

September 14, 2021

Town Chair Brad Anderson called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. The meeting was held in the Frankfort Town Hall and on Zoom.

Chair Anderson and Board Supervisors Donna Juleff and Josh Manor and Town Clerk Maureen Manore were present in the Town Hall and were signed into the meeting on-line. Supervisors Curt Stine, Richard McDermott, Plan Commission Chair Don Gisch attended remotely.

Also present in the Town Hall was Sheriff Wener and Austin Bignell.

Attending remotely were Bryce Black, Lily Arbore, Salley Baecker, Douglas Dumas and Ann Dumas.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the August 10, 2021, meeting were read. Aside from spelling corrections, the minutes stood as submitted.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for August was read. The ending balance for August was \$310,509.29. The Board was provided a copy of the August bank statement for verification.

Citizens' Concerns

Chair Anderson reminded the citizens attending that the amended ATV/UTV Ordinance has not been enacted yet and was just a draft at this point. He also reminded them that the Board was elected to make these decisions and was not obligated to hear citizens input but chose to do so as a matter of open communications.

Ann Dumas said that the ATV/UTV survey results indicated that a lot of the respondents wanted an opt in/out option. And that each citizen had equal rights.

Douglas Dumas said that Goatback Road has a lot of blind driveways and any speed over 30 mph on an ATV resulted in fishtailing and drifting.

Lily Arbore referred to the draft petition form, saying that the "Reason for Opting In/Out" gave no indication of what the Board would think was a valid reason. She asked about fairness to those that don't want it.

Bryce Black stated that he had sent written comments on additions to the draft ATV/UTV ordinance, adding "Residents" and suggested the ordinance should list parameters for opting out.

Sally Baecker said that there was a Right to Farm law. The Board should go with the majority and be clear what the majority was. She asked who takes care of damage caused by the ATV riders. The answer was that it would be a civil matter.

Austin Bignell said that he rode ATV a lot up north and it seemed like towns that had all the roads open has less congestion.

Donna Juleff has heard from Monica Whitwam about a fencing concern. It turned out to be a property line dispute over which the Board has no jurisdiction.

Sheriff Wener said that he came to the meeting to touch base with the Board which he tries to do every two years. He said that the Pepin County Highway Committee has passed an amendment to the Pepin County ATV/UTV Ordinance which opens all County roads as routes, removes the time and date restrictions and allows 12 year olds to drive under direct supervision. The amendment still needs to go to the full County Board. There has been an increase in methamphetamine activity in the area and an increase in thefts of catalytic converters and other items. There has also been an increase in mental health problems.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

None

Plan Commission Report – Zoning Ordinance Review Progress

Plan Commission Chair Don Gisch reported on the Plan Commission meeting held on August 24th. Preservation Program Managers Tim Jackson and Katie Smith gave a presentation on the Farmland Preservation Program. The presentation included an overview of the program and pointers on what changes could be made to the Town Zoning Ordinance to allow Town residents to enroll in the program. Changes could be made in the overlay districts or the Ag, Ag/Res and Residential Districts. The Commission worked on reviewing the changes suggested at the last meeting and a few more changes were made. The Commission decided to add the Farmland Preservation definitions to the list of definitions. The next Plan Commission meeting will be September 28th at 6:30

Cemetery Maintenance Update

The pine tree in the Little Plum Cemetery has been removed.

ATV/UTV Ordinance Amendment

The Board discussed the ATV/UTV Ordinance draft amendments. There was some discussion as to if the Board could allow access to a route by use of a non-designated road. That provision was struck but will be investigated. The Board discussed whether to put opting in/out criteria in the ordinance or in a policy. It was decided to add general criteria to the ordinance and to develop a policy that would have more specific guidelines. Some other considerations would be speed limits and congestion.

ATV/UTV Road Petition Form

The Board discussed the draft form. Items discussed were what constitutes a majority, who could sign (landowners, residents), how many people from each address/property could sign and property owned by multiple people.

Road Reports

Seal coating has been completed. The Elk Creek phone junction box damage has been reported but not repaired yet by CenturyTel.

WISLER pavement rating reports are due by December 15th.

The hill on Bear Pen Road has a lot of overhanging branches. Brush needs to be cut on the intersection of Beaver Slide Road and Boyd Spring Road.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to approve payment of bills paid by checks 11073 through 11086, totaling \$84,812.36. A vote was held by voice vote and the motion carried with no negative votes. Chair Anderson signed the approval of payment form.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall and remotely on Zoom. A tentative Town Board meeting agenda will cover: Town Board Minutes, Financial Report, Citizens' Concerns, Cemetery Maintenance, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Plan Commission Report, ATV/UTV Ordinance Amendment, ATV/UTV Road Petition Form, Redistricting Resolution, Road Reports, Budget Preparation and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:30 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk