

DRAFT

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2019**

Chairman Rolly Bogert called the Town Board Meeting to order on Tuesday April 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Town of Onalaska, Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Street. Present were Chairman Rolly Bogert; Supervisors Jerry Monti, Frank Fogel, Stan Hauser and Paula Przywojski. Mary Rinehart, Town Clerk was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion made by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Monti to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Supervisor Przywojski; second by Supervisor Hauser to approve the minutes of March 8, March 12, and March 25, 2019 meetings with any necessary corrections. No corrections noted. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Sandy Thompson, W7802 County Road Z, spoke against the idea of the Town forming its own police department. Thompson cited budget constraints and requested the Board not spend more time or resources to further investigation.

Harry Helfrich, N5597 Cheyenne Drive, addressed the board in opposition to the formation of a Town police department. Helfrich indicated he has a second home in a community of 26,000 residents that does not have an independent police department. Helfrich did not believe the Town of Onalaska with less than 6,000 residents has the crime to necessitate a department. He advised the board it would be a bad decision to have a police department as the cost verses benefit does not come back to us. Helfrich does not want the board to spend more time on this.

David Sebastian, W6447 Oakwood Circle, advised he has been a taxpayer in the Town since March of 1987. Sebastian asked if the idea of forming our own police department is a direct result of speeding or if there are other factors? Chairman Bogert advised it is somewhat of a direct result. Sebastian asked if we pay La Crosse County for police, and if we do it is silly to have money spent to have our own department for a couple of speeders. If we spend more, we borrow more and are not living within our means.

Jean Nagel, 1104 Hanson Road, resident of the Village of Holmen requested the board to allow her to be part of the discussion on item 14 Hanson Road.

Ward Kyle 4th Ave North, Onalaska complimented the town snow plow crew on the winter roads. Kyle in delivers 400 morning newspapers in the County S, Apple Valley, Innsbrook, and east of Holmen areas of the town. Kyle indicated the plowing has made his job easier and safer.

County Board Report

Vicki Burke reported County Z and County ZB speed limit signs will be posted to the newly changed speed limits. She indicated the County finance department has earned an award for record keeping. The County will be working with community agencies to improve affordable housing within La Crosse County.

Holmen Area Fire Board Report

Supervisor Hauser reported February 2019 call report as: Village of Holmen had 55 calls, Town of Onalaska 18 calls and Town of Holland 7 calls. Hauser advised the department is on pace to have approximately 1200 calls in 2019. Hauser also briefed the board in regards to response times. The department will be starting to search for an assistant chief, preliminarily projecting to hire toward the fall of 2019. A grant application has been submitted to help with the added expense. Chairman Bogert reported the grant covers 75% of the cost for 2 years, one third the cost the third year, then phases out in the fourth year. Chairman Bogert added that two firefighters have been terminated by Chief Manley and he believes this was a poor decision. Bogert added the Chief still needs to complete Wisconsin certification for medical calls. Supervisor Monti asked how these (the discharge and the certification) affects the department. Bogert advised the Chief can respond as long as a Wisconsin certified officer is on the call. The discharges can make added difficulty in the staffing of calls according to Bogert. Bogert added the Chief did not come to the Fire Board as was normally done previously prior to making significant changes. Bogert added he believes good people were discharged.

Treasurer's Report: Written report was provided.

Discussion on Treasurer's recommendation relating to depositories for Town funds: Motion by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Fogel to close the River Bank account. Motion passed unanimously. This account was previously used for tax deposits; however River Bank opted to not accept tax payments of behalf of the municipality.

Approve the bills and finance book: Motion by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to approve with any necessary corrections. No corrections identified. Motion passed unanimously.

Shop Report: Routine equipment maintenance has been completed on trucks. Trucks have been washed; maintenance was completed on the bobcat, chipper, chipper trailers and mowers. Street sweeping was started the last week of March. Curbside chipping started the first week of April and is running on schedule.

Discussion on scheduling dates to review resumes of full-time public works applicants: Motion by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to have two board members volunteer, along with the Clerk, review the resumes received and narrow down to 15 candidates to interview. Supervisor Fogel believed the entire board should review all 43 resumes. Motion failed 2-3 (Fogel, Bogert, Monti). Motion by Supervisor Fogel; seconded by Monti to have process set up the same as last time, set a date to review resumes and have entire board determine who to interview. Motion passed 4-1 (Przywojski). Meeting to review resumes set for April 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Discussion on Universal Truck Equipment quote for repair of conveyer assembly and bar chain for truck 10 for four thousand three hundred eighteen dollars (\$4318.00) Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Supervisor Hauser to approve the repair of conveyer assembly and bar chain for truck 10 for four thousand three hundred eighteen dollars (\$4318.00). Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Degenhardt tire proposal for plow truck wheel and tires for plow truck: Motion by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to approve the proposal in the amount of \$3,506.16. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on complaint regarding possible ordinance violations along Hanson Road: Motion to open the floor by Supervisor Fogel; seconded by Supervisor Hauser passed unanimously. Jean Nagel asked for

an update of that the board found out in regards to the ditch cleaned by the person who allegedly filled the ditch with brush, rock and debris. Ms. Nagel stated she believes more brush has been added. Chairman Bogert advised he has spoken with the Town's legal counsel and a letter from the town can be sent requesting the brush, rock and debris be removed from town property, and that if it is not completed the town can then do the cleanup and bill the individual. Ms. Nagel expressed concern for brush that is moving down the hill toward her property and considers this a nuisance and requests that the town ordinance chapter 42 for recycling be enforced. Nagel is concerned that rodents may infest the piles and that desirable wildlife such as deer and turkeys have not been coming along the hillside as in the past. When asked if she has had contact with the DNR, Nagel advised she has and was referred back to the town. Ordinance committee chair Jerry Monti suggested we send a letter to the neighbor who has been creating the issues requesting he recycle materials properly and that he remove what has been placed in the ditches and on town right of ways. The neighbor to neighbor issue is a civil matter. Nagel asked what the appropriate steps to do are, who will carry through with those steps and who will come back to carry out state statutes? Nagel will have her attorney contact the town's attorney. Motion to close the floor by Supervisor Fogel; seconded by Supervisor Monti. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Fogel; seconded by Supervisor Monti to send a letter to Mr. Hanson requesting him to remove any objects i.e. brush, rock etc. from the town right of way within 30 days of receipt of the letter. If it is not done the town will complete the work and will bill the resident citing Town of Onalaska Code of Ordinance Chapter 42. The town legal counsel is to draft the letter. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on extension of the Brice Prairie Bike Pedestrian Safety Committee for one additional year: Brian Tippetts' Chairperson of the Brice Prairie Bike Pedestrian Safety Committee updated the board on the activity of the committee over the past year. It was reported the committee has focused on existing plans, specifically the Brice Prairie Master Plan and the Town Comprehensive Plan in effort to achieve two main objectives. 1). To find safe pathways of connection between the existing bike-pedestrian paths on Brice Prairie, and 2) to develop connections to paths leading off of Brice Prairie. The committee has met approximately 13 times over the past year and is working on writing the summery report to the Town Board as well as looking for funding sources and potential grants to fund the development of the paths. Tippetts' expects to have the report and recommendations completed by June 1, 2019. Motion by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Hauser to extend the Committee one additional year. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion recommendation from Brice Prairie Bike Pedestrian Safety Committee to add Robin Schmidt to the Brice Prairie Bike Pedestrian Safety Committee due to the resignation of Dave DeBoer: Robin Schmidt introduced herself to the board. Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Supervisor Monti to approve appointment of Robin Schmidt to the Brice Prairie Bike Pedestrian Safety Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Town smoking policy: Motion by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Fogel to approve resolution 2019-04-09 Resolution to set policy regarding prohibition of smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco on Town premises. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Lake District request for use of the Town Hall as their meeting location: Motion by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to approve use of the Town Hall, during business hours, by the Lake District for their monthly meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Moe Fencing proposal for installation of fence along shop property line: Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; second by Supervisor Hauser to approve the proposal using green privacy slats and to have the fence installed. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on attendance of Town Official Workshop May 16, 2019 in Tomah: Motion by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Monti to approve of anyone at the table (board members and clerk) to attend the Town Officials workshop. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on adjustment of Town Hall hours to eliminating noon to 1:00 pm closure: Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Supervisor Hauser to adjust the town hall hours to Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, closing from 12:30 to 1:00 for lunch; Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on purchase of lubricant tanks for town shop: Motion by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Fogel to continue to purchase from Hartland Oil; use Hartland's tanks, changing the type of lubricants as needed and to not purchase tanks at this time. Motion passed 3-0 (Bogert and Monti abstained).

Items from the Park Committee

Discussion on recommendation to hire Elliot Stump Grinding to grind stumps left from cutting of trees in Town parks: Motion by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to engage Elliot Stump Grinding to remove stumps at a cost of \$2,250.00 and have the crew do the cleanup that follows. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on recommendation to allow the park committee to have a park Facebook page:). Przywojski advised she will be the administrator for the page. Motion by Supervisor Hauser; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to approve the park committee to have a Facebook page. Motion passed 4-1 (Bogert).

Discussion of recommendation to have park wells and town hall well tested: Motion by Supervisor Monti to have signs stating Non Potable Water posted where necessary. No second. Motion failed. Monti amended motion to have signs stating Non Potable Water signs posted at wells in town parks. Motion seconded by Przywojski. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on recommendation relating to approve ballfield requests for 2019 season from Holmen Youth Parents Baseball Association: Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Monti to approve the Holmen Youth Parents Baseball Association use of Apple Valley, Sand Knolls and Strawberry Commons Ballfields for the 2019 season as requested. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on recommendation relating to approve ballfield requests for 2019 season from Brice Prairie Youth Baseball Association: Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Supervisor Fogel to approve the Brice Prairie Youth Baseball Association use of First Prairie, Roth and Mulder Ballfields for the 2019 season as requested. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding Brice Prairie Youth Baseball request to add screenings to the baseball fields at Mulder Park baseball field including having the town crew complete excavating work to remove the current infield: Motion by Supervisor Fogel; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski to allow the town crew

to dig the center of the infield up to 12" deep and leave filling back in left up to the Brice Prairie Baseball Parents. Town crew is to only dig out at Mulder Field. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion relating to Brice Prairie Youth Baseball Association request for approval to renovate the Roth Field shelter/concession stand: Motion by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Fogel to allow the remodel of the inside of Roth Field shelter at no cost to the town. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion relating to request for waiver of fee for use of Swarthout Park shelter for Brice Prairie community picnic May 18, 2019: Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Supervisor Monti to have the requestor pay the \$100 fee as usual and refund the \$100 fee after conclusion of the event provided that cleanup is done appropriately. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion relating to proposal for residing of Marvin Gardens Shelter: Motion by Supervisor Przywojski; seconded by Supervisor Hauser to refer the shelter residing back to the Park Committee for in light of budget constraints. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Monti; seconded by Supervisor Przywojski passed unanimously at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Rinehart, Town Clerk