

April 6, 2022

The Saratoga Town Board met at 6:00 pm in the Town Board Room. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. All members were present. The meeting was officially noticed on March 31, 2022.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rhonda Carrell gave the SPARKS report. She stated the County would waive the building permit fee for graveling the parking lot at the NEPCO public access area. She stated that any other permits needed, the Town would have to pay for. The next meeting will be the 3rd Monday in April.

Brandon Burroughs submitted the Constable's report. He stated he would be in favor of installing four way stop signs at 64th Street and Church Avenue. The mobile home at 824 Church will be removed once weight limits are removed. The owners would need to contact the Zoning Administrator to discuss what could be put on the property once the mobile home was removed.

Josh Volz gave the Building Inspector's report. He stated that there are three houses that are almost complete. He was contacted by someone purchasing property with septic system questions; he had them contact Wood County Planning and Zoning.

Ray Bossert submitted the Zoning Administrator report. He is looking at possible updates to the current mobile home ordinance. At the Board's direction, he has researched information regarding increasing the required parcel size for any new parcel splits. The Town currently requires a minimum of 1 acre each for any property splits. He stated that 11% of parcels in Saratoga are less than 3 acres. He said the Town would have to create a new zoning code. He will continue the discussion regarding the required parcels sizes with the Plan Commission. He stated he has had contact with someone regarding purchasing Camelot Motel. Lorelei Fuhrer suggested they contact ARC Central since they have researched the property.

Andy Remely gave the Wood County Solar report. He stated that trackers should be all installed on the east side of Rangeline Road by the end of April. They will continue to install solar panels through June. The fencing around the substation is 90% complete. Two-thirds of the transmission lines are complete; on April 20th they will complete the span across Highway 13. They will be bringing pallets to the old landfill that residents will be able to pick up. Chairman Rickaby stated that residents will take them out whole and that the Town would clean-up the site if there are any issues regarding the pallets.

Wayne Coon gave the Roadman report. Joe Palm has begun working as the new town roadman.

Heidi Kawleski gave the Clerk's report. The Annual Meeting will be held on April 19th at 7:00 PM. One Board member will need to take training for the Board of Review before it is held for 2022.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the Treasurer's report. Dog licenses were due March 31st. There are still 189 dogs that are not licensed from last year. She spoke to Jason from Wood County Planning and Zoning regarding Broadband. An area is considered underserved if they only have 1 provider for internet. She checked with residents at all four corners of Saratoga; all have Solarus 5g as an option. Charter is working on bringing their broadband into the Town, and worked on a grant with Wood County for this. The grant was submitted and the submission window closed on March 17th. If the project is a joint project, it may possibly give the grant a higher rating.

Board members gave informational announcements.

Gail Kretschmer stated that the Board should research Bitcoin mining due to being an eye soar and being very noisy.

Bill Leichtnam would like the Board to look at making a donation to the Nekoosa Legacy Foundation.

Josh McDonald received calls regarding garbage and recycling containers; which are not provided. He will call Waste Management regarding an oil leak from their truck.

Rhonda Carrell supplied the number to waste management to Board members. She has talked to a battery storage expert. The Town will schedule a public meeting regarding battery storage for the solar projects.

Dennis Lawrence from North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) discussed the Request for proposal for Sustainable Energy Economic Strategy. The Request for Proposal (RFP) would be advertised to get consultants to apply. The consultant would create the Sustainable Energy Economic Strategy for the Town. The RFP will be posted on State sites. The consultant will need to prepare a Sustainable Energy Economic Strategy over 6-9 months; which will need to include

1. Evaluating the Town's economic strengths and weaknesses,
2. Develop realistic goals and objectives that will guide economic development efforts, and
3. Identify strategies for development, land use and housing

Funding for the project cannot exceed \$40,000. \$20,000 would be paid by a federal grant the other \$20,000 would be paid by the Town as a match. The Town would need to create a committee that would interview and score the consultants in order to choose the one to do the project. The Board would like 2 Town Board members, 2 Planning Commission members, and 1 person from NCWRPC to be Committee members. The Plan Commission will bring recommended members to the next Town Board meeting. The Comprehensive Plan will continue to be worked on and will incorporate Zoning. All work should be completed by June 2023. Leichtnam made a motion to approve the Request for Proposal for Town of Saratoga Sustainable Energy Economic Strategy. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Carrell made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2022 with corrections. Kretschmer seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Wondzell would like to re-zone 4 lots along Highway 13 on parcel 1800316; the Northwest corner of Highway 13 and Evergreen Avenue. He would like the remaining 20 acres on the west side of the lot to remain in rural preservation. At the January Plan Commission meeting, they recommended approving the re-zoning change if 33' on the south lot was dedicated to possible extension of Evergreen Avenue. Raymond Bossert, the Zoning Administrator, stated that his request meets all existing laws and rules. There was discussion on the Comprehensive Plan future land use map and what was to be built on the lots. Carrell made a motion to approve the request to zone lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of parcel 1800316 at the northwest corner of Highway 13 and Evergreen Avenue from rural preservation to Commercial. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Al Wondzell would like to re-zone 3 lots along Highway 13 on parcel 1800354; the Southeast corner of Highway 13 and Evergreen Avenue. At the January Plan Commission meeting, they did not recommend approving the re-zoning changes since they wanted further discussion to determine the extent of the Commercial district. There was discussion on the future land use map and how far the Town Board would like commercial businesses to run on Highway 13. McDonald made a motion to approve the zoning change for lot 17, 18, and 19 on parcel 1800354 from Rural Preservation to Commercial. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

McDonald made a motion to approve the Certified Survey Map for Al Wondzell for Parcel 1800316. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Carrell made a motion to approve the Business license for Joshua and Amanda Witt for Country Sports, 10520 State Highway 13 South. It is an existing business with a change of ownership. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

McDonald made a motion to approve the motor vehicle dealer's license for Power Pac, Inc. dba County Sports located at 10520 State Highway 13 South. Kretschmer seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Kretschmer made a motion to approve placing stops signs at the corner of 64th Street and Church Avenue; making it a 4 way stop. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Transfer site, 9642 County Road Z, will be open 2nd and last Saturday each month through October from 8AM-2PM. The Brush site, 12799 Hollywood Rd, will be open the 3rd Saturday each month from 8AM-12PM through October. Passes for the Wisconsin Rapids Compost site increased to \$55 for the year and will be available for purchase from the Saratoga Mini Mart and City of Wisconsin Rapids garage.

Kretschmer made a motion for the Town to take the standard allowance for revenue loss for the ARPA funding. The Wisconsin Towns Association stated it would be the most flexible way for Towns to use the ARPA funding. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Leichtnam discussed creating a Supervisor handbook. He submitted a list of 23 policies that he would like the Board to look at. He would like this discussed at a future meeting.

The Board discussed employee evaluations.

Leichtnam submitted a list of four committees he would like the Town to create. He would like there to be two standing committees; personnel and finance and economic development/property/IT/grants and two Ad Hoc Committees; special projects (town hall) and Town reorganization. He stated that this would create more meetings, but shorter Town Board meetings.

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

McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Leichtnam seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski, Clerk