

September 8, 2020

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 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, Josh Manor and Donna Juleff.

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

Also attending remotely was Debra Fisher.

### Minutes

The draft minutes from the August 13, 2020, meeting were read. Corrections were made to change June 14 to July 14 under Minutes and to change Swede Ramble Road to Swede Ramble Lane under Road Reports. The minutes stood as corrected.

### Financial Report

Treasurer's report for August was examined. The ending balance for August was \$306,291.83.

### Citizens' Concerns

Bryce Black said that the driveway issue between the Stutesmans and their neighbor has been resolved. The Stutesmans re-routed one section of their driveway to access County Road D, to avoid the property their neighbor now claims. There may be a dispute over a fence, but no formal request has been brought to the Board.

Bryce Black received his weekly report from Dairyland Power. Their powerline upgrade crew is working near County Road SS currently and may move to County Road N next week.

### Little Plum Cemetery Maintenance

Debra Fisher presented an update on the maintenance of the Little Plum Cemetery, saying that in May the remains of the old outhouse were removed and some tree branches were trimmed. In July a couple of headstones were cleaned. Deb Fisher and Rick Riggins monitor both of the Town's cemeteries for debris and overgrown plants and flower patches and remove as needed. They also reset and uncover stones when time allows.

Currently Fisher is concerned that a large pine tree in the center of the Little Plum Cemetery is deteriorating and may cause damage to stones if part or all of the tree falls. She has contacted a few tree service companies and is awaiting bids on the tree's removal. Fisher also asked about the Town's liability for damage to the gravestones if the tree falls on them.

The Board did not make any decisions at this time.

### Set Up ATV Ordinance Review Working Group

Donna Juleff stated that a working group is needed to review the Town's ATV Ordinance and how it is working. Juleff volunteered to head up the group. She said it should have board members and citizens on it. Bryce Black suggested reaching out to citizens on all sides of the issue for participation in the working group. The Board decided to create a committee and invite citizen participation.

Motion by Curt Stine, seconded by Donna Juleff, that the Town Chair appoint a committee to review the ATV Ordinance and report back to the Town Board with recommendations by the March 2021 meeting. A voice vote was called. Josh Manor – yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Curt Stine – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Bryce Black – yes. Motion carried.

Bryce Black appointed Donna Juleff and Josh Manor to serve on the committee. The Board confirmed the appointment as follows: Richard McDermott – yes; Curt Stine – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Josh Manor – yes.

Motion by Richard McDermott, seconded by Josh Manor, to change the order of the agenda to make Reports on Other Meetings Attended the next item followed by Durand Rural Fire Department 2021 Budget Approval. Bryce Black asked the Board members for a show of hands. The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

#### Report on Other Meetings Attended

Curt Stine attended the Durand Rural Fire Department's annual meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting the 2021 Fire Department budget was adopted. The budget also needs to be approved by the member municipalities. Burning permits were discussed; issuers need to ensure that the permits are assigned a number and that records are kept. The charge for river rescues was discussed; the amount set is \$350.00. Diane Sinz is the new Fire Department Secretary/Treasurer.

#### Durand Rural Fire Department 2021 Budget Approval

The by-laws of the Durand Rural Fire Department call for the budget to be approved by the municipalities that it serves. The Board examined the budget. The balance for the revenues and expenses was \$158,900.00.

Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to approve the 2021 Durand Rural Fire Department Budget. A voice vote was called. Curt Stine – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Bryce Black – yes; Josh Manor – abstained; Richard McDermott – yes. Motion carried.

#### Road Reports

Bryce Black has received the annual road certification packet from the Department of Transportation. They are requesting the certification by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Black will work with County Highway Commissioner Bob Platteter to complete the reporting of road conditions and maintenance done. No further action has taken place concerning the turnaround at the end of Meyer Lane on Tony Gates' property. Black will check with the WTA about the Town's authority to do road construction work on private property.

The County Highway Department has been working on Bear Pen Road. They finished the rock work today. The required blacktop bid notice for the LRIP project needed to be re-published because the previous notice didn't mention that it was for a LRIP project. The bids will be opened on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Blacktopping could begin later that week.

County Highway Department Foreman Carothers reported that Carl Morsbach visited the construction site on Bear Pen Road and expressed some concerns about the ditch excavation. Black said that he meant to contact Morsbach before the work began, but Black himself was not notified by the Highway Department when they were starting. Black will reach out to Morsbach.

Carothers reported to Bryce Black that some of the graffiti painted on Bear Pen Road has been painted over by the graffiti artist, as requested. Donna Juleff said that it was just retraced in black. The County has done crack filling on Plummer Road and Gates Hill Road. The other roads we requested to be crack filled have not been done yet.

Bob Platteter has asked that the Board conduct the road tour earlier in the year, in April.

#### Bridge Aid Petition

Bryce Black explained that the Town's 2020 MLS Grant (which has now been changed to a LRIP Grant) covers 70% of the \$240,000 cost of replacing the bridge on Swede Ramble Road. The Town will be responsible for the Municipal portion of the cost, estimated to be \$71,894. State statute 82.08 allows for towns to file a petition to the county highway commissioner for county aid for bridge

construction. This Bridge Aid Petition requests that half of the Municipal portion (\$35,947) be paid by Pepin County.

The Board examined the petition. Motion by Josh Manor, seconded by Richard McDermott, to petition the Pepin County Board of Supervisors for a County Aid share of \$35,947. A roll call vote was called:

Donna Juleff – yes; Bryce Black – yes; Josh Manor – yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Curt Stine – yes. Motion carried.

#### Approve Payment of Bills

The Chair examined and approved the payment of the September bills paid by check 10916 through 10926. The Board confirmed approval of the itemized bills with a roll call vote, the results as follows: Josh Manor – yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Donna Juleff – yes. Curt Stine yes.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday October 13, 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 Update, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Road Reports, 2021 Budget Preparation, Set Date for Budget Hearing, Set Date for Special Meeting of the Town Electors and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:22 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk