

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF HULL BOARD
MEETING COUNTY OF PORTATE, WISC.
HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012

1. Call the meeting to order by John Holdridge at 5:30 p.m. at the Town of Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr., Stevens Point WI 54482

Present: Chairperson Holdridge, Supervisors Melvin Bembenek, Dave Pederson and Dave Wilz.

Excused: Supervisor LaVerne Syens.

Others present: Clerk Janet Wolle, Road Foreman Pete Kaminski, Fire Chief Mark Kluck and EMS Administrator/President Mark Fritsche.

Excused: Treasurer Jim Kruziki.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of minutes – June 13, 2012 Clerk Wolle – minutes not complete as of this date.
4. Vouchers
Dave Wilz: Page 1 5 Alarm \$580 Hurst Preventative Maint. – Hurst does preventative training on Jaws of Life every 2 years

Pg 6 Stuczynski Trucking – Rented backhoe for 3 culverts
Cylinders are shot in Hull's 1954 John Deer backhoe

Dave Pederson: Pg 1 5 Alarm \$309 Flame fighters – Fiberglass ax handles

Pg 2 – LuAnn Elsinger \$76.50 – 4.25 hours web-site work – January thru June 2012

Pg 3 - Mini Fire Hose \$5.89 – Garden hose with nozzle for FD

Pete Kaminski - \$300 Steel pylons for generator at FD

Pg 4 – James Kruziki – voided check

Pg 5 – Rosholt Fire District FD-EVOC Class/Materials taught \$303.23 \$15.81 taxes paid as Chris Kluck does not yet have a tax free account and is trying to set that up.

John Holdridge: Pg 1 Kristi Ahrens \$25.00 for swimming pool subsidy. Hull citizens pay non-resident fees for a swimming pool pass – Hull reimburses the difference between resident and non-resident fees.

Motion M Bembenek, second D Wilz, approve the vouchers as presented and discussed.
Motion carried unanimously.

5. Citizens wishing to address the Town Board on non-agenda items. Agenda items are for discussion with possible action.

No citizen present regarding non-agenda items.

Announcements: Chairperson

- Water Study Task Force met June 26 with the plan Commission which voted to send the report to the Hull Town Board for action (Hull Board will have a meeting on August 20 or 27)
 - Crossroads quarterly mailing has an excellent article regarding weight limits
 - Received \$125 from the Wisc. Towns Association for food when Hull hosted the meeting of the Portage County Wisconsin Towns Association
 - Received credit from Harter's Fox Valley for fees charged to Hull – this was not done in other municipalities
 - Accident at Jordan Road and Wilshire Drive – there was a cedar hedge on a property creating a vision triangle problem
 - Due to the heat road crew will start working from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Memo received from Barb Brilowski regarding shooting of a weapon on the pipeline on Hull property
 - Email from Portage County Highway Commissioner Brian Kelly Hull did not receive TRIP funds for Woodview Dr as the project did not meet criteria
 - Town's Association meeting will be held in Wood County on Friday July 20
 - Portage County Unit of the Wisc. Towns Association meeting will be held in the Town of Lanark on July 23
6. Justice Works Request to use Hull roads for 5K and Half Marathon on September 1, 2012

Executive Director Katherine Munck was present regarding request of Justiceworks to use Hull roads for 5K and Half Marathon on September 1, 2012. The request is to close lanes from North Reserve Drive at DuBay Avenue to Jordan Road from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 10:30 a.m.

Motion D Wilz, second M Bembenek, approve the request of Justiceworks to close North Reserve Drive for the Half Marathon and 5K on September 1, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Addendum Item – Appeal to denial of Operator's Licenses: applications from Nikki Dombrowski and Megan Schultz

Clerk Wolle – Operator's Licenses for Nikki Dombrowski and Megan Schultz were denied as records check data showed convictions that were not listed on each of their applications.

- ✓ Received a call from Brenda Cote of Morey's wondering if they could appeal Megan's denial as she simply forgot to put it on the application (2010 underage drinking violation/consumption – she had put it on other applications)
- ✓ Nikki Dombrowski was in the office for the same reason and had talked with her employer Regina Cyran of Lake Side Bar
 - Nikki's convictions DWI 2007 Stevens Point; 2008 Underage Drinking Violation; 2008 Possession Drug Paraphernalia; 2012 Operate after Revocation/Suspension

- ✓ With convictions the circumstances must substantially relate to the particular job

D Wilz – are there any offenses that would prevent Nikki from getting a license?

J Wolle – not that I am aware of.

D Wilz – we are talking about on the first application Nikki indicated she did not have violations, however she did.

J Wolle – that is correct. We have other applicants that have had DWIs, underage drinking, etc but they provided that information on the application.

D Pederson – there is a point where there is a certain amount of discretion on the part of the Board that has to decide whether the applicant meets our criteria, are we satisfied they would be responsible in the position.

Chairperson Holdridge – feel if Nikki Dombrowski has violations in the future, she should not receive an operator’s license if again apply for 2013-14. Clerk Wolle will track all violations.

Motion M Bembenek, second D Wilz, grant an operator’s license to Nikki Dombrowski. Motion carried.

Motion M Bembenek, second D Wilz, grant an operator’s license to Megan Schultz. Motion carried.

7. Tank for Fire Department update-continued from June 13, 2012 Hull Board meeting

- Necessary to construct a base support for the poly tank of the 1963 Army 6x6 at a cost of \$2,050 plus \$20,000 for the tank
- \$8,500 needed to fix the tank on the 1979 truck
- Total cost \$30,550.00 – not budgeted
- Board had talked about a paint job – not necessary
- Suggest using funds from FD Large Equipment Reserve Fund – Mark Kluck

Motion D Wilz, second M Bembenek, approve expenditures with the understanding there is a need to resolve the scrap issue by showing in quote or forward to Hull a payment for scrap – will look into funding. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Hot Box for Road Crew update-Continued from June 13, 2012 Hull Board meeting

Bids received from:

Sherwin Industries	\$16,500	
Bruce Municipal Equipment	\$14,048	(did not meet specifications)
Envirotech Equipment Co. LLC	\$14,798	

M Bembenek – as Hull cannot do the Woodview Drive project (\$37,500 budgeted) suggest using funds from that project to pay for the Hot Box.

Motion D Wilz, second M Bembenek, go with the bid from Envirotech and instructions to pay for out of the Woodview Road project. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Reappointment of Maurice Stoltz to a seven (7) year term on Hull Parks Commission

Motion M Bembenek, second D Pederson, reappoint Maurice Stoltz to the Park Commission for a seven (7) year term. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Hull five (5) year operational budget plan update

- Review of worksheet drafted by Treasurer Jim Kruziki.
- Presentation of 5 year Budget Plan Thoughts from John Holdridge
- What major road projects & equipment on horizon? D Pederson
- Do not have money to do any major project. Need to 5 year budget for equipment. M Bembenek
- Without knowing building needs, anything of size will have to be borrowed. Supportive of process and would like to be part of that process. D Wilz

Motion D Wilz, second M Bembenek, approve presentation by John Holdridge. Motion carried.

11. Hull calendar – July to December, 2012

July – December calendar will be prepared including date info on: Elections, Fall Newsletter, Licensing of Bike and Dogs, Financial reports from Assessor and Treasurer, Building Inspector Report, Budget meeting for 2013 (Sept-Dec 2012), Snow plowing Info, Fall road Check, Dates of Hull meetings: Town Board, Plan Commission, Park Commission, Water Study Task Force. Items needing to be on the calendar need to be turned in to Janet.

A brief discussion about citizens receiving newsletter on line.

Motion D Wilz, second M Bembenek, accept the report by John Holdridge. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Town of Hull policy on curbside brush pickup and use of disposal site at Hull Municipal Building

Policy relating to brush to be complete by September 15, 2012 and sent to the board.

Motion M Bembenek, second D Wilz, develop a policy on curbside brush pickup and use of disposal site at Hull Municipal Building. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Reports:

- a. Clerk – Annexation at the north east corner of Badger Avenue and Highway 10 E
- b. Treasurer – Excused
- c. Road Foreman
 - i. Siren not up in northwest Hull
 - ii. Mowing ditches
 - iii. Watering in parks
- d. Fire Chief
 - i. Parked FD van behind town garage – looking for outlet for selling it
- e. EMS President/Administrator – No report

14. Adjournment: Motion D Pederson, second D Wilz, adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Janet Wolle, Clerk

BUDGET PROJECTIONS WORKSHEET												
	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Budget	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Expenditures Total	1,465,058	2,024,179	1,811,931	1,789,376	1,513,466	1,863,003	1,629,788					
Debt Service (Included)	124,906	195,975	160,906	124,906	162,338	120,059	120,059					
Revenues (reliable)												
State Fire Insurance	12,391	10,843	11,322	10,347	11,393	11,887	11,000					
Shared Revenues	236,564	236,565	236,565	236,695	208,556	208,369	156,492					
Transportation Aids	148,700	152,300	156,050	160,354	144,318	170,376	170,926					
Cable TV	67,015	67,210	71,626	75,555	76,006	79,602	79,728					
Other Revenue												
(except Property Tax)	169,757	246,067	173,739	160,794	133,608	146,615	170,385					
Debt (new)	91,550	285,748		809,000								
Reserves used	105,308	21,433	294,219			306,780	101,892					
Total Revenue												
(including Property Tax)	1,659,701	1,881,586	1,860,406	2,383,436	1,504,083	1,863,003	1,629,788					
Property Tax	828,416	861,420	916,885	930,691	930,202	939,373	939,365					
Net Revenue (Expenditure)	194,643	(142,593)	48,474	594,060	(9,383)	0	-					
Assessed Value	251,135,300	254,281,800	351,379,800	356,312,000	359,085,000	361,237,500	362,862,100					
Equalized Value	313,757,913	323,668,240	353,791,206	3,542,221	373,552,899	363,625,305	366,428,265					
Assessment ratio	0.8004	0.7856	0.9932	100.5900	0.9613	0.9934	0.9903					
Tax Rate	3.2039	3.3711	2.5528	2.5649	2.5398	2.5492	2.5378					

July 12, 2012

5 YEAR BUDGET PLAN SOME THOUGHTS

1. Taxes at the national and state level are the subject of much conversation among public officials, particularly as the election approaches. It is fair to say Republicans do not want to raise any taxes and Democrats feel the wealthier members of society should pay more, especially those making \$250,000 and above. We know that billionaires in some cases pay a tax rate less than the average citizen does; somewhere in the 12 – 15 percent range because of capital gains. Property taxes, the tax we deal with, is the focus of local officials with most elected public officials arguing that property tax rates should be stabilized or “hold the line”, particularly at election time. In fact there is very little serious discussion about the property tax, its impact on households, what it supports, coordination among government users and its total impact on individual householders.

2. Seldom are property taxes looked at from the perspective of those who actually pay the tax, the householder, a bottom up view. During the budget preparation the question of what tax rate the householders can afford is rarely investigated. Should there be no tax rate increase from the prior year or should the tax rate be determined by looking at certain factors in society? What are the indicators of community economic health? For example, what is the Consumer Price Index for the local community? What are the employment and unemployment rate? Is there a trend from year to year? What is happening in terms of foreclosures on real property? Do pay raises in the private sector indicate an increased ability to pay by Hull householders? If a government body decides to set a tax rate, looking at the ability to pay of those who pay the tax is not the normal procedure local governments' use in determining tax rates. In the case of retirees over the last several years, social security has increased slightly but pensions both public and private have decreased in recent years. Usually it is the top down process where expenditures are reviewed and revenues including the property tax are used to match the expenditures. In effect, to balance the budget.
3. The Town of Hull Board can effectively control about 15% of the taxes that a householder in Hull pays. 85% is determined by other taxing entities, the Portage County Board, the Stevens Point School District and Mid State Vocational Technical College. Two of those bodies, Portage County and Stevens Point Schools have elected representatives who under our Representative Democracy can be and should be influenced by voter sentiment. Midstate Technical College has no elected board. For Hull's purposes, it is the Hull Town Board that sets the tax rate for about 15% of the household property tax. Once the tax rate is determined and other revenues are brought into focus, then the revenue side of the budget can be determined. As a first priority, emphasis has to be on the operational budget, that is to say to continue the basic services that householders expect including snow plowing, garbage pickup, fire service, conducting elections, etc. An accurate projection needs to be made of the revenues without the property taxes.
4. The expenditure budget tends to drive the revenue budget. In Wisconsin both at the state and local level, all government budgets must be balanced so careful scrutiny of the expenditure budget is needed in order to retain increases in revenues including the property tax. A responsible and disciplined approach to expenditures must be taken by public officials and their staff.
5. In conclusion, taxes are the price we pay for a civilized government. The questions are how much government do we want, how much do we need and how much are we prepared to pay for? Local government officials have the opportunity to scrutinize property tax revenues and to see in practice how they are used. At the state or federal government level, it is difficult to see how a similar scrutiny can occur. In fact micro-management of the budget often does occur at the local level. In the case of the Town of Hull where there is no single executive authority, the authority rests in the Town Board as a whole. The Town Board is the executive and legislative authority and there is no separation of powers as at the city or county level. Budgetary authority rests in the hands of the Hull Town Board.