn gave the Town a check for \$6844.60 to cover the above mentioned.

X. **Public Forum:** (3-minute limit per person, unless arranged in advance): Stan Peer stated – Would adding a belly blade to the plow truck save a trip of plowing? A new truck would get better mileage, parts for the old truck are getting costly. Stan asked the board to compare the cost of maintaining the old truck to the cost of a new truck.

Patrick Hansen stated that he has requested three things from the Wood Lake Camp; A plan from the developer, the township to send a cease and desist letter to the developer and asked for re assessment of the property. Patrick also stated that there is good progress with cooperation between both parties.

Samantha Langenbach (representative of the Camp) stated that the Kinsella's had originally submitted a permit to the state for an 85-unit RV park to be ½ mile from the shoreline. They have recently withdrawn this permit. The 12 RV/tent sites already on site will remain. Are the current 12 sites in violation? The Camp is working with their lawyer to find this out. The Kinsella's feel they are being singled out as to the alleged requirements for permits from the town. The law firm representing the Kinsella's is working on these issues. A non-profit organization may still take over the operation of the Camp in the future.

Suzanne Vitale stated she is pleased to hear that the permit for the 85 site RV park has been withdrawn.

Gene Soderbeck brought up an ongoing issue with parking on North Shore Drive. People using the landing and/or the park are ignoring the no parking signage, he is worried about there not being enough room on the street for emergency vehicles to get through it there should be a need. When discussing emergency vehicles, it was brought up by John that there are multiple trees in that area that need to be

trimmed. The Town may do it, or have it hired out. Gene wondered if the Town can enforce the wrongful parking. It was stated that Thoreson Park itself is owned by the Legion and that the sheriff's office should be called when vehicles are parked in the wrong.

Beau Danielson asked about a Lawyer being retained for the town with out the Boards approval. Ron stated that he reached out to Norman Bakke to see if he would be available to help the town with upcoming issues that may arise. Bakke charges by the hour if we were to need him for guidance. Beau asked how much Bakke charges – Ron answered \$185.00 hr. The Wisconsin Towns Assn does provide lawyers to ask questions of.

Patrick Carlson also asked about the town retaining a lawyer. Shouldn't it have been on an agenda to vote to retain a lawyer? Ron stated that the lawyer is building a file with our information.

Becky Strabel (reporter from the Leader) asked what's in our budget for legal aid? Ron stated we have a line item in our Town budget for legal aid.

Stan Peer suggested that the Board should make an authorization in advance to be able to hire legal advice at any time.

Rick Cunningham asked if Bakke is a Towns Attorney? No his is not.

Ricky Danielson asked about a letter mentioned in the December 2019 minutes, a letter of violations sent to the Kinsella's – Ron state that he sent a letter from the Town to the Kinsella's. Ricky also asked about building permits/ordinances past and present and that the costs listed don't jive.

Becky Strabel stated that permits are required from the county within 1000 feet of shoreline. She stated she has been to many meetings at the county level that involve shoreline regulations.

Wayne Lake stated that he has built two homes on lakeshore property and his permits were pulled from the county.

Carol Downhour stated that our regulations/permits need to be clarified and supported by documents.

Carol Huff stated that she is glad that the Kinsella's are communicating with all.

Ricky Danielson stated that the Kinsella's had a county land & water study done that has shown no sewage or fertilizer runoff is coming from the camps property. But the same study did show contamination coming from other properties on the Big Wood Lake.

Gene Soderbeck stated that the Kinsella's have done some work on the property to contain/control rainwater run-off. He is also happy that the Kinsella's are having dialog with the rest of the lake residents to address questions.

Rick Cummingham brought up our building permit process. He stated that he went to the county to ask questions about an area that he screened in under an existing deck. The county made him get a \$150.00 permit for the work done. Rick said we (the town & the county) need to all be on the same page when it comes to when a property owner does or doesn't need a permit.

Patrick Hansen also recommends that we cleanup our permit process, so we are all on the same page.

Damon Johnson asked who is going to define the terminology *what is routine maintenance* that is printed on the unapproved building permit form that is on our town website? Damon also asked if we

can fix our “Welcome to Wood River Twsp” signs that are in Highway 70. Duane stated that they are in a swampy area and he will look into straightening up the signs in the spring

- XI. **Former Wood Lake Bible Camp:** the following is copied from chairperson Ron’s notes/in his opinion: “The camp remains non-compliant, but there is some communication. I am assuming Sam L. and her group are working on correcting this. In the fall I asked Samantha for a response to some road damage during their construction. She did contact John Hennessey to preview and Sam relayed to me what she showed to John is all normal wear and tear. Currently, I do not see a reason to continue the Camp on next months agenda”.
- XII. **New Town Hall Project:** MSA will be doing soil remediation on Thursday Jan 9th, 2020. Further testing and additional monitoring wells may go into early summer. June 18th, 2020 should be the time of the report. The DNR needs to close the file on the contaminated site area. The soil investigation may drag on for a long time. It was also noted that Burnett Dairy and CEO Dan Dowling are named in a lawsuit – can any BDC property be transferred or sold while this lawsuit is ongoing? Gilbert stated we shouldn’t let a lawsuit involving BDC hold up our building project. We should go ahead. We already have state approval for the lot that we have, we should go ahead with the property that we already own. John agreed with Gilbert, we should build on our own property as planned. But when or if the time comes that the adjoining BDC lot should come available we should purchase the lot for future use (additions or storage). Wayne Lake stated that he had asked the Town to decide on a definitive start time last November (2019) Wayne can not guarantee a start time in the spring because his subcontractors may already be booked. Wayne also mentioned that not knowing how deep the frost has gone down may affect when construction can begin in the spring. Gilbert asked Wayne how long it would take for him to submit a revised bid – Wayne said probably within the month. Gilbert stated again that we should use our existing property – building in a north/south direction with the entrances facing N. Alpha Dr, the plan that was submitted and approved by the state last year. Gilbert made a motion to build according to the original plan that was approved in the past. The motion was 2nd by John to move ahead with the new Town Hall construction. Ron was a nay vote, motion carried with two votes. Gilbert stated we need to move ahead, the contract with Wayne(Lake Construction) needs to be revised. Being Lake Construction’s bid has expired we may have to open for re-bid. We may have to look over bids again. Not saying that the contract won’t be awarded to Lake Construction again.
- XIII. **Picnic License for American Legion:** Motion made by John to approve Picnic License for the fishing contest to be held on Big Wood Lake in February. Motion 2nd by Gilbert. Motion carried.
- XIV. **Review revised building permit form and fees:** We are trying to get our building permit application to jive with ordinances. A 2002 ordinance needs to be revised and clarified. Some verbiage from the current form (that Laura uses) was omitted from the form that has been posted on the Towns website. For example: “water zoning applies.” And the addition of: “any other project not considered routine” Gilbert made a motion to go with the new form after the addition of “water zoning applies” is added. Motion 2nd by John, all in favor with the addition of “water zoning applies” with an agreement to revisit the 2002 ordinance. Motion carried.
- XV. **New business:** The Town of Grantsburg is asking for a \$50.00 per month janitorial fee for using their meeting space. With winter foot traffic they are asking for this fee. Motion made by John agreeing with the fee of \$50.00 -, motion 2nd by Gilbert. All in favor of paying a \$50.00 per month fee for the use of the Town of Grantsburg’s meeting space while we need it. Ron asked if we could change our February & March meetings nights from the 2nd Wednesdays to the 2nd Tuesdays as he has a schedule conflict for

Wednesdays. John motioned to change February's meeting date to Tues Feb 11th, and March's meeting date to Tues March 10th. With a normal start time of 6:30pm. Motion 2nd by Gilbert. Motion carried.

- XVI. **Audit bills and sign disbursements:** Bills were audited and paid.
- XVII. **Identify agenda items for next meeting:** Town Hall Project – discuss pricing/contracts, citizens request from Joel Johnson to be on the agenda.
- XVIII. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 9.32pm

Meeting minute notes taken and transcribed to the best of my abilities by:
Treasurer Laura McKeag - in Clerk Raylene Swanson's absence.