

MINUTES – December 2, 2013 – 5:30pm

Town of Hull Board Meeting

4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr.

Stevens Point, WI 54482

1. Call to order: The Town of Hull Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Holdridge at 5:30pm. Present: Supervisors Dave Pederson, Melvin Bembenek and Dave Wilz. Others Present: Jim Kruziki-Treasurer, Pete Kaminski-Road Foreman, Mark Fritsche-Asst. Fire Chief I and Barb Brilowsk-Secretary/Deputy Clerk. Excused: Supervisor LaVerne Syens, Janet Wolle-Clerk and Mark Kluck-Fire Chief.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Minutes: D. Pederson made a motion to accept the minutes of November 22, 2013. D. Wilz-Second. MOTION CARRIED.
4. Vouchers: D. Pederson made a motion to accept the vouchers. D. Wilz-Second. MOTION CARRIED.
5. Citizens wishing to address the Board on non-agenda items. Agenda items are for discussion with possible action.

Kelly Jones: I wanted to find out about the Hydrologists that the Town of Hull hired.
Holdridge: Three Hydrologists were interviewed by phone. The person that came out on top is Steve Gaffield with Montgomery & Associates from Cottage Grove, WI.

Kelly Jones: Why was he your top choice?

Holdridge: I will defer to Dave Wilz. He, Dave Pederson and LaVerne Syens conducted the phone interviews.

Wilz: We wanted to find someone well known in the field and are an expert in his field. We began with referrals from lawyers we knew in Madison that dealt with water issues, also local attorneys and George Kraft from the university as a resource. We interviewed three last week. Quite honestly, any one of them would have been a wonderful choice. We chose the one we did which happens to be the most expensive because they come from a larger organization and they spent lots of time in court rooms and had experience at that level. We chose Steve Gaffield from Montgomery and Associates because we felt they were a more complete package. Our second choice was Ken Wade. If for whatever reason Montgomery & Associates decided not to accept the position, we felt Ken Wade would be very qualified.

Holdridge: I spoke with Steve Gaffield. He has accepted the position. The cost will be \$110.00/hr. He will be speaking with specific people at the university. We will be sending him the information we have on Wellhead #11 plus any public reports (newspaper, etc.). We will need to sit down with him and discuss what data we want.

Kelly Jones: Are you able to tell us how he is going to get the data? My concern is the only data we have is from the city.

Pederson: He did describe the process. Part of it will involve interviewing homeowners, well drillers, looking at the data on the new wells that were installed, where water was first encountered, etc. Also try to obtain some historic data where we can. He did outline his process and it seemed to be very thorough.

Holdridge: One of the things I want to do is establish the Hull Water Committee. If anyone is interested, we would probably meet every other month or if necessary on demand or quarterly.

Robin Lipski: Are there parking or logging changes at the "Pipe?"

Holdridge: Bruce Wiza, that family has logging rights on that property.

Pederson: What have you observed?

Lipski: I was there last week and saw a couple of park benches placed. I was wondering if there would be closures or open parking.

Wilz: The installation of the benches was coordinated by the Park Commission. The Town of Hull purchased the materials and Tanner Hoerter assembled them for his Eagle's Scout project. This project was initiated by a citizen and we helped out. Bruce Wiza can go back and cut firewood anytime he wants but the causeway is under Town of Hull. That area belongs to all of us. It is not his.

Holdridge: There are four others that own property and have a key to open the gate so they can drive through. Otherwise it is restricted.

Kelly Jones: I have one additional question. The "Whispering Fields" Subdivision....there is supposed to be a "green space" area maintained in this subdivision when homes are built. I don't recall if it is 5 or 10 percent to be left natural. That is not happening. Is someone supposed to be monitoring this? There are several homes in that area where the lawn goes directly up to the fence line. I wanted to bring this to your attention because we had agreed to the natural area.

Robin Lipski: I don't understand why they are building more swales. When building a home they are digging out a swale using that sand, saving the topsoil and using the sand to backfill their houses.

Holdridge: They needed a ground water management plan. Gremmer & Assoc. developed that plan and we have that information on file.

6. Topics, Issues, Opinions of Interest-Citizens, Hull Staff, Hull Elected or Appointed Officials

Holdridge:

- Today Bob Konkol and I walked the property at 527 Maple Bluff Rd. with the cooperation of the owner. This is the parcel that citizens submitted a petition on.
- TRIP meets on Thursday at 7:00pm. We have four projects we need funded. Pete Kaminski and I will attend.
- Tomorrow is the 2014 Budget Hearing at 6:00pm.
- You have the copy of the letter I sent to Steve Gaffield confirming his employment.
- We had an issue on Pinewood Dr. that had lots of cats. The Humane Society and the Portage County Health Department has taken hold of this.
- Received a notice from the Census Bureau. They are going to stop the "Boundary and Annexation" survey. Looks like a budget situation at the federal level.
- Requirement on lot splits – The surveyor or the owner of the lot need to be present at the meeting in case of questions.
- Leonard Firkus Property-He has a solid waste disposal site that is required by the county to be cleaned up by July 14, 2014. Melvin Bembenek met with Leonard also. He has misc. items scattered over two lots. Leonard is willing to work with us so there should be no problem getting this cleaned up.
- Received a letter from Mike Lucas who is running for sheriff. I believe there are four or five candidates running for this office.
- Open records request from the Stevens Point Journal. They requested a copy of the surveys returned from the citizens having issues with their wells. Chris Jones from the St. Pt. Journal picked up the requested copies.
- Open house tomorrow on the plan for biking and pedestrians.

7. Reports:

a. Clerk: NONE

b. Treasurer: I provided you a report of our account balances as of the end of November. We did receive our final state shared revenue payment of about \$133,000 and our final payment from Charter for the cable for about \$16,000 all based on the budget.

c. Road Foreman: In your packet are the road counts on our major roads.

- d. Fire Chief (Mark Fritsche reporting): Fire Department had a quiet month. We had two calls which were both cancelled.
- e. EMS: (Mark Fritsche reporting): We had nine (9) calls in November which puts us at 109 for the year. I am also working on the gratuity for the EMS staff.

13. Pok-o-Snoz Snowmobile Trail-John Wojcik, President-Pok-o-Snoz Snowmobile Club: Ed Szachnit (representing club): No changes from last year, same route.

D. Wilz made a motion to approve the trail. M. Bembenek-Second. MOTION CARRIED.

8. CSM for Gary Swanson-land located in part of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 21 and part of the SE ¼ of Section 16, Town 24 North, Range 8 East, Town of Hull, Portage County, abutting Wilshire Drive. Surveyor – Dale Rosicky.

M. Bembenek made motion to approve the CSM. D. Wilz-Second. MOTION CARRIED.

9. CSM for Mark & Tina Gawlik – land located in part of the fractional North ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 7, Town 24 North, Range 8 East, Town of Hull, Portage County, abutting Weatherfield Road and Biscayne Road – Dale Rosicky, Surveyor.

D. Wilz made a motion to approve the CSM. M. Bembenek-Second. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Hull Municipal Building and Remodeling Plan/Bid Specifications/Timeline/Building Expenses to date – Bill Yudchitz, Architect

Holdridge: We met this morning. Bill is here to inform you of the progress and seek formal action from the Town Board.

Yudchitz: The specs are 99% done. Everything should be completed by this Wednesday. We are then asking Janet to put the “Notice to Bid” the project in the paper on 12/12/13 and 12/26/13. A walk through for contractors is scheduled on 01/7/14. We are hoping to issue only one addendum on 1/10/14. The Furniture (FF&E) bidding is still scheduled for 01/09/13 at 10:00am. The bid opening for the addition is scheduled for 01/16/13 at noon. The Building Committee made a decision to have a meeting before Christmas to determine the bid packages that we were going to ask to do the remodeling portion.

M. Bembenek made a motion to put this project out for bids. D. Pederson-Second. MOTION CARRIED!

Holdridge: If we get the bids in and they are all too high we may decide and can go to a non-commercial contractor, for example by passing an ordinance. Per WI Statute 62.15: (All public construction, the estimated cost of which exceeds \$25,000, shall be let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder: all other public construction shall be let as the council may direct. If the estimated cost of any public construction exceeds \$5,000 but is not greater than \$25,000, the board of public works shall give a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, of the proposed construction before the contract for the construction is executed. This provision does not apply to public construction if materials for such a project are donated or if the labor for such a project is provided by volunteers. The council may also by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all the members-elect provide by ordinance that any class of public construction or any part thereof may be done directly by the city without submitting the same for bids).

I am suggesting we pass the attached proposed ordinance which reads:

The Town of Hull Board, County of Portage, Wisconsin hereby approves by a three-fourths vote renovation of the Municipal Building or any part thereof may be done directly by the town without submitting the same for bids. This provision is as per Wisconsin Statute 62.15.

D. Pederson made a motion to approve the ordinance. M. Bembenek-Second.

D. Pederson – Aye

M. Bembenk – Aye

D. Wilz – Aye

J. Holdridge – Aye

MOTION CARRIED!

11. Employment and compensation of Troy Rychter & David Tutton as part-time backup snowplow drivers – Pete Kaminski, Road Foreman.

P. Kaminski: I recommend at least \$15.00/hr.

M. Bembenek made a motion to pay Troy Rychter & David Tutton \$15.00/hr. D. Pederson - Second. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Refuse/Recycling costs for Mobile Home Parks in Hull – J. Kruziki, Hull Treasurer:
This issue came up because Recre Acres required an additional dumpster for garbage. There is an additional charge from Harter's Disposal as they are picking up additional garbage. Recre Acres has requested an additional dumpster (additional cost of \$144.00/month) so garbage is not left outside of the dumpsters. The question is what is it really costing us to pick up trash and recycling at the mobile home parks? I have prepared an analysis. We receive revenue from the mobile home parks in two ways; from the real estate taxes and the mobile home fees. The bottom line is revenue received from the mobile home parks is about \$19,662 and expenses for garbage/recycling/tipping fee is about \$22,425. We are paying out more than we are receiving.

D. Wilz made a motion to accept Jim's report but to check with other municipalities on how they handle garbage/recycling pickup with the mobile homes/rental units and the fees associated with it and report back to the board. Also, check with Jeremy Kurtzweil on the median value of the homes in Hull to determine if all home owners are covering the cost of their recycling/garbage pickup.

M. Bembenek – Second. MOTION CARRIED.

14. Appointment of Election Board for 2014-2015 election seasons, Janet Wolle-Clerk Holdridge: We received letters from both the Democratic and Republican Party. Does this mean that the only people that can serve at an election are the poll workers that are a member of a political party?

Pederson: I don't think so but I believe statutorily the parties are required to come up with a list of electors.

Holdridge: But when you get down to it, most people are not members of a political party. If some citizen comes in and indicates they would like to work at the polls, would they have the same standing as the democrats/republicans on the individual lists?

Wilz: I believe we have discussed this before and Janet needs so many democrats and so many Republicans. Doesn't she almost assign them?

Pederson: Yes, but we have plenty in our Town but there are other Towns where they cannot get enough volunteers that indicate they are Democrats or Republicans and do not have a political affiliation.

Holdridge: I would like to see it here that if someone wants to work at the polls that are not a registered Democrat or Republican, they could still work at the polls.

I know we have had a couple of students that have worked at the polls.

The one that concerns me is Marilynn Kranig. She is a member of the Democratic Party, in here most Wednesdays working on the polls and she is the Chief Inspector. Why is she on the list when at the polls she is off by herself handling other responsibilities.

B. Brilowski: Marilynn is stepping back from this responsibility. Heidi O'Brien will be the Chief Inspector going forward.

Pederson: She is on the other list.

B. Brilowski: The Democratic and Republican representatives call each of the people you see on the lists and determine if they meet the qualifications to be on the list. The people also need to agree to be on the list.

Holdridge: If Heidi O'Brien is going to run the election as Chief Inspector, she should be out of the political realm and just run the election.

Pederson: I don't think you can say someone cannot belong to a party. It is a free choice.

Holdridge: But most of us are voting one way or another. When you look at this there is some notion that there should be a role for the citizen. Anyone working for the Town of Hull that manages the election, why should they be part of a political party?

Pederson: Why couldn't they be?

Holdridge: A lot of people are not members of political parties.

Pederson: If they cannot serve then we need to recruit an independent to manage the election.

Holdridge: Or just say you should not serve in that role. Your role is as Chief Inspector of the Election for the Town of Hull.

Wilz: She (Janet) is assigning just to fulfill the requirements. This has been done before.

Holdridge: Just because it has been done before, why do we say this is the correct way to do it? Both political parties have an interest in this. Both get a chance to name who is going to work at the polls. That is my only concern about this.

Wilz: What would you do with #14 on the agenda? We have the two lists submitted by Janet. She is looking for our approval so she can appoint these two election boards.

J. Holdridge: I make a motion the Chief Inspector of Elections for the Town of Hull should be non-partisan. Wilz - Second.

Wilz: So accept the list that Janet has proposed with the exception of the person who is the Chief Inspector.

Holdridge: Yes.

Pederson: Election law does not allow anyone to influence anyone's vote within 100' of the polls, so I do not understand your concern John.

Holdridge: My concern is we have to get outside of the political parties to some extent. Right now it is obvious that whoever appoints these people consider them a Democrat or Republican.

Pederson: That is done by statute.

Holdridge: I go back to the universe. How many people would work at the polls if they had to be a Democrat or Republican?

Pederson: I don't think they have to be. These are the people that are nominated by the two parties.

Holdridge: Most of the elections around here are non-partisan.

Holdridge: There is a motion on the floor. This should be looked at by Janet and the Chief Inspector should be excluded from that list.

Holdridge: Aye

Wilz: Aye

Pederson: No

Bembenek: Abstain

MOTION FAILED!

15. Operator's Application for Karen Schmude (at Country Club) & Delores Disher (at Knotty Pines) – Janet Wolle

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*D. Wilz: Made a motion to approve both applications. Pederson – Second.
MOTION CARRIED.*

16. Adjournment: Wilz: Motion to adjourn. Pederson: Second MOTION CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Brilowski/Deputy Clerk

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