

November 17, 2021

A Public Hearing on the 2022 proposed budget for the Town of Saratoga was held at 6:00 p.m. in the town hall. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. The meeting was officially noticed November 1, 2021. Ten town residents were in attendance.

Chairman Rickaby explained the proposed budget. The Reserve fund for Economic Development, Land Preservation, and Recreation was originally designated for \$200,000 at the August 18, 2021 board meeting. This is now \$170,000. \$30,000 was used to balance the 2022 budget. \$20 was also added to the equipment fund. The total for all funds is \$713,762. After discussing the budget, Rhonda Carrell made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Joshua McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Chairman Rickaby called the Special Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Carrell made a motion to accept the 2022 local tax levy of \$703,577 budget. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Wages for the elected officials were discussed. Two Supervisor positions are up for election in April 2022. Josh McDonald made a motion to keep the wage the same beginning April 2022 for the two year term. Rhonda Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Josh McDonald made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Rhonda Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rickaby at 6:12 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

The Constable was absent. The board reviewed the written constable report.

Andy Remely from Burns and McDonnell gave the Wood County Solar project report. The civil work at the transmission site is done. A fence around the perimeter should be completed within a week. The ground is currently being prepared for winter in the northeast section. Foundations were poured at the transmission site. In the spring of 2022, the solar panels should go up. AZCO is going to be doing the above ground work. Bill Leichtnam suggested that the video from the Building Wisconsin link, which was shared at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with Alliant Energy be posted on our media site.

Wayne Coon stated the road crew received the new truck a few weeks ago. They have received an estimate for a new plow for \$12,872 from Monroe Truck. After November 24, the cost will increase. This plow has a better design that would result in better visibility and would take less power to operate. Chairman Rickaby stated we would need to look at the budget to see what, if any, funds remain in the equipment fund.

Doug Passineau shared that the town was awarded a \$23,500 for the Town Road Improvement Grant. This will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> biennium so projects wouldn't be able to start until after July 1, 2022. He suggested that the Town Board keep a close eye on the infrastructure bill that was passed for any potential future opportunities that the town may be interested in exploring.

Rhonda Carrell provided the update for the SPARKS committee. They met on November 15, 2021. The town was awarded a \$20,000 Wood County CEED grant that will be used towards the Nepco Lake public access. They are trying to figure out the right process to

have things completed. Chairman Rickaby suggested they work as a committee and bring the ideas to the board.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the treasurer report. Jeremy Schmidt has an outstanding invoice of \$60 from 2018 for tires he brought to the transfer site. Several notices have been sent, with no response. He is a current business owner in the town. One of the conditions of having a business permit you need to be in good standing with the town. A letter will be mailed to him letting him know that he will have 30 days to pay or be at risk of his business license being revoked. Reference: Ordinance 7-3-19B Ordinance requiring payment of local claims as conditions of obtaining, renewing, or maintaining town issued licenses or permits.

Carrell made a motion to approve the 2022 budget as written. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Carrell made a motion to approve the minutes from November 3, 2021. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Laurie Lamb is requesting a camper extension for 180 days. She stated her residence, 6020 Hwy 73S, was a total loss from a fire. She still in the process of working with her insurance company, and has met with local builder. They originally intended to hook this up to the existing septic on the property, but decided against this. They have talked with Crocket Septic regarding an insulated holding tank, which they would be able to pump properly during this process. Kretschmer made a motion to approve the camper extension for 180 days as long as the town receives notices of the pumping. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passes unanimously.

Steve Jaecks discussed parcels 1800890 and 1800891. He is wants to be able to access to his land with a vehicle. Currently, he is only able to access the property via foot. Part of the land is wetland, and part of the land is in a flood plain making this process difficult. He would like to know if the town could be of any assistance. The Board suggested working with neighbors. According to state statutes, the town would have the authority to have a road put in, however, all expenses of building the road, any special meetings, lawyer fees, compensation for the land to the neighboring land owners, and any additional fees related to this would all be the expense to Mr. Jaecks. If Mr. Jaecks is unable to find a resolution with neighboring property owners, he could file an affidavit with the town clerk outlining everything that was tried and looked into. Unless this is completed, the town is unable to investigate further.

Dennis Trickle, not present, requested a business permit for a lawn mower repair business. The constable is currently working with Dennis to clean the property up. The board tabled this request until they are able to speak with the Constable.

The Town is looking at updating the logo. One was previously created, however, the company that created this is out of business. McDonald is concerned if we have the "rights" to be able to use the design. A new logo could be used on bike trail and points of interest. Kretschmer made a motion to have Sarah Botham with Botham Ink create a town logo that the town would have the rights to. Rhonda Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Josh McDonald presented the HEART signs the Plan Commission and Ray Bossert have been working on for the bike trails and points of interest in the town. They would like to place 4 signs in the Town. They would like them to be located at the corner of Church Ave and Hwy 73, County Z and 10 mile Ave, 48<sup>th</sup> and Townline, and Church Ave and County Z. It was suggested to look at placing a sign at 64<sup>th</sup> and Townline instead of 48<sup>th</sup> and Townline because 48<sup>th</sup> is a busy road with traffic.

The Zoning Administrator position was discussed. The Plan Commission had some suggestions on what should be included on the town website for those that inquire about the position. McDonald suggested we reach out to neighboring municipalities to see if they have interest in working with the town. Further criteria would need to be discussed.

Carrell made a motion to approve the operator's license for Katie Weaver. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rickaby hasn't heard anything from the towns' attorney in order to clarify what the ARPA funds can be used for.

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

Board members gave informational announcements.

Bill Leichtnam shared an article from The Daily Tribune in regard to the deer fence that was installed around the perimeter of the solar project. This was something in our developers agreement and is now included in many other areas. He suggested we keep compiling ideas for a new developer's agreement on the Saratoga Solar Project and communicate those with the Town's attorney.

Leichtnam also stated that there is a rise of Covid cases in Wood County and recommended using safety strategies.

McDonald stated we still need one additional member to be appointed to the Plan Commission. He also stated that the Wakely Group, Historic Point Basse, is looking for help. They have a few young members, but would like to keep the historic place alive. This would be something the town and the Wakely group could explore further.

Leichtnam made a motion to adjourn. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Paulette Weinfurter  
Deputy Clerk