

April 20, 2021

Chairman Rickaby called the Annual Meeting for the Town of Saratoga to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. All members were present. Twenty-seven town residents attended the meeting. The meeting was noticed April 15, 2021.

The following people elected for a two-year term of the office for the Town of Saratoga filed Oaths of Office in effect for April 20, 2021:

Chairman - Terry Rickaby
Town Clerk - Heidi Kawleski
Town Treasurer- Billie-Jo M. Kester
Constable - Brandon Burroughs
Supervisor – Bill Leichtnam
Supervisor – Gail Krestchmer

Chairman Rickaby read the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Brian Hamm motioned to approve the minutes as read. Nancy Koch seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2020 Financial Report was presented and explained.

Dan Forbes questioned the amounts in the legal fees and support categories. A detailed explanation was provided on the specific amounts spent.

Dan Forbes made a motion to eliminate the town using Botham Ink as the PR firm. It was explained how the PR firm is utilized within the town. The motion was withdrawn.

Next year's Annual Meeting as set by law will be April 19, 2022.

Chairman Rickaby gave an update of the upcoming road projects. The list of projects may be altered based upon the final cost of the ditching efforts on Ranger Road.

1. Townline Road- Joint effort with Town of Port Edwards, Grand Rapids and Saratoga to chip seal coat
2. Ranger Road-Ditching
3. Few Dips located on various stretches of roads in the town.

Nancy Koch saw a preview of updated letterhead with the town logo. She was very impressed with the look of this. Josh McDonald will be sharing more information with the town board on the April 21, 2021 board meeting.

Dan Forbes made a motion to have 90% of the \$250,000 yearly amount earned from the Solar project to be used on roads. Nancy Koch would like the town to have flexibility in how the funds are used. Motion failed.

Dave Carrell made a motion for the funds from the solar project be tabled until the board can take the time to evaluate where the money is needed. Nancy Koch seconded the motion. 24 residents voted in favor. 1 vote in opposition. Motion passed.

Rob Borski made a motion to have Planned Unit Developments (PUD's) and housing developments in the rural residential areas be looked at further. Brian Hamm seconded it. All in favor 19. Opposed 3. Motion passed.

Deb Kiedrowski made a motion to allow the Town to purchase land to be used as a park to be owned by the town. There was a question as to whether this would need to be put on a Unapproved Minutes

ballot as a referendum item at a future election. Deb Kiedrowski amended her motion to allow the Town to investigate the purchase of land to be owned by the town and used as a Town park. Marla Maleski seconded it. 15 votes in favor, 1 vote to oppose. Motion passed.

Brian Hamm expressed concern in regards to the Silver Creek Trail residents needing to revisit the conditions for PUD's and housing developments in the rural residential areas. Gordon Wipperfurth explained since this was voted on, it will be reviewed by the Plan Commission. He stated that the Plan Commission is willing to listen to the ideas proposed, but they need to make sure that the ideas proposed are fair for everyone. It was recommended that the residents come up with specifics of what guidelines they are interested in for the Plan Commission to review.

Marla Maleski had a question in regards to the solar project. She was concerned that topsoil would be coming off and not be replaced. Jim LeVasseur the project manager from Burns McDonnell stated they have to move the topsoil so they are able to get the required amount of slope for the project. Once the slope is correct, they will put the topsoil back in place. He stated they may bring in additional topsoil if needed to grow vegetation.

Bill Leichtman extended an invitation for Jim LeVasseur from Burns McDonnell to attend the town board meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Mike Braley from WPS will be another contact working with Jim and is welcome to attend.

Jim LeVasseur stated they will have a lot of wood chips in the process of clearing the trees.

A town resident asked about the life expectancy of the solar panel. Jim LeVasseur stated they have life expectancy of 25-30 years. Once they have reached the end of their life he stated they are ground up. The panels in Saratoga will be dual sided and very efficient. They have 9 projects going up in the state currently. Saratoga is the largest and the first of the 9 to be constructed, but all projects have the same timeline for completion.

There being no further business to discuss, Dan Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Koch seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Paulette Weinfurter
Deputy Clerk