

TOWN OF SARATOGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday November 16, 2022

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Town of Saratoga Hall

PRESENT: Bill Leichtnam, Josh McDonald, Gail Kretschmer, Rhonda Carrell, Roger Wilcox

Chairman Carrell called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearing was officially noticed on November 1, 2022. 16 Town residents attended the Public Hearing.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call attendance was taken. Kretschmer-here, McDonald-here, Wilcox-here, Leichtnam-here, Carrell-here.

A Public Hearing took place for the following read by Chairman Carrell; RESOLVED; that the road known as "Voit Lane" contained in the plat map for Hidden Chapel, a copy of which has been received and reviewed, located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 21 North, Range 5 East, Town of Saratoga, found in Volume 13 of Plats at page 179, Wood County Records, be and hereby is accepted by the Town of Saratoga as a town road pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 82.10(2).

No public comment on the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing is now closed. **Motion (Leichtnam/McDonald) to accept Voit Lane as a town road. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Carrell read the notice for the budget hearing. The budget hearing was officially noticed on November 1, 2022. Dan Forbes stated he would like to see additional funding for roads during public comment. **Motion (Ron Mancl/SaraJane Snyder) to approve the local tax levy. Motion passed unanimously. Motion (Dan Forbes/Chase Brockman) to approve the 5% increase for the Clerk, Treasurer, and Constable. Motion passed. 15 residents in favor, 1 opposed. Motion (McDonald/Leichtnam) to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. 5 minute recess.**

At 6:50 p.m. Chairman Carrell called the town board meeting to order. This meeting was officially noticed on November 11, 2022.

Public Comment: Lorelei Fuehrer asked how the town knows if the surveys are only being filled out by Saratoga Residents.

Brandon Burroughs provided the written Constable's report.

No reports given from the Building Inspector or Zoning Administrator.

Rick Nowicki provided the update on the Wood County Solar project. The 2nd performance testing was completed and it exceeded their expectations. The road inspection report was sent to their attorney for the road repairs.

Kasten Kester provided the Road Crew Update. Things are going well. The locks were changed on the Town Hall North and South Entrances. The snow blower was purchased for the town. One of the plow trucks will need to go in for repair or electrical issues. Doug Passineau stated that they are crushing recycle material for a few more days. The siding is now complete on the transfer site building.

Supervisor McDonald gave the Plan Commission update. The last meeting was on November 9th. They have been working on Chapter 8 of the Comprehensive Plan. They recommend the board look at hiring a Town Administrator.

Supervisor Kretschmer gave the SPARKS committee update. The next meeting will be Monday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. They are continuing work on the Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Paulette Weinfurter gave the Clerk's report. The November election is complete.

Supervisor McDonald talked about the road sign for Beppler Road and how this is blocking the right of way. Kasten Kester will reach out to the landowner.

Supervisor Wilcox provided updates on the thermostat in the Administrative Building, the snow blower, handicapped signs and the administrative building signs.

Supervisor Leichtnam shared an article in the Wisconsin Rapids City Times regarding broadband access and expansion. He encourages everyone to take the speed test.

Chairman Carrell stated that the property cleanup the town initiated on a residence is complete. November 30th will be a meeting with Alliant Energy and battery storage. Alliant Energy will be sponsoring a mailing that will inform residents of this meeting, as well as the printed survey. This will be mailed out in the next couple days.

Motion (Kretschmer/Wilcox) to approve the Pine Tree Day Care business permit for Emily and Brandon Burroughs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Kretschmer/McDonald) to approve the I'm your Caddy, not your Cabby business permit for Joshua Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to approve the sign permit for Kunes RV. Motion passed unanimously.

Doug Passineau shared information from the DOT regarding the proposed speed limit change on Ranger Road in the residential area. Due to the guidelines from the DOT and the state statutes, the town would need to do an engineering study before they could consider changing the speed limit from 45-35.

Motion (McDonald/Leichtnam) to approve the November 2, 2022 5:00 p.m. minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Leichtnam/McDonald) to approve the November 2, 2022 6:00 p.m. minutes with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding the purchase of shop rags and safety props for the Road Crew. **Motion (Kretschmer/Carrell) to add the shop rags to the uniform contract and add 2 safety props for the roadmen. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion regarding the staff to be included on the Personnel, Policies, and Finance Committee. This will be made up of 3 board members as well as the Clerk and Road Oversight manager as needed. The first meeting will be Monday December 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office Building. **Motion (Carrell/McDonald) to approve Gail Kretschmer, Bill Leichtnam and Roger Wilcox to the Personnel, Policies and Finance Committee. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion regarding the variance and potential fine for Duane Hardy. **Motion (Kretschmer/Leichtnam) that the variance cost Mr. Hardy paid to the town constitutes the fine. Motion passed unanimously.**

The dog ordinance language was reviewed. Additional changes will be needed and will be addressed at the next meeting on Wednesday December 7.

The 2022 budget was not amended at this time. Alliant Energy is sponsoring the mailer for the town. We will also need to look at including the cost of the property clean up on the taxes of the affected resident.

Work continues at Turtle Bay Public Access. The grant money that was awarded will need to be spent by the end of the year. Some of the goals for the park include; installation of electricity, signage, parking lot curb stops/ballards, bids for the pavilion, staircase, and restrooms. **Motion (McDonald/Kretschmer) to continue with the investment and improvements of Turtle Bay Public Access with already approved 2022 allocated funds up to \$50,000 with any unused money to be rolled into 2023. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to approve the operator's license for April Retzke at Roux's Roadhouse. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (Leichtnam/Wilcox) to pay town bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding hiring a Town Administrator. **Motion (McDonald/Leichtnam) to request the Personnel, Policies, and Finance Committee to come up with a job description, proposed hours, suggest pay and future vision of a potential part time Town Administrator. Motion passed unanimously.**

The next Town Board Meeting will be on Wednesday December 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office Building. **Motion (Carrell/Leichtnam) to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.**

Paulette Weinfurter-Town Clerk