

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 20, 2022

Members Present: Micheal Peterson, Jane Mueller, Robert Solberg, Karen Tomesh

Staff Present: Janelle Henning, Jackie Vold

Members/Staff Absent: Andrea Kott

A quorum being present, Chrm. Peterson called to order the monthly Town Board meeting of the Washington Town Board at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at the Town Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road.

Minutes:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2021 TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

The December 2021 Financial Statement was reviewed.

Checks:

Supv. Mueller moved TO APPROVE CHECKS 029526 THROUGH #029611 FOR \$4,183,343.32. The motion was seconded by Supv. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Licenses:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE BARTENDER LICENSES FOR LILY R. BOE AND TYLENE M. DIERICKX. The motion was seconded by Supv. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Citizens Input:

None

WDNR MS4 Permit Program Audit Summary:

Admin. Henning provided the Board with the audit summary from the DNR. This audit was in conjunction with Eau Claire County and the Town of Seymour regarding our storm water permit through the DNR. The Town of Washington does not have any action items as a result of the audit.

Town Road Improvement Program – 2022 Application – Mueller Road:

Admin Henning indicated this program is a grant through the State of Wisconsin that is administered through the Eau Claire County Highway Commissioner to the towns. We were not slated to apply this year; however, a town that was eligible this year was not able to identify a project which gave us the opportunity to apply. A portion of our Mueller Road project was submitted for this grant. The Town should receive approximately \$33,500.00.

ARPA:

- a) Broadband – Charter Spectrum, Broadband Expansion Grant on behalf of Town and Eau Claire County Matching Funds Application

b) Meeting/Voting Room Expansion

Admin. Henning outlined how the Board had thus far discussed allocating ARPA money. Discussion with the Board regarding suggested changes. The Town has been working with Charter Spectrum and the Eau Claire County Broadband Committee in terms of bringing a project forward through the PSC grant cycle. The grant application needs to be submitted in March 2022. Board direction is needed to partner with Eau Claire County and Charter Spectrum (who is the entity who will apply for the grant). We will need to identify the funds we will contribute and work to gain other partners. Admin. Henning recommended \$375,000 for broadband and \$400,000 for meeting/voting room expansion. Charter is working on the current PSC grant called RDOF (Rural Digital Opportunites Fund) and there are large areas of the Town of Washington that will be served and covered by that grant. It is anticipated that most of the remaining portion of the unserved areas of the Town should be covered by this proposed ARPA/PSC broadband expansion project.

We will need to begin the planning process of possible meeting/voting room expansion in 2022 with an anticipated start in 2023. The room does not adequately meet our needs to elections anymore.

The Board discussed their options.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO AUTHORIZE ADMIN. HENNING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS WITH CHARTER SPECTRUM AND EAU CLAIRE COUNTY WITH A POTENTIAL TOWN COMMITMENT OF UP TO \$375,000 AND RESERVING THE RIGHT FOR THE TOWN BOARD TO REVISIT THE AMOUNT AT THE FEBRUARY TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. Mueller.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Administrator's Report:

Tax collection has brought in around \$7.3 million dollars so far.

The Town has a Spring Primary Election on February 15 for residents who are in the Eau Claire Area School District or the County Supervisory District 9.

Drop boxes will not be used currently until there is a final ruling at the State level.

Working on bid documents for road projects.

Our contractor for grave digging, Jeff Bluem has sold his contracting business to Larry Plummer. He will be our contractor going forward; the rates will remain the same.

Deer carcass pickup services going forward will be contracted at \$1,000 per year for 1-10 deer. The Town typically has 4-8 deer annually picked up.

Discussion of complaint on London Rd between Sessions and E. Hamilton with no sidewalk. West Central Regional Planning office is assisting with evaluating the placement of sidewalk and funding options.

The VFW Post on Folsom Street is partnering with Wreaths Across America and would like to host an event at Rest Haven Cemetery on December 17, 2022.

Provided the Board with the regional ambulance runs in 2021.

1 citation sent for dog at large, Andrea Duncan at 1630 Moss Road, Fall Creek.

There is a bike lane on S. Lowes Creek Road that is 3 to 4 ft. wide. The Eau Claire County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan shows this section of 4.5 miles in the Town of Washington and Pleasant Valley; 3.2 miles are in the Town of Washington. Their estimated costs of having 7 foot shoulders is 1.3 million dollars to this stretch of road with the Town of Washington's cost of \$921,000 which nearly double what we spend on all our road budget in a year. Therefore, the challenge to such a project would be funding. The Town will look at adding signage and painting the bike lanes to make them more visible to the public. Slopes limit the widening any further.

Chairman's Report:

Fire Department update regarding rescue truck that was hit on the interstate and working with insurance company and possible rental until it is repaired.

Supervisor's Report:

Supv. Tomesh gave update on Plan Commission meeting and options regarding wind energy. Attorney

Schaumberg was very informative. Informational meeting presented by Rod Eslinger for Town residents regarding wind energy will be held on Wednesday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m. here at the Town Hall. Supv. Solberg agreed that Attorney Schaumberg was knowledgeable and helpful. Board discussed strengthening our development agreements.

Future Zoning Requests:

None

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

None

Adjournment:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

THE NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 17, 2022
AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
5750 OLD TOWN HALL ROAD, EAU CLAIRE

Jackie Vold
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Attendance: Cynthia Hunt