

Town of Union – Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The Town of Union meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Franke on Wednesday, April 19, 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 Elgin Fanta, Patrolman David Smith, Lonnie Muller from the Episcope, Karri Bartlett, Nate Toth, Donald Subera, Robert Vodak, Lucas Winchel, Martha Graham, Tim Hotek, Julie Hotek, Debbie Smith, Carol Franke, and Karen Fischbach.

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

Approve Road Bids – Motion by Rauls and seconded by Huber to approve Scott’s sealcoat bid. All in favor, motion carried. There was a discussion on the local quarries. Lucas Winchel was there representing Green Tech. Lucas agreed that if the town did not take his bid he would still help if needed. Motion made by Rauls and seconded by Huber to except the bids from Krueger and Milestone. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment – Elgin Fanta wanted to know who would be doing the fire/address signs and construction forms and to make sure they are reported to the correct people. Jon Franke will be doing this along with the help of Dennis Rauls.

Donald Subera would like to remove the public comment from the agenda. A discussion was held, and it was decided to leave it as is. He would also like the meetings posted earlier at least three days in advance. Also, he would like the board members to attend the WTA Seminars so they are better educated.

Tim Hotek commented on saving the town some money if the patrolman could do most of the maintenance work and to supply them with the tools they need. Patrolman Smith said they are doing most of the maintenance work themselves. Supervisor Huber would like the patrolman to put together a wish list of tools.

Review and Approve March Minutes – Chairman Franke read the minutes. Discussions were held on the minutes. Huber explained the ALICE training. Patrolman Smith talked to the county about getting salt from them and the pricing. The county does not have the new prices and they may be able to bring it to us when they are doing jobs on this side of the county. Frank would like a copy of the insurance policy. Patrol Smith said the fencing material is purchased for Jug Creek. Motion by Rauls and second by Huber to approve the March 15, 2023, Town of Union minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the general checking accounts has a balance of -\$1,527.27 and the MMDA balance is \$123,053.72 as of Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The town has two delinquent personal property taxes. The recent letter sent to dog owners has resulted in 6 more kennel licenses. We did receive the grant money for the Jug Creek project in the amount of \$23,438.00.

Clerks Report

The board reviewed the budget and the monthly bills as presented. Motion made by Rauls and seconded by Huber to approve the bills as presented and to transfer \$52,000.00 for the monthly bills from the Money Market Account to the general checking account. All in favor, motion carried.

Karri Bartlett reported raw sewage is running in their ditch from a local home. Karri was advised that the town does not have Village Powers and she will need to work with the county to get this resolved. She has talked to Vernon County. They are short staffed and doing what they can. Lucas Winchel said that they are putting in a septic this year. Supervisor Rauls will follow up with the county on the progress of this situation.

Old Business

Canyon and Timber Lane Advancements – On Canyon Land, David will start to pull out the fences and Dennis will mark the trees. No progress to report on Timber Lane.

LRIP Grant for Jug Creek – Final payment has been received.

Grant for Windows and Signage – Supervisor Huber and Treasurer Janecek have been working on the Vernon County Community Development Grant. The town has 280 old fire/address signs that need to be replaced. The cost is \$22.95 per sign plus post. Bids were received for replacement windows for the town hall. Wolf windows came in the lowest. This is a matching grant. If approved the town will need to pay for the project up front and would receive the reimbursement from the county up to half the cost of the project or \$10,000, whichever is less. Motion made by Huber and seconded by Rauls to apply for the Vernon County Community Development Grant in the amount of \$19,295.95 for replacement of our old fire/address signs and replacement windows for the town hall. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve Road Bids – Done earlier in the meeting.

Spring Clean-up Day May 27, 2023 from 8 to 2 – Dumpsters are ordered. Dennis will be at the dump 7 am to 3 pm. Darrell Huey will be helping that day. Kris will be on call if needed. If there is room in the dumpster, the patrolman can clean up around the shop.

New Business

Appoint Town Representative to the Local Fire Associations, Hillsboro, La Farge and Yuba. – Supervisor Rauls was appointed for all three associations.

Vernon County Landfill – Vernon County held a meeting regarding the county landfill. The Town of Union and Forest were the only two townships that attended the meeting. GFL has sent letters to Vernon County residents stating what they charge for picking up the recycling. Currently Vernon County picks up our recycling and the town is not charged unless there is a special item. GFL stated they would continue to use the Vernon County landfill for one year. We currently use Big Hook for our sanitation waste. They will continue to use Vernon County's landfill.

Spring Clean Sweep is May 13th from 8 am to noon at Vernon County Solid Waste and Recycling Facility.

Patrolman's Report –

Road work – Smith reported that they have done some gravel patching, dragging the gravel roads, storm damage after the heavy snow, and removing some trees.

Equipment update – Hansen's will be repairing the tractor. The grader is ready. The 2015 truck is having issues with the 4-wheel drive. La Farge Truck Center is taking care of this issue. It is a sensor. David and Kris are making a pusher for the sand pile. The grinder we currently have is not working. David got a couple of estimates for a new grinder. Chairman Franke wanted to know if they keep maintenance records on our equipment. Yes, they do.

Supervisor's Report. – Supervisor Huber checked with the county on the buggy tax that was proposed by the state. It was proposed that the fee would be \$100 per buggy and divided equally between the counties and towns. Vernon County Clerk said it is still at the state level. Once approved, it would be up to the Vernon County board to approve it and how it would be divided.

Chairman's Report – None

Set Date for Open Book – May 17, 2023, 1 pm. to 3 pm. at the town hall.

Set Date for Board of Review – May 24, 2023, 1 pm to 3 pm at the town hall.

Set Date for Next Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Rauls, seconded by Huber to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Fay Urban, Town Clerk