

# Town of Union – Monthly Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, May 17, 2023

The Town of Union meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Franke on Wednesday, May 17, 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, Karri Bartlett, Thea Fronk, Donald Subera, Tim Hotek, Julie Hotek, Debbie Smith, Carol Franke, Lindley Wolff, and Paul Bajourney.

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

**Public Comment** – Donald Subera would like a copy of all gravel road bids. Karri Bartlett discussed the possible new business going in on Timber Ln. Lindley Wolff discussed a letter he had received from the Wisconsin Election Committee. Jon Franke said he would contact the county clerk regarding it. Debbie Smith commented on the town’s cemetery. She has been mowing and taking care of it and there are about 10 to 15 gravestones falling down that need to be stood back up. It was suggested that a notice be put at the cemetery with Debbie Smith’s phone number listed. Paige Huber will contact Elgin Fanta regarding the grant for the Veterans grave. Patrolman Smith will put flags by the veteran’s gravestones.

**Review and Approve April Minutes** – Chairman Franke read the minutes from the April 19, 2023, meeting. Supervisor Rauls did contact the county about the sewage runoff. He said Vernon County said that they are putting in a new septic this month. Jim Drea will be doing the plumbing and Lucas Winchel will be doing the excavation. Karri Bartlett would like to know how many septic systems are failing in our town and the county. Supervisor Rauls has this information.

Supervisor Huber informed the board that the Vernon County/Ho-Chunk Community Development Grant application was submitted, and the town should hear back in June if our application was accepted.

Chairman Franke asked if there was any correction on the minutes. None at this time. Motion by Rauls and second by Huber to approve the Town of Union minutes for April 19, 2023, as read. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported the general checking accounts has a balance of \$6,311.53 and the MMDA balance is \$100,602.81 as of Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

### **Clerks Report**

Clerk Urban presented the board with the monthly bills. The board reviewed the budget. Motion made by Huber and seconded by Franke to transfer \$19,295.95 from the general Money Market account to a contingency account for the Vernon County/ Ho Chunk Community Development Grant. All in favor, motion carried. Motion made by Rauls and seconded by Huber to approve the bills as presented and to transfer \$23,000.00 for the monthly bills from the Money Market Account to the general checking account. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Old Business**

**Canyon Ave. and Timber Lane Advancements** – Henry Graber will be cutting trees in late summer or early fall on Canyon Ave. Supervisor Rauls will contact La Farge Electric and Digger’s Hotline before ditching. On Timber Lane, Chairman Franke has an older map showing that Timber Lane was once a through road. In 1874

the road was shortened. Franke will continue to do research on this road. There was a recent survey done on the road for the new construction.

**Spring Cleanup Day** – Everything is set for spring clean-up day on Saturday, May 27, 2023. Discussion was held on the Vernon County landfill. Vernon County sent letters to the municipalities to commit to use the landfill. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

**2023 Roadwork** – The board reviewed Scott’s sealcoat list. Patrolman Smith pointed out the top three places for work to be done. The board discussed the budget for the road improvements. Chairman Franke and Supervisor Rauls attended the Vernon County transportation meeting. The state representative stated that the state doesn’t have money available for bridge repairs. Smith said this was the worse winter he has seen on gravel roads. Motion by Rauls and seconded by Franke to approve a budget of \$50,000 for sealcoating the roads. All in favor, motion carried.

**Wages of Town Clerk Being Paid Quarterly** – Discussion was held on paying the town clerk quarterly instead of annually. Motion by Rauls and seconded by Huber to pay the town clerk quarterly. All in favor, motion carried.

**Fuel – Yearly Volumes and Costs** – Discussion was held on what the town had paid out last year for fuel and LP gas. Currently the town uses United Cooperative. There is no contract on diesel fuel. The board will get bids for the fuel and LP gas from Myers, Premier, United Cooperative, and Vesbach’s. The board will review bids at the next meeting.

**View Town Shop & the Vehicles** – The board did not go to the town shop. There was a discussion on the equipment. The 1978 Grader has 18,397 hours on it. It has 6,826 hours since it was rebuilt. They average is 250 hours per year. The 2001 tractor has 6,332 hours on it. The average is 287 hours per year. The 2011 backhoe has 500 to 600 your per year. The 2008 truck has 94,840 miles and 9,366 hours with an average of 6,322 miles per year and 644 hours per year. The 2015 truck has 43,803 miles and 4,666 hours with an average of 5,475 miles per year and 583 hours per year. An average new truck costs \$250,000. Patrolman Smith said the trucks are holding up good.

### **Patrolman's Report –**

Road work – Smith reported the annual road inspection was done April 22<sup>nd</sup>. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Scott’s will be here to do a road inspection. They have been dragging some of the gravel roads and started to do some sealcoat patching. Old fencing was removed from S. Canyon Ave.

Equipment update –Hansen’s repaired the mowing tractor. The 2015 truck needs a bypass switch. The grader had a seal go out. The power washer water pump went out. A new pump was put on.

Smith would like to have Northwest Fencing and Post Pounding to finish the fence on Jug Creek. Motion made by Rauls and seconded by Huber to hire Northwest Fencing and Post Pounders one day to help with the fence. All in favor, motion carried.

Smith will contact the county highway commission regarding the trees on highway 82 by the town hall. They are a safety hazard when traffic is coming out of the town hall and town shop parking lots.

Whitestown has an attachment for their grader called a boot. It is used when ditching the roads. Smith would like something like what they have. Whitestown built theirs out of scrape metal. The board is requesting an estimate on the cost to make a boot. It will be put on next month’s agenda.

**Supervisor's Report.** – Huber would like to come up with a letter to the local bishops to help with road maintenance. She will contact the Town of Clinton regarding this. The website needs to be updated with new construction forms with our current Chairman's information. Also, the old fire/address signs can be placed by houses where there is multiple homes so fire/emergency personnel can find the residence easier.

Rauls will contact Stacy at the Vernon County landfill regarding the letter that was sent out. Also, Rauls reported on the septic systems that are over their life expectancy in the town and county.

**Chairman's Report** – Franke turned in construction forms. He would like the patrolman to verify new driveways entrances before they are done. Also, Franke went to the Wisconsin Towns Association seminar. Treasurer Janecek is signed up for virtual seminar.

**Set Date for Next Regular Monthly Meeting** – Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Rauls, seconded by Huber to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Fay Urban, Town Clerk