

Town of Onalaska
Special Storm Water Utility District Meeting
March 28, 2016

Chairman Rolly Bogert called the Special Storm Water Utility District Meeting to order at 6:00 pm on Tuesday March 28, 2016 at the Town of Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Road, Onalaska, WI. Members present: Rolly Bogert, Tim Carrier and Marc Schultz. Stan Hauser and Dale Shefelbine were absent. Town Interim Clerk Mary Rinehart was also present.

Carrier made a motion to approve the agenda. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Schultz made a motion to approve the March 1, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Carrier seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Schultz made a motion to approve the bills and finance book. Carrier seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comment. Statement from Dave Drazkowski of N6096 Apple Valley Road, was read into record. Statement as follows:

March 28, 2016

To Whoever Can Take Action:

The streetscape in our valley has been getting progressively worse in recent years, in large part due to the practice of over-applying sand resulting in our yards and ditches being filled with sand. Now that 95% of the over-applied sand on our roads (at least the roads in Apple Valley) has been swept away to our yards and ditches by spring rains, it would be appreciated if the remaining sand could be swept up ASAP. Extensive snowplow blade damage has also occurred alongside the road in several areas. It is the worst it has been in the 28 years of residing here. This negatively impacts property values. I can't speak for other areas in the township as I don't know if the same practices are used in those places.

One must question why we have so much sand on our roads in the first place. Snow plow operators in prior years would apply sand sparingly to only intersections AFTER a snow event and, during a snow event, would concentrate on just plowing to make roads passable. Applying sand everywhere in the middle of a snow event does little good as it gets covered up by snow minutes after application. It is then bladed off into our yards with subsequent plowing. Sand does not remain in the middle of the road and is quickly blown off to the sides rendering it useless. There should be ZERO sand applied to our roads when the weather is warm especially toward springtime. A very light application of deicers will be much more effective and safe.

One must also ask why taxpayers are subsidizing a street sweeper that is not properly utilized. It never seems to be put into use in a timely fashion during the spring when it should be. Neighboring municipalities (i.e. Onalaska, La Crosse) have had their sweepers out weeks ago at the first opportunity to clean (what little) sand was applied to their roads. And they do this every year! Realizing the township only has one sweeper and a limited crew, the sweeper should be road-ready in the spring with a plan to get after the roads with the most sand first.

Also consider the potential pedestrian safety concern with having so much sand piled up on our roads. There are many people who like to walk the roads and bicycle when the weather starts to turn warm. We have personally had two slip & fall events walking across the road to our mailbox – on the sand!

With anticipation for quick action and better policy in the future, I welcome your feedback.

Regards,

Dave Drazkowski

Discussion was held on hiring a storm water employee.

Motion to adjourn made by Schultz, seconded by Carrier. Motion passed unanimously at 6:24pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Rinehart Interim-Clerk.