

June 12, 2018

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

Other Board members present were Richard McDermott, Curt Stine, Donna Juleff and Josh Manor. Town Treasurer Michael Albert and Town Clerk Maureen Manore were present.

Also present were Donna Gates, Steve Berger and Sheriff Joel Wener.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the May 8, 2018, meeting were read. A change was made to the draft. The minutes stood as corrected.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for May was read. The ending balance was \$234,090.16. The Board verified the balance on the current bank statement.

Citizens' Concerns

Sheriff Wener gave his bi-annual report. He stated that the numbers were higher in incidences involving methamphetamine, petty crimes, thefts and burglaries. He asked that if the Board heard of any incidents the Board encourage that they be reported so that recovered property could be returned. He updated the Board on the County's Communication Upgrade Project. Currently the emergency communication equipment is running on 1960s technology. The County plans to spend 3 million dollars in upgrades which include replacing the 150 foot guyed communication tower on the Richardson site with a 300 foot free standing tower.

The Porcupine Cemetery Association had reserved the Town Hall for their annual meeting on June 2nd, but no one remembered to unlock the door for them. The Board apologized to Donna Gates, who was present at the meeting, which took place on the deck.

Carol Inderieden, Town of Pepin resident, contacted Maureen Manore to ask if the Town zoning covered cases of multiple RVs being parked seasonally on a landowner's property. Her concern was about her neighbor on Goatback Road. Town Chair Bryce Black and Plan Commission Chair Dwight Jelle were contacted and given the complaint and asked for opinions. They concurred on the answer, which Black relayed to Inderieden, that the zoning ordinance does allow seasonal dwellings as a permitted accessory use [17.05(2)4f)]; but if her neighbor has multiple RVs being inhabited on an occasional use basis, this might arguably be classified as a public or private campground; this would also require a CUP. [17.05(2)5x)] The Board suggested that she could contact the Pepin County Board of Health.

Town Insurance Review

Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Steve Berger reviewed the specifics of the Town insurance policy.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings were attended.

Mining Agreement Report

There was nothing new to report.

Road Reports

The Pepin County Highway Department has seal coated parts of Porcupine Road, Elk Creek Road and Bear Pen Road. Bryce Black asked them to wedge and seal portions of Barber Lane after they inspected

the culvert to determine if it needed to be replaced or could just be extended. The timeline for work on Maple Lane was discussed.

Bryce Black talked to Jeff Braden of the Kraemer Company and informed him that the Town will not purchase additional bulk quantities of rock from them until the balance of the rock we purchased in 2016 is supplied.

Bryce Black talked to Greg Bechel about providing the amount of crushed rock to cover his delinquent personal property tax bill. His bill is approximately \$4,397.00 which is to be paid with crushed rock at \$9.00 per ton which amounts to around 660 cubic yards. Black will determine where the rock should be applied and contact Bechel.

Burning Permit Procedures

Bryce Black reported that he consulted with Fire Chief Jamey King regarding the procedure for issuing burning permits; he was told that our current practice is appropriate. Copies of the permit were distributed. Black stated that the permit can be issued by phone, by any Supervisor. The listed restrictions should be read to the applicant, along with the Sheriff Department phone number, which the applicant must call to report the scheduled burn. Permit numbers consist of the date and initials of applicant. Applicants who desire a hard copy of the permit can pick them up or receive them electronically or by mail.

Nelson Bankruptcy Settlement

Town Clerk Maureen Manore received an Order of Dismissal from the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Wisconsin concerning the Randy A. Nelson bankruptcy settlement. Nelson still owes the Town a considerable amount for delinquent personal property taxes, but we will not receive any more funds from the bankruptcy settlement, since Mr. Nelson has died and his remaining assets will be transferred to his estate. Pepin County Treasurer Nancy Richardson will be monitoring future probate action on the estate and will inform the Town if there is an opportunity to try to recover some portion of the delinquent amount.

Doughty Assessment Change

John Doughty called Maureen Manore questioning why his property tax assessment for 2018 has raised so much. He was referred to Town Assessor Mark Garlick. Doughty was told that on January 9, 2018, Garlick inspected the property and discovered a house on it, which was photographed. Doughty claimed the house was not his and that it has since been removed from the property. Pepin County Treasurer Nancy Richardson told Manore that since the Town Board of Review had already met and Doughty did not bring this before the Board, the Town Clerk and Assessor could submit a signed document stating that a mistake had been made on the tax roll and have the assessment removed.

Bryce Black contacted the Wisconsin Towns Association and spoke to Attorney Jan Charette concerning this. Charette pointed out the statutes that pertain to this situation. The Board looked over the statutes, 70.73(1m), 74.33(1)(b) and 71.10. They agreed that the law is clear: the assessment included real property that did exist at the time of assessment, so there was legally no "palpable error" as required by 74.33(1)(b). Therefore, the Board has no legal authority to change the assessment value.

Pay Bills

The Town bills were reviewed.

The next board meeting was set for July 10, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall. The tentative Town Board meeting agenda will cover: Town Board Minutes, Financial Report, Citizen's Concerns, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Mining Agreement Report, Road Reports and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:20 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk