

Town of Union – Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

The Town of Union meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Franke on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm. All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken with Chairman Jon Franke, Supervisor Paige Huber, Supervisor Dennis Rauls, Treasurer Starr Janecek, and Clerk Fay Urban present. Others in attendance was Patrolman David Smith, Donald Subera, Lonnie Muller, Bob Vodak, Mary Bradford, Kris Janecek, Martha Graham, and Tom Barna.

Chairman Franke asked for affirmation of proper public notice. Clerk Urban replied “Yes”.

Public Comment – Donald Subera would like to talk to the board about the comprehensive plan the county is working on. He would like to put it on hold until the end of the meeting.

Review and Approve September Minutes – Motion made by Rauls and seconded by Huber to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the general checking account has a balance of \$1,976.01 and the MMDA balance is \$65,067.24 as of Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Clerks Report

Clerk Urban presented the board with the monthly bills. Motion by Huber and seconded by Rauls to pay the bills as presented and transfer \$21,633.02 from the MMDA to the general checking account. All in favor, motion carried.

The mail received was an invitation to the board to attend the WI Town's Association meeting at Viroqua October 26, 2023. The town also received the final population count for the town at 818 people.

Old Business

Discussion Shop Tool List – Supervisor Huber would like a list of tools the patrolman needs. The patrolmen would like to get a Chicago Pneumatic 1” air impact, estimated cost of \$840.00. They will check on the pricing for one and present it at the next board meeting.

Canyon Lane Update – Henry Graber will be cutting the trees on November 1st. Supervisor Rauls will contact La Farge Electric to see if they can come out that day. Patrolman Smith reported the fences are all down. Rauls will be supervising the project.

Discussion on End of Year Road Maintenance – The following projects should be done by the end of the year, the bank on Pine Ave., mowing the roadsides, mixing the sand and salt together, and touching up the gravel roads. Patrolman Smith would like to get more gravel and sand. Kruegers is bring more sand next week.

New Business

Fall Cleanup – Fall Cleanup Day is Saturday, October 21st. The additional dumpster should be here on Thursday. Patrolman Janecek will be on call if additional help is needed.

Discussion on Ordering Chains for Plow Truck – A pair of chains will cost \$513.06 through tirechain.com. We currently need two sets. The chains will need to be paid for with a debit or credit card. Chairman Franke said he could put them on his card. Motion made by Huber and seconded by Rauls for Chairman Franke to purchase two sets of chains using his credit card. Franke abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Dog License – Treasurer Jancek checked with WTA about dog license. The minimum amount to charge is \$3 for spaded or neutered dogs and \$8 for non-spaded or neutered dogs. We are currently charging \$3 and \$8 per dog along with \$35 for kennels up to 12 dogs. There is an additional charge of \$3 per dog over the 12 dogs for the kennel license. The town has additional expenses that include wages, mileage, and Driftless Humane Society annual fee of \$200. Supervisor Rauls and Treasurer Jancek will check with the other towns in this area to see what they are charging and present it at the next meeting.

Purchase of New Computer and Software – Clerk Urban explained the issues she is currently having with the town's current computer and the software we are using. The town is using QuickBooks. QuickBooks is a general accounting software. She would like to purchase Winstar. Winstar is a municipal software that is set up to match the annual reports sent to the government. They charge a one-time fee of \$800. Also, our Dell computer cannot hold a charge on the battery. Motion made by Huber and seconded by Rauls to order a new computer and the Winstar software for no more than \$2,500. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on Address Sign Installation – Supervisor Rauls and Patrolman Jancek will start to install the new address signs. The signs will be moved to the shop so they can start to install them. The board would like to have a public notice letting the residents know when the installation will begin.

Set Date for Public Hearing – The public hearing for the 2024 budget will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:00 pm at the town hall.

Patrolman's Report – Road Report - A Children at Play sign was put on Valley Ave. The salt is here. Mixing of the sand and salt has begun. Some mowing, grading, tree cleanup, and ditching was done this past month along with working on South Canyon Ave.

Equipment – The 2008 truck had some minor issues that patrolman Jancek is working.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Huber is working on a horse and buggy manual. Supervisor Rauls reported himself and Starr went to the Town of Forest's monthly meeting on the Vernon County Landfill. They also discussed building permits. Rauls contacted Vernon County Highway Commissioner regarding St. Johns Lane. The county will be working on the intersection of Hwy 82 and St. John's Lane. He also reported that the new front door is arriving November 2nd.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Franke checked with WTA regarding changing a speed limit on a town's road. He reported there is a long process to have the speed limit changed on a town road. He contacted the property owner that had requested it and let them know what he had found out. He also checked on a concern from a residence regarding a concealed weapon. There was no concealed weapon and there is no need at this time to look any further into this issue. He was contacted by someone looking to buy property and wanted information on putting in a new driveway. There was a question about putting in a culvert in the driveway. The property owner is responsible for driveway culverts.

Set Date for Next Monthly Meeting: November 15, 2023, following the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. and the special meeting of the electors.

Adjournment – The board decided to adjourn the meeting and to allow Mr. Subera to talk about the Vernon County Comprehensive Plan after the meeting. Motion made by Huber and seconded by Rauls to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Fay Urban, Town Clerk