

Regular Town Board Meeting of January 12, 2021

Meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Maines. The Chairman noted that this Regular Meeting of the Town of Plum Lake Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021. The meeting was duly called with notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the US Sayner Post Office, US Star Lake Post Office, and notice given to the Vilas County News-Review, The Lakeland Times, WRJO and WERL, as well as posted on the Town Website. Supervisor Schmidt, Kevin Rasmussen, Clerk Brooker and 19 other people were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve discussing the agenda in any order, Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Approve Minutes from Past Meeting(s):

After all Board members said they had read the minutes, Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Regular 12/8, Special Electors 12/17 and Special 12/29 meetings. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried. Supervisor Schmidt mentioned that he thought there was a meeting missing between 12/8 and 12/17/2020 that they had to pay the vouchers. Clerk Brooker said she would check into it.

Citizens Comments & Correspondence:

Chairman Maines asked everyone to be short and concise with their comments.

Sheehan Donoghue questioned what a broom system was and what was it used for and if they had a broom now. Chairman Maines explained that the broom system was for sweeping the streets and that they currently used a broom on the Brusher. Sheehan Donoghue also questioned why they needed a new plow and bucket and Supervisor Schmidt explained that the loader plow and bucket had been transferred from the previous old loader to the new one. Sheehan Donoghue also questioned what item 11 of the agenda was all about and Chairman Maines said he would address it when they got to that item.

Joan Kazda said that she was disappointed in the decision not to move forward with the new Rec Building. She then asked what the plan was for moving forward with upkeep and repairs for the building. She then made the following suggestions that she feels needs to be addressed: Key entry system, fix the floor, striping of floor, replace hoops, volleyball and pickle ball equipment, exterior and interior doors, security, upgrade heating system, access to bathrooms, well, septic, kitchen, storage. She wants to utilize the available grants. Supervisor Rasmussen said most people didn't realize that a new Rec Building wouldn't be started for 2 to 2 ½ years and that he wasn't against building a new Rec Building but wants to re-evaluate the funding for it. Joan stated she does not think the Town Hall and Library should be locked to the public and thinks the decision to close them should be reconsidered.

Lauri Gerlach said she thought the new Rec Building had been tabled and if so, she wanted to do some upgrades to have keyless entry that everyone can use, security cameras and outside access to a bathroom. She also read a comment from Bill Brewer who was not present at the meeting covering some of his thoughts.

Karen Reed said she questions putting money into the existing Rec Building and feels it would be a waste of money.

Helen Bryner said she felt privileged to pay taxes in order to have a Community Building and added that she felt it was a collaboration of people, playing, sharing, and communicating with neighbors. Having fund raising, meetings, weddings and funerals and added that she was on board to pay more in taxes to have such a Building.

Shane Zaruba commented on revisiting some of the variables involved with the Rec Building and questioned if it could be put on a referendum for people to vote on. He also suggested looking into if the Community itself could come together to build it saying that the Town had a lot of skilled and talented people.

Chairman Maines said that the door is not closed on the subject of the Rec Building and said that they could possibly have a referendum in the future, but for now it was put on hold.

Opening Proposals for New Truck and Equipment:

Chairman Maines said they had received 5 bids. Bids were opened and read.

1. Frame Only- Truck Country-2022 Freightliner. \$123,600.
2. Frame Only- Western Star 2022 Model 4700. \$128,600.
3. Mid-State -Marshfield 2022 International-Chassis Only & Equipment. \$253,628 (with service contract, \$276,980).
4. Monroe-Equipment, \$115,156.
5. Casper-Equipment, \$114,472.

Updating Room Tax Ordinances:

Chairman Maines noted that Bob Klager, Deputy C/T, was working on updating the room tax ordinance and felt before the Board could approve and vote on it, the Town attorney should look at. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to send the proposed amended ordinance to the Town attorney for review. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

New Plow for Loader:

The Town Crew said the plow was still functional but worn out and continued use will cause more damage if it is not replaced. Supervisor Schmidt made note that it had already been talked about 2 years ago and that it was in the budget. The Crew members noted that the Monroe bid was missing hooks they would also need in the amount of \$1200 plus freight costs. After further discussion, Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to get a new plow for the Loader in the amount of \$10,093, along with hooks for the amount of \$1200 plus freight costs. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Purchasing a Broom System for the Loader:

The Town Crew said the broom they had now needed replacing and suggested getting a broom system which would work with the Loader, saying it would be faster using the Loader on the roads. It was mentioned that the tractor that has the broom on it now is very old and its repairs over the past 4 years totaled \$32,000. Chairman Maines asked the Crew to look into the cost of possibly leasing something that they could use for both brushing and sweeping. The Chairman gave them one lead and the Crew said they would check into finding others who may lease. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to table the item and to put it back on February's meeting agenda. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; carried.

Contract for Salt/Sand Shed Construction:

Chairman Maines will be taking a copy of the contract to the Towns Attorney for review. The Chairman tabled the agenda until the attorney has a chance to look at the contract.

Future of Existing Rec Building Regarding Repairs/Updates:

Supervisor Schmidt said that since nothing was happening with moving forward with a new Rec Building that he would like to look into making improvements of the current building, suggested painting and striping the floor, new nets and hoops, and storage carts for tables and chairs. He felt that money needed to be put into the building until building a new Rec Building in the future. Chairman Maines felt that the building is functional and usable and stated it is empty 90 % of the time and listed some of the events that use the building. He then listed the major expenses that Town has incurred recently as one of the reasons why he decided to delay moving forward with the Rec Building. The Chairman said he would be okay with using the \$10,000 in prior grant donations for making minor improvements to get by while waiting for a new Rec Building. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to see what could be done with the \$10,000 that they have to work with. Chairman Maines seconded. Supervisor Schmidt aye, Chairman Maines aye, Supervisor Rasmussen nay; motion carried, 2 to 1.

Purchasing Road Signs:

After discussion, it was decided that the Town Crew was to give Clerk Brooker a list of the Fire Numbers and Road signs that were in the worst condition. Clerk Brooker will then order the signs along with the posts.

Storage Building at the Ambulance Barn:

Supervisor Schmidt wanted to know what the storage building was doing there. Supervisor Rasmussen explained it was being used for storage for items from inside the Ambulance Barn and in spring will be moved behind the building.

Vilas County Beaver Removal Program & Deer Removal Program:

Chairman Maines said he felt the town didn't need the deer removal program but may need the beaver removal program because Mike Sealander is unable to use explosives. Jimmy Mortag stated there was someone in Rhinelander who can use explosives and that you may not have to sign a contract with them. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to table the Beaver Control Program till next month's meeting and to not do the Deer Program. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried. Clerk Brooker will call the USDA in Rhinelander to see if they might be someone the Town can use.

Approve Vouchers:

Supervisor Schmidt had questions about the bill from the contractor for the ambulance barn. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve paying the vouchers for December in the amount of \$180,891.49 and for January in the amount of \$279,515.02. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Regular Town Board Meeting of February 9, 2021

Meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Maines. The meeting was duly called with notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the US Sayner Post Office, US Star Lake Post Office, and notice given to the Vilas County News-Review, The Lakeland Times, WRJO and WERL, as well as posted on the Town Website. Supervisor Schmidt (via phone), Kevin Rasmussen, Clerk Brooker and 8 other people were also present.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve discussing the agenda in any order, Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Citizens Comments & Correspondence:

Jim Mortag asked if a closed session meeting with the Town Board could be scheduled to discuss some issues. Chairman Maines told him it would be put on next month's agenda so it could be discussed and scheduled then.

Shane Zaruba asked who was in charge of the cemetery plots, he was told Jim Mortag was the person in charge and would be the one to talk to.

Approve Minutes from Past Meeting(s):

After all Board members said they had read the minutes, Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve the January 12, 2021 Regular meeting minutes. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Approval of Cemetery Deed for John Schaeffel:

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve cemetery Lot 108, Site D for John Schaeffel in the amount of \$200.00. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Updating Room Tax Ordinance:

Chairman Maines asked the Clerk for an update of the Room Tax Ordinance which Bob Klager is working on. The ordinance had been referred to the attorney and the updated ordinance was sent back (this afternoon before this meeting) with his comments and changes. Supervisor Rasmussen said he wasn't comfortable moving forward with the discussion until Supervisor Schmidt was sent a copy of the updated ordinance. Chairman Maines agreed and said he still needed to read through the changes himself. The item was tabled and will be put back on the March meeting agenda. Clerk Brooker to send Supervisor Schmidt a copy of the updated ordinance which the attorney had sent back.

Contract for Salt/Sand Shed Construction:

Suggestions/Comments on the contract were received from Attorney Greg Harrold the afternoon of this meeting, which did not allow the town board to review it before the meeting. Supervisor Schmidt said he would be happy to talk to Kurt Baird about the items Mr. Harrold suggested that the town would like included in the contract. Chairman Maines suggested tabling it for now and that the changes should be sent to Hassinger so they can look it over and say whether they will agree with the changes. Clerk Brooker will send Kurt the information that Greg Harold suggested adding to the contract so that it can be discussed with Supervisor Schmidt. The Clerk will also arrange a time with Kurt for the best time for Supervisor Schmidt to call him. The agenda item was tabled till they hear back from the contractor.

Update on Beaver Removal Program:

Jeremy reported that the USDA out of Rhinelander quoted him a price of \$1300 for taking care of 2 problem beaver sites, which may include unlimited beaver removal or blowing of a dam. They would be willing to work with the Town on pricing if a third location would come into play. It was noted that the price was higher than the County program, but Supervisor Rasmussen said he would like to try the USDA as they are experts in explosives and may be more reliable. Discussion on where those funds would come from in the budget. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve moving forward with the USDA out of Rhinelander and to ask them to send a contract. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried. Clerk Brooker to contact the USDA to get a contract that the town board could review.

Purchasing a Broom System for the Loader:

Jimmy Mortag reported that he had been given a price of \$1700 for a 2-week rental. He added that if you rented it for a third week, you will get the 4th week free. It is too late to reserve a machine for the upcoming season because they would have had to been in contact 2 to 3 months ago. He said the sweeper/brusher was the same kind of machine that the Town is now using. After further discussion, it was decided they would use the current tractor this year, and to leave the Brusher/Sweeper in a nearby area till the job was done rather than driving the machine back and forth. A new broom will be needed for the tractor. Clerk Brooker to make note to put possibly leasing this machine in next year's budget. No action will be taken till next Fall. Jimmy recommended contacting the leasing company by October 2021 to reserve a machine for 2022.

Regular Town Board Meeting of March 9, 2021

Meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Maines. The Chairman noted that this Regular Meeting of the Town of Plum Lake Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021. The meeting was duly called with notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the US Sayner Post Office, US Star Lake Post Office, and notice given to the Vilas County News-Review, The Lakeland Times, WRJO and WERL, as well as posted on the Town Website. Supervisor Schmidt (via phone), Kevin Rasmussen, Clerk Brooker and 9 other people were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve discussing the agenda in any order, Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Citizens Comments & Correspondence:

Shane Zaruba asked if anyone has ever considered keeping the bike path open during the winter from Town to the Corner Store. Chairman Maines said no one has ever talked about it but he would be open to have a discussion on it.

Approve Minutes from Past Meeting(s):

After all Board members said they had read the minutes, Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the Regular February 9th, 2021 meeting minutes. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Update on LAMBO Event in Town of Plum Lake:

Mike Olkowski, Dan Trapp, and Harry Smith were at the meeting to update the Town on their proposed bike event. They reported that they had received a permit from the DNR to hold the event. The DNR gave them some conditions to follow. There will be a cap of 40 participants plus the Clubs volunteers. In the future they are hoping for more people for the Adventure Race. The Club asked for permission to clean up brush and dead trees to make a nice path in the Gully which bikers will be taking to the finish line. Chairman Maines said it would be no problem. The distance of the race is 23 miles and their hoping for maybe up to 50 miles down the road. Any type of bike can be used for the upcoming race and Mike thought the fastest time that someone could complete the race in would be around 1 ½ hours. The contestants will be guided by GPS. Supervisor Rasmussen suggested they put their banner for advertising along the fence line by the Park as it's visible to traffic. It was noted that parking shouldn't be a problem. Clerk Brooker said she would put the event on the Towns Facebook page and website. Supervisor Schmidt asked about refreshments. Mike noted that due to Covid they would not be selling them but may put up a poster about gathering at the Pub later.

Busy Bee Compost Proposal:

Marcus, from Busy Bee Composting said he was starting a third location in the area and was looking to source leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste, but no brush or trees. He said he would come in with no cost to the Town and haul away the yard waste pile but would need someone available with a loader with a bucket to load the waste on his truck. He figured it would take about 10 minutes to load one of his trucks. He usually picks up in the Fall after yard clean ups and in the Spring after yard clean ups. Supervisor Schmidt asked if he uses a contract and Marcus said usually not but that he was fine with signing one with the Town. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to memorialize a simple agreement with Busy Bee Compost to haul leaves out and to do so the Town would assist with the Town loader and a Crew member. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried. Marcus said a Crew member should call when they want the leaves picked up and he would schedule a time with them to meet at the site.

Scheduling a Closed Employee Meeting:

After discussion, Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to have an employee meeting on April 23rd at 10 am. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried. Clerk Brooker to also post a regular meeting after the employees meeting in case an action needs to be taken.

Hiring New Recycling Attendant:

Chairman Maines noted that Gary Kellner had put in his notice that his last day of work would be April 23rd. After discussion, it was decided that the position would be advertised for a recycling attendant only and that a Town Crew member would be responsible for doing the cleaning of the buildings. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve posting a notice to hire a recycling attendant. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried. Clerk Brooker to put in paper as soon as possible. It was noted that the wage per hour offered would be \$15.30 an hour.

Approving the Updated Room Tax Ordinance:

to inform him to go ahead with putting the bonds on. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve performance bonds for the new Town Garage and new Salt/Sand Shed. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

.Approve Vouchers:

Clerk Brooker explained the new reporting format which now includes the Now Account, Regular Checking Account, Payroll Account, Money Market Account, 2 Headwaters Accounts and shows Deposits and Expenses which will show any activity on the Voucher Report. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve paying the vouchers in the amount of \$1,306,519.32. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried. Chairman Maines added the breakdown of \$1,277,934.02 for the Now Account and \$28,585.30 for the Payroll Account.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

A voice recording of this meeting is available in the Clerk's office.

These minutes were taken at the Regular Town Board Meeting of the Town of Plum Lake held on the 9th day of March 2021 and were entered in this Record Book by: