

Town Board meeting February 13, 2018

The town board meeting was called order at 7:30pm. Board members present: Mike Hesse, Paul Lash, Greg Kastenschmidt , Betty Sacia. Absent: Jodi Anderson

The minutes from the January 2nd were read. Motion was made to approve the minutes with one correction by Lash, seconded by Kastenschmidt.

#### Public Concerns

During the DNR/FEMA visit to our township to review flood damage, they discovered three snowmobile bridges that were constructed without proper permits. The landowners have been notified.

-Operator licenses for Josie Groth, Tiffany Suhanich and Shauna Osley were reviewed. Motion made by Lash to approve all three, seconded by Kastenschmidt.

-Board reviewed the Joint Powers agreement with La Crosse County for 9-1-1 Emergency System. Motion made by Kastenschmidt to approve the agreement, seconded by Lash.

-In 2017 the Farmington 1st Responders received only \$8,000 of the \$15,000 budgeted to them. The remainder was send to them in January 2018 making it necessary to modify the 2018 budget. A motion was made by Lash to increase the 2018 budget amount for the Farmington 1st Responders by \$7,000, seconded by Kastenschmidt. It is not necessary to adjust the budget elsewhere as this money was budgeted but not spent in 2017.

Board discussed the purchase of the four round tables which remain in the town hall after the craft show in December. A motion was made by Kastenschmidt to purchase them from John Storandt at a cost of \$20 each. Seconded by Lash.

Chairman Hesse has been working the Education Field and Small Mine Services Division of the US Department of Labor to create a miner safety (MSHA) training policy for our town employees which is required before they can receive their annual MSHA training. Board to review the completed policy at a future meeting.

Chairman Hesse explained he had spoken with our township attorney regarding the variance concern brought before both the Plan Commission and town board by a resident of the township in reference to the approval for a shed to be built on property on County V. Our attorney concluded that although there is a remnant left in the state statutes, which was missed when updating the statute, that does allow an objection to a zoning decision after it is passed, the objection must be completed in writing within 30 days of its passing. This time has long passed in this situation. Additionally, neither the town board nor the plan commission can ask the County to reopen their decision.

In preparation for the Referendum question that will appear on the April ballot asking voters if our township should move from the caucus process to a non-partisan primary process to nominate candidates for elective offices in the township, the Board reviewed a draft of the explanation which will better explain the referendum question. Motion to approve the verbiage by Lash, seconded by Kastenschmidt.

#### Roads

- Update on the FEMA grant process: met with the FEMA engineer in January, they will determine the estimated costs for repairs and/or resurfacing of Wanlass Rd and the bridge on Wenzel Road.

- FEMA has recommended that we apply for mediation grant monies to make the needed improvements on Wanlass Road.
- County TRID committee met in January to review the applications for road work in the La Crosse county. Our application for Wanlass Rd was selected as number two and will be moved forward to the WisDOT for final approval.
- No update on the replacement of the water pump on the new town truck, we will continue to rent it until the issue has been rectified. A vibrator was added to the salt/sand box.
- Board discussed the need to replace the 3-point mowers this year, bids will be solicited.

#### Emergency Services

The Fire Department is moving forward with looking for funding for SCBA units. They will need 14 of them along with 16 masks at a cost of approximately \$8000 each. The air tanks have a 15 year life.

#### Solid Waste/Recycling

No new information.

Board discussed the need to put up signage informing that town residents can help themselves to a limit of two five-gallon pails of salt/sand mixture per trip.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made by Kastenschmidt to approve receipts 541521 through 541537, seconded by Lash.

The township checks were reviewed. A motion was made by Kastenschmidt to approve township checks #20629 through #20695 and the EFTS and the Fire Department checks #4334 through #4352. Seconded by Lash.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.