

May 19, 2020

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:51p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 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 Josh Manor. Donna Juleff was present at the Town Hall.

Town Clerk Maureen Manore was also present in the Town Hall and was signed into the meeting by speakerphone. Plan Commission Chair Don Gisch attended remotely.

No other citizens were present at the Town Hall. Debra Fisher attended remotely.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the April 19, 2020, meeting were examined. The minutes stood as drafted.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for April were examined. The ending balance for April was \$284,622.13.

Citizens' Concerns

Bryce Black received a call from Ed Heit about land Heit owns across County Road N from Dead Lake. Heit complained about survey, easement and access problems. Bryce Black looked up the property in question on Pepin County's online tax parcel viewer. Heit's land is located on a County Road, so the Town has no jurisdiction regarding access.

Bryce Black was contacted by Ed Harmon concerning the demolition and removal of the Morsbach rental house that recently burned. Morsbach was asking about knocking it down and burying it. Black contacted the Fire Department Chief Jamie King who said that the DNR recommends against burning houses with asphalt shingles and that it should not be buried.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

Bryce Black attended a Zoom conference on Remote Conferencing sponsored by the Local Government Center and the Wisconsin Towns Association. Presenters advised how to conduct remote meetings while ensuring reasonable accessibility in order to comply with open meeting requirements.

Dairyland Power Transmission Upgrade

The Plan Commission and Zoning Administrator met remotely with Rob Maly of Dairyland Power Cooperative on May 13th. Plan Commission Chair Don Gisch reported that the Conditional Use Permit was discussed. The CUP application submitted by Dairyland to the Town of Waterville was looked over as an example. Zoning Administrator Dan Fedderly gave instructions to Maly as to what needed to be included in the application for the Town of Frankfort. Dairyland Power would like to start construction on July 20th. The application has been received by the Clerk and the next Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for May 27th at 2:00 p.m.

The Board discussed the Conditional Use sections in the Town's Zoning Ordinance, mainly the lack of clarity concerning utilities. It was decided it would be best to amend the ordinance

before granting the Conditional Use Permit. Don Gisch will speak to Dan Fedderly about the amendment.

Cemetery Maintenance

Debra Fisher said that she took a look at the Little Plum Cemetery and noted that it was in need of some maintenance. She offered to remove the old outhouse, which has a tree growing up through the middle of it, and to dig up the brush from five overgrown sites. This would be done at no cost or liability to the Town.

Bryce Black contacted Rural Mutual Insurance Company to ask about the liability issue and was told Fisher would be regarded as a Town employee and covered for liability.

The Board discussed the proposal and agreed to it.

Debra Fisher will also contact the Arkansaw Memorial Cemetery sexton for advice on headstone maintenance.

Road Reports

Bryce Black received a report on the condition of the Town's bridges. One of the five bridges included was not in the Town. The Chair will ask the County Highway Department to take care of the needed repairs.

As a precaution against Covid 19 infection, the Town's traditional annual all-Board road tour was cancelled and Chair Bryce Black conducted the road tour by himself on May 8th and May 11th. While touring he stopped and talked to John Peterson about his request to build a second driveway to access a recently built pole shed on his property on Plum Valley Road. The new driveway would only be 30 feet from the existing driveway, but this would be the safest option. For proper drainage, he will need to have two culverts, and the Town may need to re-ditch the town road coming down the hill west of the Petersons' current driveway. The Board discussed the list of proposed maintenance and repairs that had Black drawn up based on his solo road tour observations. When the County Highway Department supplies estimates, Black will prioritize the list and get the repairs started.

The Board briefly discussed the Multimodal Local Supplemental Grant to replace the bridge on Swede Ramble. There is a six-year window to complete the project.

Intergovernmental Highway Maintenance Agreement

Bryce Black received an email from Pepin County Administrative Coordinator Pam Hansen acknowledging receipt of the letter Black drafted and sent on behalf of the seven Towns that utilize the County Highway Department to do their road work. In the letter, the seven Chairs asked to meet with the Highway Committee to re-draft the Intergovernmental Highway Maintenance Agreement proposed by the outgoing Highway Commissioner.

The Highway Committee is in the process of hiring a new Commissioner and has not yet scheduled the requested meeting with the Towns.

Zoom or Uberconference Subscription

Due to the current concerns surrounding the COVID 19 pandemic, the Board has found it prudent to conduct its meetings remotely. In order to comply with the open meeting laws, all meetings must be reasonably accessible to the public. The Board discussed the merits and drawbacks of the more popular remote conference platforms.

Curt Stine made a motion, seconded by Josh Manor, for the Board to pay for a one-year subscription to Zoom at the least expensive Pro level. A roll call vote was held, the results as follows: Richard McDermott – yes; Curt Stine – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Josh Manor – yes; Bryce Black - yes.
The motion carried.

Discuss WI Act 185, s. 105(25) Waiver of Interest and Penalties

This Act, signed into law 4/15/20, would allow taxation districts to waive interest and penalties on late property tax installment payments. A municipality can only do so if their County Board adopts a resolution to allow for this. The Pepin County Administrative Committee decided against sending such a resolution to the County Board. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Approve Payment of Bills

The Chair examined and approved the payment of the May bill paid by check 10876, and bills to be paid by checks 10877 through 10882. The Board confirmed the approval with a roll call vote, the results as follows: Curt Stine – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Josh Manor – yes; Richard McDermott – yes.

The next board meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall. A tentative Town Board meeting agenda will cover: Special Hearing on Liquor License Application, Tobacco Sales License Application, Town Insurance Review, Town Board Minutes, Financial Report, Citizens' Concerns, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Road Reports, Intergovernmental Highway Maintenance Agreement and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:20 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk