

## TOWN OF SARATOGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 5, 2023

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Saratoga Town Office

**PRESENT:** Bill Leichtnam, Josh McDonald, Gail Kretschmer, Rhonda Carrell, Roger Wilcox  
This meeting was officially noticed on March 30, 2023.

Chairman Carrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **PRESENTATION BY CULLIGAN REPRESENTATIVE:**

The Culligan representative stated the township has the oldest equipment on the market. The township has low PH and iron in the water. He recommends a new neutralizer and softener. Discussion followed with questions from the board and the public on total costs, service plans, warranties, and comparisons to Maher quote. Further discussion will be needed as both companies will be asked to do a write up on warranties.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jeff Manor with Nepco Lake District said they petitioned members, and they want private roads taken back to the municipalities and have these roads plowed. It was suggested he be contacted for the next agenda.

It was suggested microphones be used for any meetings held by the town. This should include both meeting room and hall. This led to a discussion on the new system and difficulties of transporting it from one meeting location to the other.

Another public comment was WIFI is needed for both locations.

Several residents thanked the outgoing board for their service and the care they showed in getting various situations resolved.

No Constable report given.

Josh Volz provided the Building Inspector Report. Supervisor McDonald stated the request for a second dwelling on one parcel has been addressed.

Ray Bossert provided the Zoning Administrator report. He stated that the town should standardize the permit process. He gave ideas on how to handle these larger scale projects. The bike trail sign for Turtle Bay is now here and needs to be put up.

Kasten Kester provided the Road Crew update. Spring cleanup has now begun. Questions were answered on the condition Camilla and Yorkshire and the repair of a township truck. Public comment was made on the great plowing done this year.

Supervisor Wilcox stated the Community Wildfire Protection Program will be meeting Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Supervisor Kretschmer shared the next SPARKS meeting will be Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Supervisor McDonald stated Plan Commission will meet on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Then the Plan Commission will have a joint meeting with the board at 6 p.m. Following this joint meeting, the Plan Commission will meet again.

Supervisor Leichtnam shared the PPF Committee has been working on the employee handbook, and it is one meeting away from being completed. He asked that this committee be kept.

No Clerk's report.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the Treasurer's report. She stated the bi-annual audit was this evening. She shared she is helping the clerk with the financial report. Tax collection is complete.

Supervisor Wilcox stated that he had reviewed resident information from Aqua Drive.

Supervisor Kretschmer reminded the clerk and next board of grants already started, and the economic development strategy second draft will be coming out. She reminded this board and the next of deadlines.

Supervisor Leichtnam discussed CEED grant money and the deadline for its request. He also stated he had a public comment on large wood piles near a house. He assured the resident it was not illegal.

**Motion (Leichtnam/McDonald) to approve the March 15 minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.**

Paul Reber gave a presentation on broadcasting the meetings online or recorded playback. He reached out to surrounding communities to see what they were doing. Then he checked into Wisconsin Rapids Community Media, with Joe Bachman as a contact person. Paul would like to see meetings on the town page for flexibility for those who cannot attend the meetings. He then asked Ray Bossert to explain what the Village of Port Edwards does. Ray Bossert explained that they use owl cameras. He explained cost and set up that the Village of Port Edwards did. They created a You Tube page and all their meetings are there. A lengthy discussion ensued. Several residents stated that the town website and Facebook page need to be redone and updated more frequently. Supervisor Leichtnam stated this should be tabled for discussion.

Billie-Jo Kester stated clarification was needed on ARPA funding pertaining to purchases versus refunding. She added that the address tile refund process is in progress.

**Motion (McDonald/Kretschmer) to amend the budget by transferring ARPA funds to pay for H & S Security in the amount of \$19,073. Motion passed unanimously.**

A discussion was held on a Commercial Building Inspector. It was stated who was interested. Chairperson Carrell stated the next step was to create a job description to send to these people. Zoning Administrator Bossert stated that a description was not needed as it is standard but rather the question that should be discussed was what does the town want the individual to do to ease our concerns.

Doug Passineau provided the Road Program update. After stating what needs to go on annual meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, a discussion followed on costs and possible solutions for Kester Road. He will keep the town updated on Kester Road. Chairperson Carrell asked if the town was spending enough money on roads since it was brought up at a previous meeting. Passineau stated the funding just wasn't there.

Supervisor McDonald asked what was the suggested approach for Camilla/Yorkshire. A discussion ensued on road conditions and which roads have to go first. A tentative year was discussed for Camilla/Yorkshire.

Ray Bossert explained the joint funding with Village of Port Edwards and Town of Saratoga for repair efforts on the Village-owned section of Rangeline Road. Village residents were petitioned, and it was felt it did not pay for them to upkeep appropriate repairs. They are asking if the Town of Saratoga thinks there is enough value to keep this stretch of Rangeline open. The village is willing to keep this stretch open as long as there is a partnership with the Town of Saratoga or Nekoosa and are willing to discuss percentages. The village does not need this stretch, so Bossert foresees in the near future it will be abandoned on paper and concrete barriers put up. A discussion ensued and the residents present felt it had frequent usage. Chairperson Carrell stated this needed more discussion.

**Motion (Leichtnam/Kretscher) to approve the Class B License for Ledger Campground LLC DBA Lakeside Fire Campground, 14014 County Road Z. Motion passed unanimously.**

The request for a Class B liquor license transfer to the Town of Rome was discussed in closed session. It will not occur.

There are no operator's licenses.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding hiring an outside firm to assist in the preparation of Form C and Annual Financial Report.

**Motion (Leichtnam/Wilcox) that Town of Saratoga contract Jeff Kropp of Accounting Workshop, SC, for the purpose of preparation of Form C or CT. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to pay bills. Motion passed unanimously.**

The next Town Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m. The board will have a joint meeting with Plan Commission at 6 p.m. after the 5 p.m. Plan Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion (McDonald/Leichtnam) to approve per diem. Motion passed unanimously.**

Bi-annual audit completed.

**Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.**

Mary Hasenohrl, Deputy Clerk