

TOWN OF DRUMMOND

Bayfield County
Drummond, Wisconsin 54832



Notice of the meeting and amended agenda was posted at the Post Office and website on February 11, 2024.

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING: February 13, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m. in the Civic Center by Roy Bloom, Chair.

ATTENDANCE: Roy Bloom, Chair; Scott McKinney, Supervisor; Jeff Hurula, Supervisor; Pam Kalies, Treasurer; Andy Tuttle, Clerk; Mark Jerome, Public Works Director; 4 members of the public.

MINUTES: Motion by Hurula, second by McKinney to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 and January 19, 2024 town board meetings. CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kalies reported the following balances are in town accounts as of 1/31/2024: Checking \$546,543.40, Savings \$257.38, Tax Savings \$651,349.68 and LGIP \$524,871.88.

ROAD REPORT: Mark Jerome reported:

- Zeilie's just finished the tree trimming project on Lake Owen Drive.
- The crew continues brushing along Tri Lakes and Longview Roads.
- Truck #2 continues to have mechanical problems. It was taken to Cummins for diagnosis. They believe it was an oil cooler.
- The LRIP grant funding paperwork is complete and is working through the system.

AMBULANCE: Roy shared a report of the ambulance operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

HORSE PASTURE GRADE: Nels Reid, USFS Civil Engineer, addressed the board concerning Forest Road 396/Horse Pasture Grade. This road has large trees growing in and leaning into the ROW. Jerome had asked the Forest Service for permission to remove the trees to widen portions of the road. The FS cannot authorize cutting of any tree unless it is paid for. They are willing to direct sell the trees to be cut at an estimated cost of less than \$100. The Town would have to contract with a third party to cut and remove the trees. Reid agreed to have the timber crew re-evaluate the trees to be cut. Motion by McKinney, second by Hurula to proceed with re-evaluation of the trees to be cut and with a direct sale of the trees to be removed. CARRIED.

SUE ROSA: Introduced herself as a candidate for County Supervisor District 13.

WAKE ENHANCEMENT ORDINANCE: Ed Ronkowski, Lake Owen Assn. Board, introduced a draft of a wake enhancement ordinance for Lake Owen. Ronkowski explained the how the Association came to propose a wake enhancement ordinance. The draft ordinance will need to be forwarded to the DNR for approval prior to adoption by the town board. The clerk will forward the draft ordinance to the DNR for approval.

MOBILE HOME PARKING FEE ORDINANCE: There are 11 cabins situated on Forest Service (FS) property that have been taxed as personal property. Since the repeal of the property tax, all buildings are now taxed as improvements to the parcel. However, since these cabins are located on FS property, the FS is exempt from paying any property tax. The FS has made it clear that they will not pay nor collect any property tax for these improvements. The Town Assessor is recommending the Town adopt a mobile home parking fee ordinance. This is an ordinance that essentially allows the Town to collect the tax in the form of a fee for

“improvements” on leased land. The board discussed the matter and will look into such an ordinance and will consider having an attorney review to make sure it is legal to do so.

NEW TRUCK QUOTES: The older plow truck is scheduled for replacement in 2026. Jerome has requested moving the purchase up to 2025 to avoid costly changes in emissions standards that will take effect in 2026. In order to get a new truck by 2025 it needs to be ordered now. There would be no expense incurred in 2024. Jerome would like to get an identical truck to the newer one for ease of maintenance and replacement parts. A new truck has an estimated cost \$295,000 with our trade-in worth about \$80,000. Jerome will obtain quotes to approve next month.

BUDGET AMENDMENT: In December, the board approved a budget amendment to increase the library budget by \$11,483 to cover the increase of the librarian’s health insurance as family plan. Since that time, the need for a family insurance policy is no longer needed. Motion by McKinney, second by Hurula to adjust budget to remove the \$11,483 from the library line item and move it back to the highway budget. CARRIED.

SMALL CLAIMS: The Town was served with a small claims lawsuit by Chad Pierce for damages incurred to his business while taking down a portion of the park pavilion. Bloom had spoken with the insurance adjuster. She would try to contact Chad and work on an agreement. If he was not amenable, then she would hire counsel.

BILLS: Motion by Hurula, second by McKinney to approve checks #4523 through #45238 including debits and direct deposits for payment of bills. CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next Town Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024 in the Civic Center at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.