

TOWN OF LEMONWEIR
MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
Volume: [FEBRUARY 2024]

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, Town of Lemonweir, Juneau County, State of Wisconsin, met on February 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p. m., by chairman, John Burch. Supervisors present were: Robert L. Smith, Matthew Vaughan, Carl B. Miller and Jon Gosda. The following notice regarding this meeting was published in the 2/9/2024, edition of the Star-Times and posted at the Town Hall, Walsh Grain Farms and Hamm Bros.:

TOWN OF LEMONWEIR
REGULAR MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
7:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL (N3935 19TH AVE)

- Call to Order
- Public Comments
- Minutes of the January 9, 2024 meeting
- Mobile Home Park License Renewals for KAE I, II, III
- Large Solar Project Update
- County Aid Match Resolution
- Road Report—including 6’-20’ Culvert/Bridge Inventory, snowplowing, other road issues & setting Road Committee meeting date
- Ambulance Report
- Administrator’s Report—Office Operations, Payment Voucher Correspondence & Zoning Permits
- Adjournment

Carin E. Leach, Town Administrator
608-847-4786
Publish 2/8/2024

PUBLIC COMMENTS were called for by the chair: Steve Thomas voiced his displeasure with the presentation put on by EDP Renewables.

Tim Koscal introduced himself as a write-in candidate for County Supervisor-District 19 (Town Ward 3). Ron Peach asked why 15th Ave didn’t get plowed sooner during the January snow storm. He noted there were 4-inches of packed snow on the road and at least two cars in the ditch and there were 22 cars that went by his place within an hour and a half on the morning of January 13th.

MINUTES of the January 9, 2024 Board meeting & Town Caucus were approved as mailed on **motion** by Vaughan/Gosda. All yes votes.

MOBILE HOME PARK LICENSE RENEWALS FOR KAE I, II, III—Carin reported the applications and fees were turned in. **Motion** by Gosda/Miller to approve each of the renewals for Mobile Home Park licenses for KAE I, II, III now owned by Pleasant Valley Properties of WI, LLC. All yes votes, motion carried.

LARGE SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE—Chairman Burch reported that EDP Renewables had an open house at the Lodge on Feb 8th. He noted that secrecy was a big issue; however this project is not “carved in stone” as permits have not been applied for. If you Google this company it shows this company is a Portuguese developed company and the shareholders are listed.

Carl Miller stated this was a PR stunt. They plan to apply for permits in May or June with the project start in the fall of 2025. A 3rd party has been hired to submit permits and the PSC/State decides if the project will be allowed. A purchase agreement with an electric company is a key component. If the project is approved eventually Lemonweir could be looking at \$240K in utility aid.

A substation is tentatively planned for the Smith and/or Hamm properties. One other project was turned down due to no purchase agreement. Snowmobile trails were also mentioned and raised the question if whether or not a state funded trail could be closed because of this project.

COUNTY AID MATCH RESOLUTION—**motion** by Miller/Gosda to approve the \$500 matching funds participation with the county. All yes votes, motion carried.

ROAD REPORT—

6'-20' Culvert/Bridge Inventory—Chairman Burch would like to do this inventory—all culverts less than 20' but have a span width of at least 6' will qualify for \$100 reimbursement to the town. Delmore Consulting has offered to do this service for the same fee. The county will be the inspector.

Snowplowing—no snow—Chairman Burch asked why the county had to put sand on Morrissey Rd during the Babcock fire in January. Dave Anderson reported that his truck would not start due to the freezing temps and Tony Babcock asked for sand on Morrissey as the trucks and cattle trailers were using Morrissey Rd to move the cattle. Due to the snowpack and below zero temps most of the sand blew off the road into the ditches.

Other Road Issues—ROW trimming—Dave will trim the smaller serious spots to start. It was noted that the county was hiring out for tree trimming like they did on CTH N.

It was noted that the 19th Ave RR crossing was getting worse. Dave's plow truck was damaged when the crossing the tracks—due to the rough crossing and the weight of the truck caused the wing to slam against the truck. Everyone using that crossing was urged to call the RR at the number at the crossing.

A high speed rail is being planned from Chicago to Minneapolis through our area.

The county is not posting the roads unless the weather changes.

Road Committee meeting date— the road committee will meet on March 5th at 6pm

AMBULANCE REPORT—Jon Gosda was not able to attend the January Ambulance meeting and Liz Anderson was not present. Carin had a copy of the meeting minutes and highlighted the number of total calls for Lemonweir in November and December was 15. The annual meeting was held January 22, 2024 and Director Leopold presented a power point highlighting important facts for 2023. The 2024 budget was also approved. Copies of the meeting minutes are available on request.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Office Operations—62% of the 2023 property taxes were collected. 4th quarter reports, W-2's & 1099-NEC's were filed accordingly under a stressful month. Mobile Home Parking Statements were also updated and mailed to the park residents and to Pleasant Valley park owners. Absentee applications and some new Voter Registrations have been trickling in through the MyVote system. The next election is April 2, 2024. Several state reports have been done and several more will be done this month. Year end is a work in progress. A Cemetery Committee meeting has been set for February 20, 2024. Carin also attended the EDP Solar Info Session 2/8/24 at the Lodge in Mauston.

Showed receipts of \$1,232,005.18 for total tax collections in January and February; receipts of \$46,015.55 for regular deposits as of 1/31/24, and a balance of \$433,793.46 on hand without tax collections as

of 1/31/24. The town will retain a total of \$208,317.54 in taxes levied plus MFL tax. The county will settle with us in August for the remaining amount of our levy after the 2nd installment is collected in July.

Correspondence:

1. FROM: Attorney Bill Curran; RE: Annual Retainer remains unchanged at \$1,000—this was approved at the January meeting pending the retainer amount be unchanged.
2. FROM: Bank/Mauston; RE: Collateral Register 01/31/2024 unchanged at \$1,255,000
3. FROM: Delmore Consulting; RE: Services for Roads & Culverts
4. FROM: Juneau Co; RE: 2023 Timber Sales \$852.45
5. FROM: MSP Program; RE: Entitlement for services provided to Rest Area \$62.34
6. FROM: City of Mauston; RE: Annual Fire Service Contract-2024 w/5% increase= \$79,639 due by October 1st.
7. FROM: WisDNR; RE: MFL transfer orders for Michael & Venessa Matuschka; David & Peggy Miller—no objections
8. FROM: Partridge Lake District; RE: Board meeting 2/17/24 – 3pm @ Bugenhagen's
9. FROM: WisDOR; RE: Final Major Class Comparison – out of compliance in all categories except for Agriculture
10. FROM: WTA; RE: Spring Road School 2024 – this is a new offering
11. FROM: WTA; RE: BOR Training reminder
12. FROM: Rose Cemetery Committee; RE: Meeting scheduled for 2/20/2024 at 6:30pm at Town Hall

The administrator presented bills in the amount of \$1,130,433.11, for payment (this includes the February tax settlement). **Motion** by Miller/Smith, to authorize payment. All yes votes.

ZONING-there has been a few inquiries with no zoning permits issued through 2/13/2024.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on **motion** by Miller/Vaughan. All yes votes.

APPROVED BY TOWN BOARD 3/12/2024

ATTEST: /s/ *Carin E Leach*
Carin E. Leach, Town Administrator