

February 2, 2022

The Saratoga Town Board met at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. All members were present. The meeting was officially noticed on January 28th, 2022.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Josh Volz gave the Building Inspector's report. Luke Joslin is building a large garage/shed on a 16 acre parcel. It was allowed based upon the size of the parcel

Andy Remely gave the Wood County Solar Project report. They have started installing the panels. The control house for the substation arrived. They have a startup date set for October 2022.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the Treasurer's report. There are 287 parcels that have not made at least a first payment on their taxes. The Town is able to accept taxes for an additional five-day grace period. \$50,000 in taxes was collected by online payments. There are six businesses that have not paid their personal property tax bills.

Board members gave informational announcements.

Leichtnam stated that Saratoga has had more Certified Survey Maps than any other Town in Wood County. He also stated that the Plan Commission will begin working on an update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan on February 9th. Resumes for the Maintenance & Road Person position are due February 9th. He also stated that the Joint Grand Rapids and Saratoga Municipal Court is looking for a qualified lawyer that lives in either municipality to be the new Judge.

Leichtnam made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19th, 2022. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Carrell made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24th, 2022. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Leichtnam made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25th, 2022. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Carrell made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26th, 2022. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Kretschmer made a motion to amend the December 15th minutes. Lauri Pappenfus's name was inadvertently not transferred from the list of appointed Election Inspectors to the minutes. Her name was added to the minutes. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Alan Wondzell requested parcel 1800316 and 1800354 be rezoned from Rural Residential to Commercial and Residential parcels. Alan Panek, attorney for Alan Wondzell stated that he believes the zoning changes are consistent with adjoining properties and other properties along Highway 13. He said it also wouldn't have a significant impact of surrounding properties. The Plan Commission recommended the Board approve the zoning changes to parcel 1800316, the parcel North West of the intersection of Highway 13 and Evergreen Avenue, since it meets every criteria in the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan Commission did not recommend the approval of parcel 1800354, the parcel South East of the intersection of Highway 13 and Evergreen Avenue. McDonald stated that on the Comprehensive Plan future land use map it looks like all four corners of the intersection could be commercial, but in the Comprehensive Plan it was worded that future use on Highway 13 could be commercial north of Evergreen Avenue. Chairman Rickaby stated the Board has the authority to accept or deny all zoning requests. Leichtnam

made a motion to table the discussion until the Town can get clarification from the Town's attorney. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town discussed the Town insurance to being March 1, 2022. The only bid received was from The Horton Group. Nathan Pezewski with The Horton Group discussed the policy with the Board. The Town insurance would be with Glatfelter Public Practice for a cost of \$18,112, and the Workers Compensation insurance would be \$7,219. Leichtnam made a motion to approve the policy through The Horton Group for a total of \$25,331. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Mitch Olson with Bug Tussel discussed Broadband. He stated that the company currently has 16 towers in Wood County, but nothing in Saratoga. He said that Bug Tussel doesn't normally go into areas that are covered by local companies, but would be willing to come into Saratoga if Solarus doesn't participate in the grant for Broadband the County is working on.

The Board discussed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding grant. The grant would cover 80% of the cost for the design and construction of a road project. Doug Passineau, the Road Oversight Project Manager, suggests the Town submit grant applications for 52nd Street from Highway 73 to Spruce Avenue and Ranger Road from Highway 13 to County Road Z. Both roads are rated 4's and 5's on the PASER Report. Kretschmer made a motion to apply for the grant on 52nd Street and Ranger Road. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

McDonald made a motion to approve the regular operator's license for Desiah Hodge. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Town Per Diem Policy for Elected and appointed Town officials. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

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

McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski, Clerk