

## TOWN OF SARATOGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday September 6th, 2023

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

**PLACE:** Saratoga Town Hall

**PRESENT:** Lorelei Fuehrer, Chase Brockman, Bryan Peterson, Josh McDonald, Roger Wilcox

This meeting was officially noticed on August 31st, 2023.

Chairman Fuehrer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Waste Management was present to discuss garbage and recycling pick-up. The proposal included going to an automated service with a 96-gallon container with weekly pick-up for garbage and every other week for recycling as well as 2 bulk collection days in the town. **Motion (Brockman/Wilcox) to accept the proposal with the \$5 fuel surcharge table for \$14.35 per month with the caveat that the additional carts as needed is in the contract before signing, with 2 (spring/fall) large item pick up days. Motion passed unanimously.**

Sealed bids were received from Scott Construction and American Asphalt for the asphalt spot repairs on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street South and Aqua Drive. Supervisor Brockman recused himself due to a conflict of interest. **Motion (McDonald/Peterson) to accept American Asphalt's patching proposal for \$34,250 for 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and Aqua Drive. Motion carries.**

Written Constable and Building Inspector Report provided.

Lorelei Fuehrer provided the Zoning Administrator report. The Zoning Ordinance draft is updated, and the goal is to have the document posted online early next week and voted on at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. The new Zoning Administrator, Rose M Rose was welcomed to the town.

Kasten Kester provided the Road Crew report. The part-time Public Works employee started. The items placed on the online surplus auction site should be sold soon. Ranger Road will tentatively be paved by mid-September.

Paulette Weinfurter gave the Clerk's report. The goal is to have the budget hearing in November. An update of the ARPA funding was also provided.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the Treasurer's report. We received \$150,000 from Alliant Energy to reimburse for the road repairs on Rangeline and Blue Ridge Road.

Amy Penn was present from the DNR to discuss different funding opportunities that align with the focus of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The CWPP group will be meeting on Monday, September 11 at the Town Office.

Jason and Jennifer Joling provided an overview of the business model for Upper Room Ministry Inc. **Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to approve the business permit for Jason and Jennifer Joling, 5690 Church Ave for Upper Room Ministry Inc contingent upon approval of legal counsel. Motion passed unanimously.**

Business permit reviewed for BK Camper repair. From the application, they are wanting to fix and sell campers which would need a seller's permit license from the state. **Motion (McDonald/Brockman) to deny the business permit for BK Camper repair, Ben Karbowski, 1511 State Hwy 73 S due to lack of state business permit. Motion passed unanimously.**

No Public Input.

Chairman Fuehrer is investigating the option of hosting a recycling event in the town. More information will be available in the future. The water heater was ordered for the Town Hall, the surveillance system was installed. The electrician will be replacing the light on the Town office. 4 Trail cameras were also donated to the Town from Alliant Energy.

The Public Works department would like to purchase a hydraulic pole saw attachment for the bucket truck. Kasten Kester will bring back specific details for the board to review at the next board meeting.

Supervisor Peterson received complaints that were referred to the Public Works department as well as the Sheriff's Department for enforcement.

Supervisor Wilcox has been working with the individuals at Historic Point Basse.

Supervisor Brockman as also been in contact with the individuals at Historic Point Basse and talked to the Wisconsin Town's Association regarding ARPA funding. He is continuing to look at different camera systems to record meetings in the Town Hall. He is also researching a non-CDL plow truck to be discussed at a future meeting.

**Motion (Brockman/McDonald) to approve the August 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00 closed session meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion (McDonald/Brockman) to approve the August 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 session meeting minutes with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.**

The contract with Wisconsin Rapids Ambulance is coming due at the end of the year. The cost of the contract has increased per capita. **Motion (Brockman/Peterson) to approve the 4-year amount of \$25 in 2024 and 2025 and \$26 in 2026 and 2027. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Employee Handbook was updated and reviewed by legal counsel. Updates will be made for the meal allowance to align with current state recommendations. **Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to accept the Employee Handbook with changes of meal allowance per diem. Motion passed unanimously.**

With the update of the Employee Handbook the Grievance Policy needed to be updated. **Motion (Brockman/Wilcox) to approve the Employee Grievance Procedure. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion of the meal allowance of elected officials. This will now align with the current state recommendations. **Motion (McDonald/Brockman) to change allowance of elected officials to the state guidelines in the employee handbook. Motion passed unanimously.**

A policy for direct deposit was adopted at the last Town Board meeting. This document was signed.

Discussion over updating the phone system. This system would allow callers to dial 1 number and be routed to the proper area. **Motion (Brockman/McDonald) to accept the quote from Solarus for \$266.29 month for services. Motion passed unanimously.**

Further research is being completed on the camera system to record meetings at the Town Hall. This will be revisited at a future meeting.

**Motion (Brockman/McDonald) to approve the change of agent for Schierl Sales Corp-DBA The Store #90 to Caleb Law. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion (Brockman/McDonald) to approve the Operator's License for Caleb Law and Jor Jones at The Store. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00p.m. is the next Town Board meeting.

Motion (McDonald/Wilcox) to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Paulette Weinfurter-Clerk