

Town Board Meeting October 4, 2011

The Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. All board members were present.

The minutes from the September 6th meeting were read. Motion made by Mulder to approve the minutes with three corrections, seconded by Kirchner. Motion passed.

Public Concerns:

- Several township residents were present speaking in opposition to the proposed Badger Coulee Power line which is considering a route through our Township. Residents cite several reasons including decreased land values, health issues, potential for increased rates, no benefits to township residents.
- The Fire Protection Fee assessed by the Sanitary District will be increased starting with the taxes collected in 2012. The increase is necessary in order to cover the cost of the new well and for maintenance and future needs of the Sanitary District. Township portion of the expense is \$15,087.
- The Fire Department grant has been submitted, asking for \$76,210.

Town residents Warren Uhl, Peter VanLaarhoven and Jerry Garvalia spoke against the proposed high power lines considered for our township and western La Crosse County. They presented to the Board Resolution in opposition to CAPX2020 and ATC applications for a 345kV Transmission Line Project. A similar resolution has already been approved in area Townships of Holland and Burns and would be sent to the La Crosse County Board also. A motion was made by Mulder to adopt Resolution 4-2011 opposing both CAPX202 and ATC Badger Power lines, seconded by Kirchner. Motion passed.

Monte McIntyre representing Swiss Valley Farms appeared before the Board requesting a zoning variance for an addition to the Mindoro facility which will encroach 3.5 feet into the setback of County Rd D. Additionally, this request comes to the Board having been recommended by the Farmington Plan Commission. Mr. McIntyre stated that they currently have 44 employees and this addition will add 5 more employees. A motion to approve this variance by Kirchner, seconded by Mulder. Motion approved.

Chairman Hesse shared information regarding the frac sand mining issue as discussed at a recent County Towns Association meeting. Townships are being advised to work with the mining companies to address issues such as blasting times, infrastructure and licensing.

The board considered the recommendation from our Plan Commission to approve the variance for Amy Sikorski, N9640 Hutch Court Road, to build a 32 x 48 pole barn with two lean-to's on either side with the stipulation that a small shed be removed once the new building is up plus the Town Board is to be informed when the new pole barn is up and the old building has been removed. A motion to approve this variance was made by Kirchner, seconded by Mulder. Motion passed.

The Board again considered the request of Leon Pfaff that a road into his property located at N8595 Cty DD be designated as township road. Request was tabled last month to allow Board members opportunity to view the road. Mr. Pfaff assured the Board that the road had been built to township specifications and included an oversized cul-de-sac. A motion was made by Kirchner that due to the amount of maintenance time this road will require, especially during the snowy months, there must be indication that the road will be used by more than one household in

the future. Mr. Pfaff is requested to submit to the Township Plan Commission a certified survey map which indicates the locations of the 3 lots with a minimum of 2 acres each that will use this road. Board will wait to receive a recommendation from the Plan Commission.

Roads:

- Chairman Hesse met with County Highway Commissioner to discuss a possible TRIP application for Herman Coulee Road. A new requirement for this type of funding is that the final project includes bicycle lanes on both sides of the road.
- The recently purchased acetylene torch was beneficial in making the repairs on the guard rail on Schultz Road. The torch allowed our employees to repair rather than replace the damaged guard rail which was a cost savings to the township.

The Board was unable to make decision on the Class "A" Liquor license application for the Farmers Coop as several key pieces of information were missing and the request must be published prior to review. Application to be returned for completion. Board will review at a future meeting.

At the recent Towns Association educational meeting, townships were reminded of the new regulations in place concerning the reflectivity of road sign and the need to address this issue in our township.

The new First Responder vehicle recently arrived and should be ready for use by November 1st. The purchase price of the vehicle was \$84,574. The First Responders made a down payment of \$39,574 and have secured a loan from the Coop Credit Union for \$45,000 at 2.9% interest to complete the purchase. The loan should be paid off in 5 years. They have deposited \$15,000 in a money market at the credit union which will cover the loan payments for the next two years. Through fund raising the group intends to raise the necessary monies to complete the pay off. In addition, they are currently in the process of securing a \$4000 rebate from the manufacturer and will sell the current truck. Both will be used to pay down this loan.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Kirchner to approve receipts 863905 - 863912, seconded by Mulder. Motion passed.

The township checks were reviewed. A motion was made by Mulder to approve township checks 18281 – 18301 and EFT's and fire department checks 1783 – 1785, seconded by Kirchner. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Mulder, seconded by Kirchner at 9:30pm.