

October 13, 2020

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Due to precautions being taken for the Covid 19 virus pandemic, remote attendance for this meeting was an option.

Board members attending remotely were Bryce Black, Richard McDermott, Curt Stine and Donna Juleff. Josh Manor joined remotely at 6:50 p.m.

Town Clerk Maureen Manore was present in the Town Hall and was signed into the meeting on-line. Carl Morsbach was present at the Town Hall.

Also attending remotely was Debra Fisher.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the September 8, 2020, meeting were read. The minutes stood as read.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for September was examined. The ending balance for September was \$271,770.72.

Citizens' Concerns

Carl Morsbach commented that the recent road construction on Bear Pen Road, which raised the road bed and scooped out the ditches, has made it difficult for him to turn into his field road while driving a semi with a large trailer without damaging the new blacktop. He suggested refilling the road ditch, as he contends drainage has never been a problem on that side of the road. Bryce Black will contact Pepin County Highway Foreman Dale Carothers about meeting with Morsbach at the site to discuss options.

Cemetery Maintenance Update

Debra Fisher reported that two of the four tree removal services she contacted about taking down the large pine tree in Little Plum Cemetery replied with a bid. Out on a Limb quoted \$1500 to cut it down or \$2600 to cut down and remove debris. Timber Ridge quoted \$2000 to cut, chip brush, leave wood, \$2800 to remove the wood. For an extra \$475 they would remove the stump, clean up and replace the topsoil.

Fisher also provided information about responsibility for damage to headstones. If the original purchaser is available, then they are responsible. Bryce Black asked if the tree service companies' insurance would cover any damage.

Fisher has applied a lichen removal product called D2 to several headstones. She provided photos of the Kuesel headstone during the clean-up process. The Board agreed to reimburse her for future purchases of D2 for use in the Town's cemeteries.

Bryce Black asked Fisher to contact Expert Tree Service in Menomonie for a bid and ask about their policy if damage occurs.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings were attended.

Dairyland Power Update

Bryce Black receives weekly emails from Dairyland Power on their progress. Work is continuing on County Road N and County Road SS. Curt Stine reported he has been watching some of the work from his deck, and was impressed with the large helicopter used to place new lines across the Chippewa.

Road Reports

Bryce Black reported that Bear Pen Road blacktop project was completed. The road was ditched and seeded down. Black spoke to Consultant Dan Fedderly about the road access problem reported by Carl Morsbach. Fedderly is willing to design a road access.

Bryce Black has completed and returned the annual road certification packet from the Department of Transportation.

Black checked with the WTA about the Town's authority to do road construction work on private property in relation to the request from Tony Gates to widen the turnaround at the end of Myer's Lane. WTA Attorney Laura Carlson informed Black that the Town does not have the authority to do maintenance or construction on private property; the Town would first need to purchase the property or get a legal easement. The Board

discussed this possibility but was reluctant to go to the expense of the legal work required. Black will inform Gates.

Black asked Highway Commissioner Bob Platteter for assistance in entering road construction and maintenance information into the WISLR website. Platteter agreed.

The Town's request to the County for bridge aid for the Swede Ramble bridge project has been accepted by the Pepin County Highway Committee; it still needs to go before the County Board. If approved the Town would receive \$35,947 in aid from the county, in addition to the 70% funding from the LRIP grant. Crack filling has been done on Byington Road, Boyd Springs Road and Gates Hill Road.

Routes to Recovery Grant

Maureen Manore presented some information on the grant. The Town is eligible to receive \$5,804 reimbursement on money spent for COVID related expenses that were not previously budgeted for. Manore estimates approximately \$1,000 of expenses that could be reported so far. Manore reported that she thought the ending date for reporting the expenses is November 6th. (actual ending date – November 17th, November 6th is the end date for incurring expenses)

A town official needed to be designated to list the expenses on the application. Manore requested that the Board also approve that Bryce Black could authorize further expenses that occurred before the end date. Richard McDermott suggested that a drop box for tax payments could be purchased and reimbursed by this grant. The Board agreed.

Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to authorize Maureen Manore as the designated town official for entering expenses into the Routes to Recovery Grant application and to authorize Bryce Black to approve purchases to be entered into the grant application. Roll call vote, the results as follows: Josh Manor – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Curt Stine yes; Bryce Black – yes; Richard McDermott – yes. Motion carried. Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to authorize Bryce Black, Maureen Manore and Michael Albert to sign checks for payment of purchased items that are eligible for the Routes to Recovery Grant reimbursement. Roll call vote, the results as follows: Donna Juleff – yes; Curt Stine yes; Bryce Black – yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Josh Manor – yes. Motion carried.

2021 Budget Preparation

The Board examined the proposed budget for 2021. The proposed levy will remain at \$121,649.

Set Date for Budget Hearing

Set Date for Special Meeting of the Town Electors

The Board set the date for the Budget Hearing as November 17, 2020, to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Frankfort Town Hall. The date for Special Meeting of the Town Electors to approve the 2020 Town tax levy to be paid in 2021 was set for November 17, 2020, immediately following the Budget Hearing.

Approve Payment of Bills

The Chair examined and approved the payment of the October bills paid by check 10927 through 10936. The Board confirmed approval of the itemized bills with a roll call vote, the results as follows: Josh Manor – yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Curt Stine yes.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday November 17, 2020 following the Budget Hearing and Special Meeting of the Towns Electors which begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall. A tentative Town Board meeting agenda will cover: Town Board Minutes, Financial Report, Citizens' Concerns, Dairyland Power Update, Cemetery Maintenance Update, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Road Reports, Adopt 2021 Budget, and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:50 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk