

Town Board meeting February 7, 2017

The town board meeting was called order at 7:30pm. Members present: Hesse, Mulder, Anderson, Sacia. Not present: Kirchner

The minutes from the January 3rd meeting were read. A motion was made by Hesse to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Mulder.

Public Concerns

Chairman Hesse spoke of our being designated as a Broadband Forward! Community and the progress being made in getting increased broadband services to our township. We have received our Certificate and met with representatives from the Public Service Commission, Charter and Centurylink. The next step is to map out the areas in our township that need to have upgraded service; this information is then used to complete the application for a state grant which will help cover the costs of installation.

Plan Commission recommendations:

Amanda Scholze appeared before the Board requesting to rezone two acres of tax parcel 5-462-0 from general ag to rural residential in order to construct a single family residence on it. The parcel consists of 30 acres. The driveway to the residence would be off MacIntosh Road. A motion was made by Hesse and seconded by Mulder to approve this rezoning. Township Plan Commission has also approved the request.

Bill and Kathy Hayman appeared before the Board requesting a variance to build a single family residence on the same footprint as the current residence on parcels 5-1232-0 & 5-1245-0. The current residence is located outside setback requirements. A motion was made by Hesse and seconded by Mulder to approve this variance. Township Plan Commission has also approved the request.

Variance to complete construction of porch

Kelly Johnson appeared before the Board requesting a variance to finish the construction of a porch including an ADA compliant ramp on his business located at N9274 Cty Rd C (parcel 5-699-0.) A motion was made by Hesse to suspend the rules and allow the Board to make this decision without prior Plan Commission approval. Johnson will not then be required to appear before our Plan Commission, seconded by Mulder.

Hesse then moved to approve the variance request as stated above, determining that it will make access to the business safer for all as well as improve the outside appearance of the building. Seconded by Mulder.

Consider transfer of liquor license

Board reviewed the current status of the Liquor License currently held by Wesley Watring for his establishment (Wes' Endless Season) which is no longer in operation. Board determined no action is needed at this time. Anyone taking over the business will need to apply for the liquor license as regulated by State Statutes.

Resident fall in parking lot during November election

The claim for payment for the cost of ambulance transportation for the town resident who fell in the town hall parking lot during the November election was submitted to the Township liability insurance company. This claim would fall under the medical payment coverage without admission of liability portion of our insurance plan, which will pay up to \$10,000. The cost of the ambulance was \$1,721.98.

Motion was made by Hesse to approve paying this claim, seconded by Mulder. Clerk to notify the insurance carrier.

Electronic Building Permits

A new state law requires that all building permits for one and two-family dwellings be submitted to the Department of Safety and Professional Services electronically. GEC who currently is doing our building inspections has requested permission to do this filing for us. A motion was made by Mulder to allow GEC to electronically file building permits for the Town of Farmington, seconded by Hesse.

Township attorney vacancy

Dan Arndt, attorney with Arndt, Buswell and Thorn from Sparta was interviewed to be our township attorney. Mr. Arndt explained that he and his entire firm have extensive municipal experience as they currently are retained by several area townships and cities. He assured us that the lawyers and paralegals on staff are well qualified. Mr. Arndt provided an overview of their costs which are billed by the hour ranging from \$85 to \$200 per hour depending on the status and expertise of the individual providing the service. Motion made by Hesse to retain Arndt, Buswell and Thorn for our legal needs, seconded by Mulder.

Roads

- Spring needed to be replaced on one of the town trucks
- New blades put on a snowplow
- Salt will no longer will be available from the County unless it is ordered in advance
- Jewell Engineering is completing the paperwork needed to get the grant monies from the State for the work done on Davis Creek Road.
- Mitigation grant has been submitted to FEMA to raise Herman Coulee Road
- We continue to work with the HoChunk Nation on information regarding their offer to be responsible for some of the costs for road maintenance in the Bells Coulee area.
- Dirk asked if there had been a resolution as yet to get additional black top in front of the post office. Hesse informed that the owner of the building/land will not cover the cost, as of now our post office is looking into using their own maintenance fund to pay for it.

Solid Waste/Recycle

No new business.

Emergency Services

Board reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement for the 9-1-1 Emergency System for 2017. Motion made by Hesse to approve the agreement, seconded by Mulder.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion made by Mulder to approve receipts 135268 through 135275, seconded by Hesse.

The township checks were reviewed. A motion was made by Hesse to approve township checks #20239 through #20284 and the EFTS as well as the Fire Department checks 4290 - 4305. Seconded by Mulder.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm by Hesse, seconded by Mulder.