

TOWN OF FIFIELD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Minutes of September 19th, 2023

The meeting was brought to order on September 19th, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Fifield Town Hall
This meeting was being recorded by reporter Trevor Greene of the Lakeland Times.

ROLL CALL: William Felch, Ann Sloane, John Smith, also present K. Kleinschmidt, T. Fleming and 21 others
The pledge of allegiance was recited

VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC POSTING: This agenda was posted at the Town Hall, Post Office, Pike Lake Fire Hall and on the Town of Fifield's website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: One resident asked if the Board could speak louder so everyone could hear what was being said. Another resident wanted to remind everyone that the EMR issue started with the buoy placement and feels the EMS member chose his poor judgement. She states other fire departments would have terminated on the spot, that the Chief should not be the one investigating his own department and that the Chairperson dropped the ball on this. When the HR position is filled, she would like to see some changes to the Policies & Procedures manual regarding a new section on code of ethics and having a third party do the investigating when there is a conflict. This resident also does not agree with a statement in the character letter that was written on behalf of the EMS member by another resident regarding other residents having a mob mentality.

APPROVE MINUTES MEETINGS: After a brief discussion and clarification regarding the FD#2 report from the August 15th meeting, A **MOTION** was made by J. Smith and A Sloane to approve and accept the minutes.

CEMETERY REPORT: The report was reviewed and accepted.

CLERK/TREASURER: Financial reports were reviewed and accepted. The Clerk asked the Board to approve paying an additional bill for Cy's Drive and a bill for the additional cost of workers comp after a premium audit was done. A **MOTION** was made to pay these bills by J. Smith and A. Sloane, motion carried. The Clerk also presented the bill for the new furnaces for the town hall and discussed possibly needing to do a budget amendment transfer of money to cover this cost, a **MOTION** to transfer funds to cover the cost of the furnaces, if necessary, was made by A. Sloane and J. Smith, motion carried. Draft worksheet packets were given to the Board to start the budget process. A budget review was set for October 9th at 3:00 pm and the Budget Hearing was set for November 7th at 6:00 pm. The Clerk handed in her resignation. There was a brief discussion on focusing on placing the ad for a clerk/treasurer and holding off on placing the ad for the HR position. They would like to tentatively get applications in by October 17th. Consideration for two meetings a month and the topic of the agenda format were tabled until the next regular board meeting. The Clerk would like to get input from the WTA regarding the agenda format.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

FIRE #1 REPORT: They had 6 EMS calls and 0 fire calls. They held a 911 Tribute. They formed a committee to start reviewing their SOP's.

FIRE #2 REPORT: They had 1 EMS call and 0 fire calls. Chief Johnson shared an estimate for repair on a failing side suction valve on Engine 340 and requested funds from his reserves to cover the costs. The Clerk will check with the WTA if this can be done. Chief also requested to be appointed fire inspector for his district, but now has rescinded that request and will go through a company out of Eagle River.

TOWN CREW REPORT: Road Superintendent T.Fleming reported Cy's Drive is done. They finished up the shouldering. This year is a pacer year, he rates the roads and turns in a report. Working on the annual gas tax map. Supervisor J. Smith asked where the engineering is at on the Walnut Street project, Cooper Engineering was present and stated that they are finalizing the plans and will start advertising for bids in November. T. Fleming shared the new dump truck should be here next week..

TRANSFER SITES REPORT: T. Fleming had nothing new to report. There was two incident reports filled out. One for the Pike Lake site regarding Fun Days and clean up and the other for the Old 13 site regarding disorderly conduct.

NORTH BORUTA & PINE STREET UPDATES: The Town's attorney is working on the sections of these roads to be part of the gas tax map. A **MOTION** was made to accept these roads was made by A. Sloane and J. Smith, motion carried. These sections can be part of the WISLR report when done.

EMR INCIDENT OF 6-26-23 UPDATE: A **MOTION** was made to move to closed session at 6:35 pm. VV 3-0.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION, A **MOTION** was made at 6:42 pm. VV 3-0 An agreement regarding the disciplinary action to be taken has been reached and will need to be signed by all parties.

CORRESPONDENCE: Board general correspondence was reviewed; an email from PLCLA inviting Board members to their listening session on Sept. 23rd., an email from a resident on Cy's Drive regarding fire number sign and property markers, public hearing notice from Vilas County regarding their Comprehensive Plan, letter from the USFS closing cooperative agreement for FR 535 and 535A and a copy of the signed fire protection agreement with Town of Flambeau.

REVIEW PAID INVOICES: Paid invoices were reviewed and accepted

ADJOURN: A **MOTION** was made to adjourn at 6:55 PM by J. Smith and A. Sloane, motion carried.

These minutes were revised on 10-11-2023 and will be approved at the next scheduled regular board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,