

Town Board meeting November 7, 2017

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

The minutes from the October 3rd meeting were read. A motion was made by Hesse to approve the minutes with two corrections, seconded by Kastenschmidt. The minutes from the October 26th Special meeting were read. A motion was made by Lash to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Kastenschmidt.

#### Public Concerns

No public concerns.

Jerry Den Boer from Benefit Advisors from Benefit Advisors provided information on health insurance options through Western Wisconsin Municipal Consortium. Rates quoted were less than those of our current carrier with differing levels of coverage available. Board members directed Mr. Den Boer to submit our employees' health information to determine the potential for coverage through the Consortium. Final decision to be made when all information has been gathered.

#### Budget preparations

Board members completed the budget preparations using the health insurance rates currently in place. A motion was made by Kastenschmidt to increase the employee contribution from 5% to 7.5% of the monthly premium. Motion seconded by Lash.

Public Hearing of the Budget and Special Town Meeting to set the levy were scheduled for December 5th at 7:30 with the December town board meeting to follow.

#### Roads

- Board members will continue to get price quotes to replace the town truck and schedule a special meeting to make the final decision on the purchase.
- Chairman Hesse reported that the Road Surface Ratings had been completed and submitted.
- There has been some complaints about a culvert on Lockington Rd which is filling with lime screenings.

#### Solid Waste/Recycling

-The Recycler newsletter is in the final stages of design and layout.

- Board reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement for La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials Program, term of the agreement is January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2027. The agreement includes incremental rate increases over the next several years to help defray the costs of safely disposing of hazardous materials.

A motion was made by Hesse to approve the intergovernmental agreement the Household Hazardous Department, seconded by Kastenschmidt. The cost to township for 2018 is \$1.30 per resident with the current population estimated at 2082.

- Dennis Konze informed that he will gone the end of the month but has arranged for Marv Heinrich to work at the drop-off site in his absence.

#### Emergency Services

- In preparation for applying for a FEMA grant Hesse and Sacia attended the FEMA Informational meeting held recently and the preliminary application has been completed.

- Fire Department is now part of the IAM responding system, which allows members to receive pages via text message and audio text so they will be able to receive emergency calls when outside the range of their pagers. Additionally, they will be able to give feedback and confirm they are responding and receive accurate mapping of the emergency location.

Board discussed moving the township election method from the Caucus process to Nonpartisan Primary process. Currently there are few townships in La Crosse County who continue to select candidates for municipal office through the Caucus process. Board members agreed that changing to the Nonpartisan Primary process would be beneficial and perhaps encourage more participation. The procedure for this change can be found in State Statute 8.05(3)(d) which states "the adoption of the nonpartisan primary ...may be submitted to the electors at any regular election held in the town or at a special election called for the purpose. When a petition requesting adoption of the nonpartisan primary conforming to the requirements of s.8.40 signed by at least 20 electors of the town is filed with town clerk as provided in s. 8.37, the question shall be submitted to a vote." Board members will circulate a petition to have this referendum question placed on the 2018 Spring Election ballot. Signed petitions must be turned into the County Clerk by January 23, 2018 in order for the Referendum to be on the ballot for the April 2018 Spring election.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion made by Lash to approve receipts 541794 through 541800, seconded by Kastenschmidt.

The township checks were reviewed. A motion was made by Lash to approve township checks #20534 through #20562 and the EFTS and the Fire Department checks 4327-4331. Seconded by Kastenschmidt.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45pm.