

# MINUTES OF REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

## MARCH 19, 2024 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order on March 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Fifield Town Hall.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: William Felch, John W. Smith, Crystal Cowling, Kelly Kleinschmidt, Ted Fleming, and approximately 18 public attendees. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**VERIFICATION OF POSTING:** Deputy Clerk verified agenda was posted at the Fifield Town Hall, Fifield Post Office, and Town of Fifield website. Deputy Clerk also asked who could be a back up to post agenda's and/or minutes at the Pike Lake Firehall, W. Johnson volunteered.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Resident stated that he felt informational meetings should be taken place so the residents have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the Walnut Street Project. Chairperson Felch will contact Cooper Engineering regarding an information meeting for the public to attend.
- Bay Road resident noted that the surveying has started on Bay Road and asked again what direction or plan does the Town Board have for this road. Chairperson Felch stated that nothing will be decided until after the survey is done and the road tour has taken place.
- Resident commented on the tree cutting on Maple Street and stated that a notice would have been appreciated. The Board shared in the future there will be a letter going out to residents notifying them of any work being done. This will be coordinated by the Road Superintendent and the Clerk(s). The Road Superintendent informed the Board that Xcel Energy will be hiring someone to take down the large trees on Spruce Street.
- Resident read his statement regarding the rules and procedures for open and closed meetings for the HR position and in general.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes of February 6, 2024 and the revised minutes of February 20, 2024 were submitted for review and approval. Motion by J. Smith and seconded by W. Felch to accept and approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**CEMETARY REPORT:** no report submitted.

### **CLERK/TREASURER:**

- Review and discussed profit & loss statements; pointed out that most of the budget for road construction has gone to pay the balance due for Cy's Drive and half of the budget for cemetery has already gone for tree removal, the cemetery received a quote of \$4,000 for stump grinding. Other finances discussed were the ambulance agreement has gone up to \$25,001 and the fee for WisVote has gone up to \$3,232, which has tripled.
- The incident statement and invoices have been forwarded to Horton Ins re damaged headstone.
- Deputy Clerk K. Kleinschmidt share emails and information with the Board regarding an adjustment on the tax levy worksheet that was done last fall. She did not know nor receive Board approval for this adjustment of \$6,600. The D.O.R. has stated that no action will be taken for this error.
- Election work is under way, absentee ballots sent out and the PreLat was done on the tabulator machines.
- Santa's Elves have asked if they could hold their meetings (estimated 4 meetings) at the town hall and not have to pay the rental fee, the Board approved not charging the rental fee.
- The Clerk gathered information regarding the cost for faster internet at the Pike Lake Firehall, the fire chief approved of the change and between them and PLCLA the cost increase will be covered. The Clerk will contact Century Link to set up.
- The IT person updated our security. A MOTION to approve the disclaimer and password for guests to use the internet while at the town hall by J. Smith and W. Felch. Motion carried.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENTS:**

- *Fire Dept #1* - had 2 EMR Calls; 1 fire assist for Park Falls; Cornhole Tournament was a great success, and they are applying for an APG grant for new air packs & tanks.
- *Fire Dept #2* – had review from the State with no issues; 6 fire fighters attended the DNR training in Mercer and 6 fire fighters attended ice rescue training on Round Lake. New equipment has been purchased through Fire Inc. Starting to gather bids for a mini pumper, selling the squad to make room. Chief Johnson has been cleared to be back 100%. The Board asked if Chief has finished and submitted letter to the Sheriff's Dept for dispatching, Chief said not yet.

**TOWN CREW REPORT:**

- Sand inspection went well, no repairs needed.
- All roads have been posted now.
- The full-time and part-time road crew attended MSHA class.
- It was decided that the Road Superintendent will do the culvert inventory.
- Mentioned that a new posting box is needed for outside the hall, the Board approved this and T. Fleming will price some out.
- The survey has started on Bay Rd, when finished the surveyor will meet with Road Superintendent and Chairperson.
- The Board discussed with the Road Superintendent to start having a policy for notifying residents of any upcoming right of way work and/or maintenance scheduled for their road.

**TRANSFER SITES REPORT:** Nothing new to report.

**REVIEW OF FINANCING FOR WALUNT STREET PROJECT/TRI-D:** Financing for the project was reviewed and discussed; A MOTION to set up the loan with Forward Bank to have interest only paid next March and then make one annual payment after tax settlement was made by J. Smith and seconded by W. Felch, motion carried. The loan will be for \$701,897.02 with a contingency of 10%. The monies will be paid out in draws as needed.

**REVIEW QUOTE FOR PRICE COUNTY UNITED LIMITED RE: RELOCATION OF HILGY'S LP:** This will be tabled for a future meeting.

**SET DATE FOR ROAD TOUR:** The Road Tour will be done on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Everyone will meet at the Town Hall at 8:00 am.

**REVIEW OF FLAMBEAU FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT:** The current agreement is for \$14,000. With rising costs, the Board would like to increase that to \$17,000 starting in 2025. A MOTION was made to approve this increase by W. Felch and seconded by J. Smith, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Driveway Permit request
- Zoning for campsites at Moose Jaw
- Property to be put in FML
- Letter from forester re tree removal on Turner Lake Rd for ROW
- Letter offering ditch mowing and brushing services
- Notice from Price Electric re clearing out by power lines

**REVIEW PAID INVOICES:** Paid invoices were reviewed and accepted.

**ADJOURN:** MOTION made by J. Smith and seconded by W. Felch to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm, Motion carried.

***These minutes are a draft until approval at the next scheduled regular board meeting.***

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal M. Cowling, Clerk/Treasurer  
Kelly E. Kleinschmidt, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

3/20/2024