

TOWN OF FIFIELD

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2024 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chairmen Felch called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Fifield Town Hall. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL: Present: William Felch, John W. Smith, Crystal Cowling, Kelly Kleinschmidt, Ted Fleming, and approximately 28 public attendees. Absent: Ann Sloane

VERIFICATION OF POSTING: Clerk verified the public postings at: Town of Fifield Website, Fifield Town Hall, Fifield Post Office, and Pike Lake Fire Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) President of the Dirt Devils ATV/UTV Club reported he has been in contact with the DOT and WATVA regarding their request. He found other ordinances for this kind of matter. The DOT would do the signage, there would be a contract to build the shoulders up. Has talked to a few of the homeowners, they seem ok with this, due to their driveways being included in the work being done. States again, the Town's approval is just the first step, and this process could take over a year.
- 2) Resident had done an open records request asking for copies of the statements for the Town's legal fees, after reviewing and stating that legal expenses are up 27%, he has suggestions: **a)** noted invoices are too vague and that the Town should request more detail. **b)** Minutes should include more details; this is the Town's history **c)** questioned Chairperson Felch as to how long he has been Chair; Chairperson Felch responded 5 years; **d)** feels there is no compromise or middle ground, and until the Board admits there is a problem, nothing will be corrected.
- 3) Resident noted he is strongly opposed to ATV/UTV travel on the highway; feels a thorough review has not been done and shows a lack of concern for the residents; reminded the Board that they represent all Fifield residents. Then he went on to read a timeline he proposes the Board follow when deciding this matter.
- 4) Resident questioned again the discipline of the EMR person from the 6-26-2023 incident, asking if the Town has been paid back for the postage on the apology letters sent out; some of the letters were not received and that his actions since are a pattern of behavior. Another resident came up and offered the clerk \$5.00 for the postage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of June 4, 2024, and June 18, 2024, were presented for review and approval. **MOTION** made by J. Smith and seconded by W. Felch to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CEMETARY FINANCIALS/REPORT: financials were submitted by cemetery administrator and accepted.

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:

- 1) Bank statements, balance sheet and profit and loss were reviewed. There was a brief discussion on the profit and loss regarding how the budget looks to date.
- 2) The clerk's office received a phone call regarding payment to Superior Sealers LLC for crack filling, he would like to pick up his check asap, the invoice says due 7-27-2024, the deputy clerk stated the funds are there and asked the Board if they would like to consider a short term loan, ask the County for an advance on the August tax settlement or hold off until we receive the tax settlement at its normal time. Board discussed and approved holding off until we receive the tax settlement at its normal date.

- 3) Review of Public Comment Guidelines. Board members stated they appreciate having concerns brought to their attention, but the public must stick to the five-minute limit and do not make their public comment(s) personal. A **MOTION** was made by J. Smith and seconded by W. Felch to keep the public comment section on the agenda as is, with the use of a timer in the future. Motion carried, VV 2-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Fire Department #1: 9 EMR Calls; 3 Fire Calls; Pig Roast and Fifield Picnic went well.
- Fire Department #2: 3 EMR Calls with 2 assists and one missing person. Mini Pumper is still in production and the title for the squad has arrived and is available to be sold.

TOWN CREW REPORT: Sailor Lake Road was damaged from storms/rain – gravel and grading fixed it; crack filling is complete; 2 culverts replaced; finished sidewalks on Balsam and Pine Streets; Thorofare Bridge was inspected, and some work will need to be done, the town crew should be able to do the repairs. The TRI-D project will potentially start in the middle of August depending on weather.

TRANSFER SITE REPORT: problems with dump cards continue as short term rental properties do not have cards and the turnover of residents was discussed. Discussed the possibility of including a reminder on how and where to get a dump card in the tax statement flyer. Four Incident Reports were filled out, two regarding the actions of a resident with the attendant, this is under review yet; two incident reports regarding a resident not showing his card or paying and just driving off, the clerk will send him a letter to verify that he has a dump card.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DIRT DEVILS ATV/UTV CLUB: J. Smith not comfortable signing this letter due to the safety issues of being on a state highway; W. Felch indicated the first step in the process and that there should be no cost to the Town (the State, County and ATV Assoc. would be covering costs per Club President). The Club President states this would benefit the whole County and other counties have approved of this kind of situation. A resident asked that more research be done on this matter and presented to the Board again. This matter will be TABLED for a future meeting.

UPDATE ON WALNUT STREET: noted weather is a huge factor and looking at a mid-August start date.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercise responsibility. Employee evaluations. **MOTION** made at 7:15 pm by W. Felch and seconded by J. Smith to convene to closed session. Motion Carried. VV 2-0

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: **MOTION** made at 7:40 pm by J. Smith and seconded by W. Felch to reconvene to open session. Motion carried. VV 2-0 Noted closed session matters will be passed to the town attorney for his review.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Request from Meredith Hueckman to attend meeting and introduce herself as one of the candidates for County Clerk
- Xcel Energy – informing that they will be installing smart meters in the next 30 days.

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 7:40 pm. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE A DRAFT UNTIL APPROVAL AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Cowling, Clerk/Treasurer
Kelly Kleinschmidt, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

