

November 17, 2020

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 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.

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

Minutes

The draft minutes from the October 13, 2020, meeting were read. The minutes stood as submitted.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for October was examined. The ending balance for September was \$286,184.86.

Citizens' Concerns

Bryce Black was contacted by Jim Whitnam, who said that a neighbor has built a deer stand right on the property line and has been feeding deer on Whitnam's property. He was told that the Zoning Ordinance did not cover deer stands and that feeding of game animals should be reported to the Game Warden.

Bryce Black spoke to Dan Fedderly concerning a landowner that owned 9 acres of land and wanted to build on it. There is some confusion as to if grandfathered land divisions are exempt from the 10 acres minimum. More research will be done.

Bryce Black was thanked by Ed Heit for his help in his land dispute issue.

Cemetery Maintenance Update

Debra Fisher obtained one more quote for the removal of the large white pine tree in the Little Plum Cemetery. Expert Tree Services bid \$3,000 for taking down the tree and removing the brush. To remove the tree logs and brush would be \$4,000. There would be an extra \$150 for stump grinding. Bryce Black had talked to Jason Skutt, Expert Tree Service salesperson, and was told that their company would be responsible for any damage caused by the removal, and that their bid was high because they planned to hire a crane to avoid damaging any headstones.

The Board discussed the proposals. More information about the other tree services' insurance coverage is needed before making a decision.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings were attended.

Dairyland Power Update

Dairyland Power reported that their construction project is complete in the Town. There is still some work to be done north of the substation. They plan to work on restoration this fall or winter.

Road Reports

Black met with Pepin County Highway Foreman Dale Carothers and Carl Morsbach to address Morsbach's complaint that the recent drainage work along Bear Pen Road made it difficult to turn into his field road with a semi and trailer. The problem was resolved by moving the ditch a few feet farther from the road and using the excavated dirt to make a wider, level shoulder to facilitate making a wide turn.

Black met with Pepin County Highway Foreman Brent Bauer to look at the situation on Nippy Lane after a car slid off into the ditch and got stuck. There will be a school bus driving on this steep road, and the concern was to avoid a similar issue with the bus. Several loads of crushed rock were added to widen the road over to the upper bank, while still providing for drainage. Kurt Manore reported a tree fallen in the creek next to Byington Road that he thought might block the stream and start erosion problems for the road. Black and Bauer looked at it and decided it could be left for now.

Routes to Recovery Grant Update

Maureen Manore submitted the Routes to Recovery Grant request report to the Department of Revenue. The Town is claiming \$1,490.96 of the \$5,804 grant. The balance of the grant money was allotted to the Village of Pepin and The City of Durand for their ambulance services. The Department of Revenue has not yet confirmed acceptance of the requested reimbursements.

Adopt 2021 Budget

Motion by Josh Manor, seconded by Curt Stine, to adopt the 2021 budget. A roll call vote was held: Curt Stine - yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Josh Manor – yes; Bryce Black – yes. Motion carried.

Approve Payment of Bills

The Chair examined and approved the payment of the November bills.

Motion by Curt Stine, seconded by Josh Manor, to confirm the payment of bills paid by check 10937 through 10952, totaling \$4,071.47. A roll call vote was held, the results as follows: Richard McDermott – yes; Josh Manor – yes; Curt Stine yes.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday December 8, 2020 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 Bid Approval, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Road Reports, Assessor Contract Renewal, Building Inspector Contract Renewal, Command Central Hardware Maintenance Agreement, Durand Ambulance Contract, Board of Adjustment Appointment, Set Caucus Date and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 7:54 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk