

August 4, 2021
6:00PM
Saratoga Town Hall

Kent Syverson of Syverson GeoConsulting did a third party review of the Wood County Solar Project to evaluate for potential impacts on public health, safety, and welfare and presented the Town with his results. Kent did not see public health and safety issues associated with panel materials, dust, or groundwater contamination from herbicide applications. He also stated there is no consistent evidence for an association between any source of non-ionizing EMF and cancer. He suggested the Town monitor closely if a battery system is proposed or if fuel and herbicides are proposed to be stored at the site.

The Saratoga Town Board met at 7:45 p.m. in the town hall. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. All were present; Carrell and McDonald by zoom. The meeting was officially noticed on July 29, 2021.

Mike Braley from Alliant Energy discussed the trail cameras that were installed along the fencing leading into the Towns' brush site. According to the Developer's Agreement, they need to install video surveillance cameras and they would need to monitor and store the data. If the Town would request video, they would need to supply it to us. Mike said they had to get cameras up quickly, but will work with the Town to follow the Developer's agreement. Mike said that they will be installing the signs along the same fencing, but just needs a location to place them. According to the developer's agreement a viewing pull off area is required to be created. Mike has a location he would suggest, but would like the Towns' input. Chairman Rickaby will meet with Mike to discuss the signs and pull off area. The free wood chips that the project has offered to people and have placed at the brush site for people to pick up are not in the condition that the Town was shown. They are currently large pieces of dirty roots and stumps. Drew Powers stated that possibly in September there would be better condition chips once they start chipping tops of the trees. The Board requested they remove the chips that are currently at the brush site. There have been reports of dump trucks running on portions of Rangeline Road that are not included on the haul route. According to the developer's agreement, a truck that is working on the solar project that weighs less than 48,000 pounds can go on the road. Larry Konopacki, the Towns' legal counsel stated the well amendment to the Developer's Agreement has been completed and will need to be signed. There were some questions as to the order of the steps that were taken for the high cap well. Larry stated that the well had to get approval from the DNR and the Town. If the Town did not approve the increase in the well capacity, they would not have been able to use the well at the higher rate. Mike Braley stated that they have only been pumping at the original agreed amount and won't start pumping at the higher rate until the agreement has been signed. Larry said that fence, gate, walk-in gate, and turn around along Tower Road going into the old landfill are in compliance with the agreement. The camera system will need to be updated to comply with the agreement.

Gail Kretschmer gave the SPARKS report. They are waiting for information from the CEED Committee regarding their grant submissions.

Heidi Kawleski gave the Clerk's report. Clean Sweep will be held at the Saratoga Town Hall on August 28th from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Billie-Jo gave the Treasurer's report. There are nine dogs that remain unlicensed. Citations will be issued. An updated quote was given to the Town in order to place address tiles to all addresses that don't currently have the blue flag style. The new quote charges an hourly rate to install the signs instead of a per address charge; which lowered the quote approximately \$17,000. This will be placed on a future agenda.

Carrell made a motion to approve the July 21st meeting minutes. McDonald seconded it.

Motion passed unanimously.

Leichtnam made a motion to approve the July 26th meeting minutes. Kretschmer seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Carrell made a motion to approve the July 28th meeting minutes. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed applying for a 50/50 matching grant through the NCWRPC for the Economic Development Administration Technical Assistance Grant. The Town would need to pledge \$30,000. If the Town was awarded the grant, North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, would be able to help the Town review and update the Comprehensive Plan and work on getting a long term economic development plan in place. The work would not begin unless the Town was awarded the grant. Leichtnam made a motion to file a letter pledging the match amount for the Economic Development Administration Technical Assistance grant application. Kretschmer seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

McDonald made a motion to approve the provisional operator's licenses for Robin Weston and the regular operator's license for Ariana Thunstrom. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Plan Commission requested a joint workshop between them, the Town Board, and the Town of Rome to discuss a sewer line running through the Town of Saratoga into the Town of Rome. Chairman Rickaby would like the Plan Commission to look into the project further and get more information about the funding and splitting of the cost with the Town of Rome. North Central Regional Planning Commission would like to be involved in the meetings.

Leichtnam made a motion to pay the bills. Kretschmer seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Leichtnam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski, Town Clerk