

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 25, 2024

Members Present: Jane Mueller, James Rolbiecki, Robert Solberg, Karen Tomesh, Jeffrey White

Staff Present: Janelle Henning, Jackie Vold

Members/Staff Absent: None

A quorum being present, Chrm. Solberg called to order the monthly Town Board meeting of the Washington Town Board at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Town Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Supv. White moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 21, 2023 TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. Tomesh.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Citizen's Input and Action Thereon:

Kim Lynum, 6780 Nine Mile Creek Road – thanked the Board members and Town Staff who spoke in Madison regarding SB691. Asked the Board to continue to deny access to Town roads from the White Tail Woods development in Altoona.

Dori Pulse, 5905 Crocus Lane – thanked Tina Ball for speaking in Madison regarding SB691. Asked about Board minutes reflecting how each Board Member votes.

Charlene Lynum, 6780 Nine Mile Creek Road – thanked the Town for going to Madison. Referenced Mike Golat's written testimony in Madison and also asked the Board to deny access to Town road from the White Tail Woods development.

Tina Ball, 5999 Cater Road – thanked the Town for participating in Madison at the Senate hearing. Asked if the Town would sit down with the City again regarding Orchard Hills.

Andy Ferguson, 6470 Balsam Road – will be applying for a Class C wine license.

Land Planning Incorporation Feasibility, Gary Becker, Becker Professional Services:

Presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding what the required initial phases are to consider Incorporation. He spoke of the WI Department of Administration (DOA) role in reviewing Incorporation and the standards that apply. The target size would be at least 4 square miles, 2500 residents and 1 square mile within this area with a density of at least 500 people. He showed the three areas of the Town contain at least 1 square mile of more than 500 persons; one in the far west, one south, and one in the far eastern portion of the Town. The DOA Review Board must weigh the interests of the Town against the overall metropolitan area interests. Stated the best area to consider for Incorporation is the western area. There must be substantial development within the next three years of the area within one half square mile of the territory that is incorporated as relative to the area municipalities. The Review Board will also consider if the rest of the Town would be viable and what the impact would be on the greater metropolitan area. He believes the western arm of the Town would be the most feasible area to consider Incorporation. A full year would need to be allocated to preparing for Incorporation. It would entail employing a

team of legal, financial, accounting, planning, and engineering professionals. The costs for developing a fully formed proposal could range between \$100,000.00 and \$250,000.00 or more depending on the scenarios. It would take another year (barring any delays) to go before the DOA Review Board and the Circuit Court. The next step would be scheduling and carrying out a referendum; another six months. All together it could take 2 ½ to 3 years or longer if resubmittals or lawsuits are involved.

The Board asked several questions of Mr. Becker.

Could the whole Town could be Incorporated? Gary stated that is unlikely unless we pursued including the Town of Pleasant Valley. The rest of the Town (the remanent) would have a separate governing board. Once a notice of intent is filed to circulate a petition for Incorporation any further annexation would be on hold for the area of the Town that is being considered for incorporation. It is likely that lawsuits would be filed to prevent incorporation; which would increase the initial costs. In his experience about 25% are successful in pursuing incorporation. More are successful after several attempts.

November 2023 Financial Statement was reviewed.

Checks

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE CHECKS EP1223-6 THROUGH 030973 FOR \$4,589,245.57. The motion was seconded by Supv. Mueller.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Licenses:

Chrm. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE BARTENDER LICENSES FOR PAIGE MARSH, KAITLYN M. CLINTON, CHELSEA M. NGUYEN, ISAAC B. RAU, ELIN E. NELSON, JESSICA A. SCHONHARDT, CHARLIE C. MOUA, TRAVIS R. LANGA, MICHAEL M. KOEHLER, DEBORAH R. WALLIS, AND HALEY L. RAFLIK. The motion was seconded by Chrm. Solberg.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Crackfill Treatment of Little League Ball Diamond and Conservancy Area Parking Lot:

Admin. Henning indicated the Lowes Creek Little League approached the Town as to participating in the cost of crack filling their parking lot. The Town's Park budget could be used to contribute to the project. The proposal could be included in the Town crackfill bids and it would be up to the Board as to whether the Board would approve it. The Board asked Admin. Henning to include it in the bids that can be reviewed by the Board at a future meeting.

Administrator's Report:

The Conditional Use Permits on Alf Avenue for duplexes was approved by the County Planning & Development Committee this week.

Residents have given a lot of positive feedback regarding participating in SB691. Website will continue to be updated with Calls to Action.

Testified before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government on January 10th.

The City of Eau Claire approved the Intergovernmental Agreement amendment allowing for conservation subdivisions as outlined in the settlement.

The Town received the settlement payment for 2023.

The building expansion final bill was received. The total cost was under budget by approximately \$10,000.00 at \$539,960.00 for the total project

Tax collection – 8.4 million; 68% of the tax roll so far.

Notice for bids has been posted on the Town website and will be in the paper for the current sweeper. It will be posted on the WI Surplus Auction site if needed.

Publishing the 2024 paving project bids in the paper on January 30 and February 6.

WTA meeting on Monday, January 29 at the Eau Claire County Highway Department.

1 letter sent to La Luna for delinquent wholesale liquor payment.

1 letter sent for plowing snow across the road on Patton Street and Sandstone Road.

1 letter sent for vehicle extending into the roadway on Blakeley Avenue.

The Town of Troy between Hudson and River Falls has attempted incorporation 3x and has failed due to the input from Hudson and River Falls.

The Ambulance RFP will be published on January 30th for the five towns surrounding Eau Claire. Jen Meyer is the contact person.

Chairman's Report:

Attended the SB691 hearing in Madison. Thanked our two Town residents: Charlene Lynum and Tina Ball for making the trip and testifying. Admin. Henning's testimony was powerful and she has been working incredibly hard on this issue.

Supervisor's Report:

Supv. Rolbiecki attending the ECC Hwy. The next meeting will discuss a round-about on CHT II and Mischler.

Supv. Tomesh asked the Town staff if residents in the Orchard Hills area have shared thoughts regarding the settlement agreement with the City of Eau Claire while in the office paying taxes? Deputy Clerk, Jackie Vold stated many residents expressed thanks to the Town for all their efforts; many have expressed frustration with both the City of Eau Claire and the City of Altoona's staff and councils. The disappointment has been in learning that current State Statutes does not give towns ability to stop the actions that have taken place. A couple of people from the Orchard Hills neighborhood have said they wish they could go back and support a town development of just over 100 homes. Questions regarding what they can do in the future.

Supv. Tomesh stated she takes any questions of transparency with the Board very seriously, and with residents it is a two-way street.

Supv. Mueller sent emails to all the Senate Committee members regarding SB691 as she was not able to attend. Attending the County Groundwater Advisory Committee meetings on behalf of the Town. They are surveying residents and looking for residents to submit water samples from their wells.

Supv. White testified at the Senate Committee meeting regarding SB691.

Future Zoning Requests:

None

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

None

Adjournment:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 15, 2024
AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
5750 OLD TOWN HALL ROAD, EAU CLAIRE

Jackie Vold
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Attendance: Dori Pulse, Kathryn White, Charlene Lynum, Kim Lynum, Leza Raymond, Amy Alpine, John Grump, John Ruesch, Brian Wood, Tina Ball, Jeff Ryan, Andy Ferguson, Brian Herbison