

Town of Almena

Minutes – Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting April 11, 2022

1-The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Ken Scheps at 7:00 pm. Board members in attendance were Chair Ken Scheps, Supervisors Harland Becker & Ed Miller, Treasurer Hoyt Rose, Shop Employee Gary Kreckler, & Clerk Kristen Moen. Also present Jessica Sandry from Dairyland Power Cooperative, Jacob Meyer from Meyer Landscaping, and Vince Wohlk from Almena Fire Department.

2-The Clerk states when and where the Notice and Agenda for the meeting was posted.

3-The Clerk read the monthly meeting minutes for February 7th, 2022. Supervisor Ed Miller made motion to approve minutes as read. Supervisor Harland Becker 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

4-The Treasurer report for February and March was given by Treasurer Hoyt Rose. Harland Becker made motion to approve report as given. Supervisor Ed Miller 2^{nds} the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

5-Public Input: Board stated that they will discuss road maintenance and budget later in the agenda. Vince Wohlk inquired about our ARPA funds that we were planning to give to Mosaic and questioned if we are getting another round this spring and if we could use that for roads or fire dues under the standard allowance. Hoyt stated that we could use the funds under standard allowance for almost anything. Board discussed how the paperwork was signed and money was allocated for Mosaic and the fiber optic grant. Board stated that grant was not yet approved, check was not written, and that the funds could still possibly be allocated for something else. Hoyt stated that the uses for ARPA funds are now more broad and that we could ideally use it for roads, fire dues, loan payments, or broadband. Thursday April 21st is fire board meeting and Chair Ken suggested to Vince to request this item to be placed on the agenda to discuss what other villages/towns are planning to allocate their funds for.

WisDOT email received by Clerk Kristen today for No Fee Permit Applications for All self Propelled, Towed or attached implements of husbandry and agricultural commercial motor vehicles. Chair Ken approved and signed application. Clerk to complete and return to WisDOT.

Clerk Kristen discussed success of new equipment for April 5th election. Discussed need for a second machine and stated that County Clerk has heard that from more than one municipality. Clerk stated that meeting was Wednesday April 13th and would discuss cost as well as possible group ordering. Clerk will bring back to board.

6-Tom West was not at meeting but board noted his approval of zoning.

7-Jessica Sandry from Dairyland Power and board exchanged formal introductions. Jessica gave background on project on 3rd street and where the project currently is at. Dairyland needs to put a pole to feed into substation. They plan to be working outside the road right away but will be right next to the road with their construction and heavy equipment. They were unable to do any construction this winter due to delayed materials. They plan to start May 9th and Jessica reported going to the DOT to get a permit for temporary access at the apron by the stop sign with timber and composite mats. Most heavy equipment deliveries were completed this winter but a few items such as 1 laminate pole and hardware were not delivered yet. Jessica stated that they plan to minimize road use and only legal loads on road. Jessica did present both the agreement to prevent damage to the road banks or the road if something were to occur. She also presented the DOT Permit she obtained. (both attached to minutes for reference upon request) Ken and board discussed concern with Jessica about new road and heavy loads on the road. Ken's largest concern with the entrance off the apron is large semis will not be able to stay on highway 8 to wait to enter which may cause them to pull onto 3rd despite road bans. Board also voiced concern about the apron damage and who would be responsible for that since ideally its the Town's responsibility to maintain it. Other concerns were failure to obey the signs. Jessica did state that only vehicle within weight limits would be utilizing these roads. Jessica did do an inspection with pictures and videos and stated that the road was unremarkable. Construction to start May 9th and last 2-3 weeks if no issues. She allowed enough time to fix any dirt, plant grass, and clean treeline along the hwy before the DOT comes to inspect. She also stated that she would be the final sign off person after this project was complete. Jessica also reported the concrete is in but they will need a mobile crane to erect the pole. Harland Motions for the Town of Almena to approve and sign said contract with Dairyland power for use of 5th street with road restrictions. Ed Miller seconds this motion, all in favor, motion carried. Jessica left meeting at 7:57pm.

8-Vince Wohlk, on behalf of the fire department to discuss the David Bryngelson Fire Bill that they charged the Town of Almena \$950.00. Clerk stated that Town of Almena did send a bill to both of David's addresses, one in Florida and the other in Almena. Treasurer Hoyt asked why the fire department bills the board verse just billing the person and Vince stated that we have the ability to put it on the tax roll to claim this payment. Harland stated that he could stop over and talk to David when he sees him at the property. Board discussed how this fire occurred and that David did state that he started the fire and then left it unattended. Vince shared with board how payment for fires occur; when they bill insurance, when they bill the party, and when they chose not to bill anyone. Vince did state the Clinton Township also has 2 past bills that have not been paid either. Ken brought up that the fire department now goes to car accidents which increases costs and they need to collect what they can. Vince reported an increase of "lift assists" since COVID occurred. Ken asked for address to visit David to discuss the bill. Vince stated he prefers people to pay the Town and then we pay the fire department to create a paper trail. Board suggested that this be discussed at the fire meeting so all Chairman can sign in writing to approve a system they all agree with and follow. Vince then asked to have his number changed on the town website for Burning Permits. Treasurer Hoyt to followup on this.

9-Board skipped and discussed 10 and returned to 9.

10-Meyer Landscaping presented to board on property at 2 2 ½ st. on Upper Turtle Lake as he is the one doing the project and presented on behalf of the property owners. The project is the removal of the existing building and rebuilding of a larger building that is also higher. Two options were presented to the board with pictures. Board and Jacob discussed the conflict with the road, property lines, plowing, road maintenance and proposed structural heights. Board agreed that plan B was a better option as it moved the new building further away from the road. After discussion it was determined that the road in fact may not be a road but a driveway. Ken stated that the state does not have it recorded as a road and they do not know why. Ken stated that the Town does not get any funding for this road and board along with Gary pulled out maps to look at the new roads and that the DOT does not recognize this as a road. Ken stated that he would need to call and look into this more. Jacob stated that he had planned to do landscaping before taking down the existing building. Ken stated that he will call county about this and he would contact Jacob when he knew more. Jacob left the meeting at 8:47pm.

9-Board discussed denial from zoning office not allowing the building being put in off 3rd street to be business but to remain as AG-1. Board discussed if that meant they would continue to construct the building and operate from there or if they would attempt the other properties they proposed. Chair Ken questioned when they originally came to the board with this request. Clerk was unable to note but would look and report back to Chair.

11-Board noted Barron County Unit Meeting Minutes.

12-Board discussed and made changes to Spring Clean-up Notice for May 7th. Discussion about increasing the charge of refrigerators and it was agreed not to change the charge. Clerk stated this will run for 2 weeks in the paper and it will be placed in 3 places.

13-Board noted and discussed the Kerberrose new Customer Portal. Clerk to look more into this and report to board about needed information.

14-Board noted that retailers may not accept 6-digit CES numbers after June 30th. Treasurer Hoyt stated that this wasn't a concern for us.

15-Board discussed the WTA ARPA Revenue Loss reporting which treasurer Hoyt stated that he would take care of this reporting. He stated that it does take a while to get done. He discussed what we learned at the WTA meeting last Friday. Chair Ken made a motion to appoint Treasurer Hoyt Rose as the Authorized Representative for Reporting for the APRA allocations and the funds will be claimed at standard allowance. Harland seconded this motion. All in favor, motion carried.

16-Board noted The Holden Insurance Packet and it was given to Chair Ken Scheps.

17-Board reviewed and discussed the invitation from the Barron County Highway Department. Ken, Harland, Ed, and Hoyt all planned to go on Thursday April 14th at the Mosaic Telecom building in Cameron. Ken stated that the board needed to know which roads to discuss and bring to the meeting. The board then discussed the new grants and how we can apply for them along with the processes that were explained at the WTA meeting on Friday. The process of allocation of money and grant writing was discussed. Ken and Hoyt agreed to get grants written for roads on our town to submit for the grant funding. Ken stated that he would ask Mark to do the Grant writing. Ken did say that the invite to the HWY department stated they will explain more of the WisDOT funding.

18-Board noted the DUNS number transition and Treasurer Hoyt stated that he would look into this.

19-Board noted and agreed not to vote on the mosaic ballots.

20-Board noted the election results for appointing the clerk and treasurer was 127 yes and 67 no.

21-Board noted that the NEU portal is open and has updated compliance and reporting guidance.

22-During the road maintenance and equipment update, Ken stated the tractor will not be here until August, a down payment is not needed, and clarified we didn't need to do anything with our loan yet. Gary discussed the upcoming snowstorm in Northern MN and Chair Ken agreed to hold off one more week to get the arm for the mower. Board discussed the Loon Lake driveways that had a lot of water on/in them as reported by Lori Cordes who called the board. Gary is to run out and take pictures to see how they have drained in a week. Board discussed this issue since the storms removed trees there a few years ago. Discussion of either digging deeper ditches and places culverts in the driveways or filling in the minimal ditches would solve the problem. Vince left meeting at 9:47pm.

23-Board goes over and audits vouchers 9364-9405. Harland Becker motions to approve voucher, Ken Scheps seconds this motion, all in favor, motion carried. Chair Ken made suggestion of possibly getting a Synergy Card verse the charge method. Clerk will place this on agenda for next meeting.

24-Board sets next Regular Monthly Town Meeting for May 9th, 2022 at 7pm.

25-Chair Ken Scheps made a motion to adjourn. Harland Becker 2nds the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:27pm.

Respectfully submitted – Kristen Moen, Clerk