

September 10, 2019

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall on Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

Other Board members present were Richard McDermott, Donna Juleff and Josh Manor. Town Clerk Maureen Manore was present.

Also present were Rich Bignell, Jessica Bignell, Evan Mercer, Merlin Bang, Shari Tix, Lois Caturia and Glen Richardson.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the August 13, 2019, meeting were read. A correction was made to the draft and minutes stood as corrected.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for August was read. The ending balance was \$298,604.15. The ending bank balance on the Treasurer's Report for August was verified against the bank statement.

Citizens' Concerns

Evan Mercer objected to a sentence in the August minutes under the ATV/UTV Route Sign Certification section. He requested that the sentence mentioning the ATV Club be removed or his name substituted. The Board had no objection.

Donna Juleff made a motion, seconded by Josh Manor, to remove the sentence "He pointed out that the Pepin County ATV Club Facebook page mentions by name one of the citizens who opposed ATV routes, while bragging about posting a Town of Pepin "All Roads are Open" sign near her land". A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Donna Juleff has heard from a few citizens that even though there are ATV routes in the Town, they can't access them.

Merlin Bang asked: when the ATV Ordinance comes up for renewal, how will it be decided, by who makes the most noise amongst the pros and cons? He asked if there was a way for the citizens to vote.

Rich Bignell asked if there was some way to open up the dead end roads for ATVs.

Shari Tix asked if the Town had statistics on the core issues and was that why some roads were banned.

Jessica Bignell asked if citizens who lived on dead end roads signed something showing all the residents of that road were in agreement could the road be opened for ATVs now.

The Board explained that they want to wait until the ordinance has run its course of one year and reevaluate before considering amendments.

Merlin Bang asked if having an AG sticker on an ATV means you can ride it anywhere. The answer was that it allows for travel from one farm operation to the next.

Liquor License/Conditional Use Permit Request – Jessica Bignell

The Bignells wanted to know the next step for moving their application process forward. They said they have met with the Zoning Administrator Dan Fedderly and have provided him all information he has asked for. The Pepin County Highway Department has approved their driveway. When asked about putting "No Parking" signs on County Road D, the Highway Department told them this would not be done unless there is a problem.

The Board asked questions about the parking lot and maximum capacity of the proposed bar. The Bignells are working out the details of the floor space and parking area with Dan Fedderly.

There was some discussion about the "Class B" license as to whether it was a reserve license or not and that a Class "B" license for selling beer will also be needed. Maureen Manore reported that, as suggested on the Department of Revenue's FAQ web page, she contacted the Wisconsin Towns Association to ask for help to determine the number of licenses that the Town has. WTA Attorney Joe Ruth emailed "it sounds like all you have is one reserve "Class B" license (and no regular "Class B" licenses)". The fee for this license is \$10,000.00 and the license is not transferrable.

Dan Fedderly will be contacted by both the Bignells and Bryce Black to determine what else is needed to move the process along.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings were attended.

Mining Agreement Report

Bryce Black received a letter from former Town Attorney Gwen Kuchevar (who has now retired). The letter was to inform the Town that there is still \$2,350.00 left in the trust account held by Kuchevar's firm Rodli Beskar. which was set up for expenses incurred during negotiating an amended operating agreement with Bechel Trucking and Excavating LLC. Attorney Kuchevar asked if she should return the funds to Greg Bechel.

The Board decided to ask if the money can be sent to the Town to be applied to the \$4,848.42 still owed by Greg Bechel for past-due personal property tax.

Road Reports

Bryce Black reported that Greg Bechel called him and said he will bring a crusher into the Richardson Quarry next week.

The County Highway Department has been working on Elk Creek Road, replacing a culvert by the Town of Maiden Rock line and re-ditching along much of the road to re-establish proper drainage. The crew will drive used steel railings to make a retaining wall where the road bank has been sliding into Elk Creek. Another culvert on Elk Creek Road is set too shallow on one end to effectively drain. The Highway Department plans to remove it and direct the drainage flow to another nearby culvert. A culvert may be needed near the Bowron driveway. If so, the removed culvert can be used.

On September 23rd there will be a meeting for the Pepin County towns to discuss the LRIP grants. Two towns will be eligible to receive the grants. If the Town of Frankfort is eligible, we could apply the grant money toward finishing blacktopping Bear Pen Road.

The Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) is a new one time state grant program which will pay 90% of approved project costs. There will be a webinar on the program, offered three times (on September 30, October 2, and October 10). This is a competitive process and preference will be given to projects that improve regional economic activity. Bryce Black will explore this program for relevancy.

Merlin Bang informed the Board that on Goat Back Road on the curve between Troy Moline and his property there has been a lot of washing. He suggested blacktopping. Also on the straight part of the road there is no crown to the road and it ponds. He suggested more rock.

ATV/UTV Route Sign Placement Certification

Donna Juleff and Even Mercer met with the Pepin County Highway Department to work out where more ATV route signs needed to be placed.

Donna Juleff stated that she toured the route again and was satisfied that the signage was now sufficient. Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to certify that the signage placed by the Pepin County Highway Department is complete and correct as requested by the Town of Frankfort Board and the Pepin County ATV/UTV Club. A vote was held and the motion carried.

Pay Bills

The Town bills were reviewed and paid.

The next board meeting was set for October 15, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. The tentative Town Board meeting agenda will cover: Town Board Minutes, Financial Report, Citizens' Concerns, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Mining Agreement Report, Road Reports, Liquor License/Conditional Use Permit Request, 2020 Budget Preparation, Set Date for Budget Hearing, Set Date for Special Meeting of Town Electors - To Approve the 2019 Town Tax Levy to be Paid in 2020 and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:20 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk