

**TOWN OF LEMONWEIR
MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
Volume: [FEBRUARY 2025]**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, Town of Lemonweir, Juneau County, State of Wisconsin, met on February 11, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p. m., by chairman, John Burch. Supervisors present were: Matthew Vaughan, Carl B. Miller and Guy Smith, Jr. Robert L. Smith was unable to attend. The following notice regarding this meeting was posted on town website and posted at the Town Hall, Walsh Grain Farms and Hamm Bros.:

**TOWN OF LEMONWEIR
REGULAR MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025
7:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL (N3935 19TH AVE)**

- Call to Order
- Public Comments
- LaValle Telephone—BEAD Resolution
- EDP Renewables update brief
- School board Reps re: Referendum
- Minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting
- Road Report—including snowplow report, signs, weight limit considerations, R-O-W trimming plan & completion date(s) & other road issues
- Discussion/Action to amend or repeal Ordinance #2024-08-15RD-5 Ordinance to Lower Speed Limit on Town Highways-19th Avenue S
- Set date for Road Committee meeting
- Mobile Home Park License Renewals for KAE I, II, III
- Ambulance Report
- Administrator's Report—Office Operations, Retirement Plan update, Fire Calls, Payment Voucher
- Correspondence & Zoning Permits
- Adjournment

Carin E. Leach, Town Administrator
608-847-4786

Posted 2/4/2025 Town Hall, Website,
Hamm Bros, Walsh Grain Farms

PUBLIC COMMENTS were called for by the chair: Dave Anderson reported he put up BUMP signs on 15th Ave per Carl Miller and had several people stop and ask about reducing the speed limit to 35MPH on 15th Ave.

LAVALLE TELEPHONE—BEAD RESOLUTION: LaValle Telephone reps were present and told the board the company is applying for a BEAD grant to reach the final mile of broadband service in the area south of Hwy 12. County K, Carrig Rd, Carpenter Rd, and Burns Rd would be included in the coverage area but nothing east of Hwy 12. A letter of support or the suggested resolution will help them to gain points in the grant process. A **motion** by Miller/Vaughan to pass the resolution of support for LaValle Telephone to continue broadband service area. All yes votes, motion carried. The resolution was signed and dated and given to LaValle Telephone reps.

EDP RENEWABLES UPDATE BRIEF: Matt Boor was present. Not much to report but wanted to remind those in attendance that the solar park application has been filed with the PSC. It is 160 pages and the listed under Docket #9830-CE-100. The PSC will be reviewing the application along with others received so it will take about one-year before they will decide if it will be approved. EDP will continue to attend the town board meetings with any updates until then. Taxes? A utility tax instead of property tax will be calculated by the State. This tax is based on

the project area and 225MW that the park projects to produce—90% of the project area is in Lemonweir and 10% in Seven-Mile Creek. Roughly \$400K will be paid to Lemonweir and will be unencumbered. The County and Seven-Mile will also receive a portion of utility aid from this project as well.

SCHOOL BOARD REPS RE: REFERENDUM: Randy Gyllin and Jim Dillin were present for Mauston Schools. Referendum fact sheets were passed out. This is the third time this referendum has come to be voted on for operational costs--\$1.75 million each year for the next four years. Cuts: Hold and freeze all hiring of all staff. Art and Music is taught virtually now. Passing the referendum will keep the doors open, some hiring, and good for kids' education. However, there is still a \$500K short fall even with a passing vote. There are 30-34 students per class room in 4-5-6 grades. Current enrollment is 1480 up from 1380 in the last 6-years.

Jim Dillin noted that in 2012 students were college bound and by 2014 that changed. The high school offers a special math credit through the trades (welding, CNC, carpentry etc). They are talking to the students regarding what career paths are available and there is a push for a pathway to careers in the trades vs college degree.

80% is staffing budget. Without Lemonweir Academy and iLead Charter School those kids who attend lose with the learning gap. Band & Choir have no lessons due to staff shortages; the schools are down 2.5 positions for custodians that are not filled. The kids are taking care of the buildings with clean-up.

Navigate 360 and ALICE—school safety allows teachers and students to make the decision to get out of the building in an emergency. Dillin is the trainer for the staff.

Budget cuts are already approved. Every student is worth \$10K.

Lights on—a consultant company did a study regarding savings with energy and turning the lights off; \$5200/annually could be saved if no events were held at the schools during the year.

Vehicles—used by Charter schools and staff traveling.

COVID-funds received through federal government were required to be used as dictated. No audit was done during this 3-year timeframe for operational costs.

There is some grant funding available but no grant writer on staff. Teachers and staff are writing the grants. \$500K still has to be cut. Schools make the community.

Lyndon School—enrollment 23 students –closing the Lyndon School is approved in the budget cuts

What the high school offers is not replicated at WTC. The high school has current equipment.

Tech Ed tours of the school were encouraged.

121 schools in Wisconsin have gone to referendum—this is a statewide issue—contact your state representatives—29.3% school tax increase over 3-years

There is a Fund 10 account however to use this money the school must start the dissolution process to use the savings to pay bills.

The school district is the heart & soul of the community. Without a good school families will move out of Mauston.

Carl Miller reiterated that Mauston is a great school and has great teachers but encouraged the school board/administration to work with what you have—cash flow is an issue—taxpayers have to live within their means. He suggested that everything across the board gets cut 9%--5% of that will be waste.

It was noted that society has changed.

MINUTES of the January 14, 2025 Board meeting and Town Caucus were approved as mailed on **motion** by Vaughan/Smith, Jr. All yes votes.

ROAD REPORT—INCLUDING SNOWPLOW REPORT, SIGNS, WEIGHT LIMIT CONSIDERATIONS, R-O-W TRIMMING PLAN & COMPLETION DATE(S) & OTHER ROAD ISSUES:

Snowplow report—no snow

Signs—Dave reported he took care of signs on 55th St and Ziemek Ct. As noted in public comments the bump/dip signs were borrowed from the county and need to be returned to the county.

Weight Limits—John Burch will be meeting with the county regarding when they will put weight limits on county roads.

R-O-W Trimming Plan—the chair asked for a plan to be created so we can better budget for this project including deadlines for completion. It was also determined that the trees along the Duane Statz property that have been marked should be the property owners responsibility to cut down. The board was receptive to closing the road while the trees were being cut down.

Other road issues: the chair asked the board to consider using Delmore Consulting services for Road Ratings/PASER for this road rating year so we can get our road rated correctly. The cost was quoted at \$2500 during last year's presentation. This item to be further discussed and action taken at the March meeting.

DISCUSSION/ACTION TO AMEND OR REPEAL ORDINANCE #2024-08-15RD-5 ORDINANCE TO LOWER SPEED LIMIT ON TOWN HIGHWAYS-19TH AVENUE S: The chairman reported he has had a lot of feedback regarding the speed limit reduction to 35MPH on 19th Ave. Especially the stretch between CTH N & Emerson Rd—it's a straight road with a house on each end. Signs are in the wrong place as well. A **motion** by Burch/Vaughan to repeal Ordinance #2024-08-15RD-5 and setting the speed limit back to 45MPH. A roll call vote was taken: John-Yes; Carl-No; Matt-Yes; Guy-Yes; Bob-absent. The vote is 3-yeas and 1-nae with 1-absent, motion carried. The clerk noted this ordinance covers 19th Ave South of STR 82 E to Emerson Rd.

SET DATE FOR ROAD COMMITTEE MEETING--After some discussion the meeting date was set for February 24, 2025 at 6pm at the town hall.

MOBILE HOME PARK LICENSE RENEWALS FOR KAE I, II, and III-- The applications have been received and fees paid. Pleasant Valley Properties of Wisconsin, LLC are the current owners of all three mobile home parks located in Lemonweir. A **motion** by Vaughan/Miller was made to approve all three parks for mobile home park license renewal for 2025. All yes votes, motion carried.

AMBULANCE REPORT—Steve Fischer reported. A new pickup truck is now the CHASE vehicle which gets a paramedic to the scene first.

Hiring has been going well. One paramedic is still needed.

The committee approved a storage shed to be put up to store old records.

James Small will attend the next meeting to talk about funding.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Office Operations—Tax collections & Elections have been the main concerns. Election training will be held Feb 13th and Election Day is Feb 18th. All W-2's and 1099-NEC were processed, sent and filed prior to January 31, 2025 as required.

Update regarding Woodside-attorney is still in discovery process.

Showed receipts of \$47,760.58 in regular deposits & interest; tax collections Jan 2-Feb 7 total \$1,261,680.85, and an available balance of \$565,643.15 as of 1/31/2025.

Correspondence:

1. FROM: BOM; RE: Collateral Register as of 1/31/2025 – Current Face: \$1,275,000.00
2. FROM: City of Mauston; RE: Public Hearing to held 2/25/2025 before the City Council at 6:30pm to consider a request submitted by CMK Properties, LLC to build a retail store over 10,000 sqft which is considered a Group Development. Property is zoned Planned Business and located at 100 Powers Ave (corner of Powers Ave and Hwy 82 E—recently annexed into the city)
3. FROM: Juneau Co Public Works; RE: County Aid Match Resolution 50/50 \$500 Town \$500 Juneau Co
4. FROM: Juneau Co Board; RE: Resolution No 25-03 Endorsing Lynxx Networks and LaValle Telephone for BEAD Funding for Broadband Expansion
5. FROM: WTA; RE: JC Unit Meeting 2/25/25 at 5:15pm at Juneau Co Hwy Dept
6. FROM: Juneau Co Forestry; RE: 10% gross sales value from County Forest timber sales was \$40,415.49. Lemonweir received 2.1464% of the sale or \$867.49 based on acreage in of County Forest land in Lemonweir
7. FROM: Intuit QuickBooks; RE: refund request-this request was processed and a refund of \$1,100 was received
8. FROM: Jim Young (MSP) Admin; RE: Municipal Services Payment entitlement received by ACH on 2/3/2025 for \$55.58—this payment is to cover prorated municipal services for the rest area
9. FROM: WTA; RE: Spring Road School @ Chula Vista, Wis Dells – April 21-23, 2025 Registration fee \$199/town official before April 1st -- \$299/town official if after April 1st. Details in WTA February 2025 magazine
10. FROM: Spectrum; RE: ROW Permit request for Oak Hill Est, Cemetery Rd, 55th St, Rockwood Rd, KL Townline Rd (north & south of CTH N) **Motion** to approve by Miller/Smith, Jr. All yes votes.

The administrator presented bills in the amount of \$1,175,662.51, for payment (includes ck to Partridge Lake). **Motion** by Smith, Jr. /Vaughan, to authorize payment. All yes votes.

ZONING-Permits issued to Clinton Pouillie (deck) and Gary Komosa (addition to home)

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned on **motion** by Miller/Smith, Jr. All yes votes.

APPROVED BY TOWN BOARD 3/11/2025
ATTEST: Carin E. Leach
Carin E. Leach, Town Administrator