

## Unapproved Minutes

April 19, 2022

Chairman Rickaby called the Annual Meeting for the Town of Saratoga to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office. All members were present. Twenty-two Town residents attended the meeting. The meeting was noticed on March 31, 2022.

The following people elected for a two-year term of the office for the Town of Saratoga filed Oaths of Office in effect for April 19, 2022:

Supervisor- Josh McDonald

Supervisor- Rhonda Carrell

Chairman Rickaby read the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting. Richard Koch made a motion to approve the minutes. Chase Brockman seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rickaby presented and explained the 2021 financial report. Nancy Koch made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Sue Savage seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Next year's Annual Meeting as set by law will be April 18, 2023. Upon discussion with the town residents, the meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Rickaby read the Wisconsin State Statutes that outlined the type of items that can be discussed and acted upon with authority at the Annual Meeting.

Chairman Rickaby shared a tentative road repair schedule. Future projects consist of Hollywood Road, Oak Street, Lexus Lane and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. The town is looking at grants as well as ARPA funds to help facilitate some of the repairs. Chase Brockman stated it is approximately \$450,000 per mile to replace a road when done through a grant with all of the required engineering. When grant funding is not being used, paving and chip sealing of roads is up 25-30% from last year. Sarajane Snyder stated she doesn't feel that the Town should be spending so much money on the roads. She feels that we have very good roads. Chairman Rickaby explained that we have 93 miles of roads to maintain, and the life expectancy of a road is approximately 20 years, so the town is always catching up on repairs. Chairman Rickaby stated that they Town may need to look at crack-filling and leveling more roads instead of reconstructing in order to extend the life of the roads.

Nancy Koch noticed wear on the ATV route by Ten Mile. She wanted to know if the town could add some material to prevent the wear any further. Lorelei Fuehrer suggested reaching out to the ATV/UTV club because they may be willing to help. Chairman Rickaby stated that the shoulder is the towns, so the Town could look at that, but the trail is not owned by the town.

Chairman Rickaby stated that the Town is looking at putting an addition onto the Town office building. It is very expensive to heat the Town hall when it is used. He stated that the ARPA funds could possibly be used for the addition.

Chairman Rickaby stated that they would like to get address tiles for everyone in the town from Wood County Emergency Management. There was discussion of the need of address tiles to aid emergency services, especially at night. He stated that ARPA money may be used to do the project, and that residents would be reimbursed if they have purchased and gotten their address tile.

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The town will need to decide how to spend the ARPA funds by 2024; and the funding must be spent by 2026.

Supervisor Leichtnam would like to see the Town establish committees. He would like some standing committees as well as Ad Hoc committees. He urged residents to step forward and let the town know if they are willing to assist. These meetings could be quarterly, or as needed depending on the project the committee is working on.

Assistant Fire Chief of the Grand Rapids Fire Department, Mark Ruesch shared their annual report.

Supervisor Leichtnam and Supervisor Carrell provided input on the progress at the NEPCO Public Access on South Shore Drive. They have met with Wood County Planning and Zoning as well as the DNR. The Public Access is a narrow strip of land, about 80 ft. wide, that the community would be able to use. The SPARKS committee would like to eventually have the site handicapped accessible, and add an open shelter and bathrooms. They will also look at funding for the park through grants. The SPARKS committee spoke with the DNR about looking into the possibility of re-opening the boat landing on County Road Z.

The Town is having the attorney look into the acquiring land in the developers' agreement for the second solar project. This is still a work in progress.

Supervisor Carrell stated the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department along with the Saratoga First Responders received The Mission Lifeline Gold Plus Award this spring.

Gordy Wipperfurth asked if the town had any update on a possible sewer line with the Town of Rome. Sarajane Snyder stated that the DNR has the Town of Saratoga and Rome high on a list of municipalities that may need to look at a wastewater line/system. Supervisor Carrell has received a few emails on this, but no formal action has taken place.

Supervisor Krestchmer stated that the Plan Commission has been working on the Town's Comprehensive Plan with North Central Regional Wisconsin Plan Commission. If any resident had suggestions it is recommended to attend the Plan Commission meeting.

A resident inquired about the lot size for a parcel of land. Currently any new property splits require at least 1 acre minimum for each parcel. Chairman Rickaby stated the Town is looking into requiring 2-3 acres for any new splits. Supervisor Carrell stated she was concerned about the groundwater with septic systems and wells.

There being no further business being discussed, Sue Savage made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Koch seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Paulette Weinfurter  
Deputy Clerk