

Regular Town Board Meeting of January 11, 2022

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 11th, 2022. 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, Supervisor Rasmussen, Clerk Brooker and 12 other people were also present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

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

Citizens Comments & Correspondence – Invited Guests: County Board Supervisors:

Meg O'Marro, a guest who is running for Circuit Court Judge came introduce herself.

Mike Mackensie, prior county supervisor a portion of Plum Lake, was introduced by the Chairman who explained that for the last 10 years the township has been split between two supervisors. Willie Otterpohl, who did not come to this meeting, is the other supervisor and would soon be covering all of Plum Lake. Supervisor Mackenzie, a long-time resident of Boulder Junction, gave some of his background saying he went to college and got degrees in biology and chemistry and was a conservation warden with the DNR and had 25 years in law enforcement which he retired from in 2009. He said he is still active in teaching ATV, snowmobile and boating safety so feels he is fairly current with the laws. He noted that he had come to answer questions or listen to any input that anyone had especially concerning the upcoming County Board Meeting on January 25th which concerned the hot topic of the ATV/UTV issue. Mike said that there were a lot of businesses that were in favor but also a like amount who were against the issue, but his thoughts were if his district had a referendum on the issue, he doesn't think it would pass, based on the feedback he had gotten from numerous people. Mike shared that there were 46 ATV fatalities last year and thought about 70% of them were road related and thought safety training and enforcement were lacking in a lot of communities. Don Novak spoke up and asked about if towns could have any local control over the various issues. Mike said that back in 2005 the DNR had approved a lot of trail systems through the woods but not all the towns approved them. Kim Lechner asked if the issue was going to keep bouncing around and wondered if anyone was ever going to do a referendum. Mike's thoughts were if both sides would just sit down and try to work together and respect everyone's interests' things could be worked out. Sheehan Donoghue asked if Mike was running again and he said he was, but with the new redistricting boundaries he would be representing a big junk of Boulder Junction and Ward 2 of Presque Isle. Sheehan thanked him for coming to the meeting and for representing the people he was elected to and not using just his own personal feelings. Mike closed by stating that anyone should feel free to call or email him if they had any more questions. Mr. Otterpohl was asked to this meeting, but he had contacted the Clerk and said he would likely be out of town the day of the meeting.

The Chairman came back to comments after all guests had spoken. Laurie Gerlach asked if there would be open houses for both the new Town Garage and the upgraded EMS buildings. Both Chairman Maines and Supervisor Rasmussen said yes there would be, but not until the summer when the seasonal residents return. Laurie also asked what was happening with the keyless lock system for the Rec Building. It was noted that there was money in the budget and that it should be put on February's agenda.

Supervisor Rasmussen announced that after 26 years of being fire chief he was going to step down and said Jeremy Arnold had been voted in as the new fire chief. He will be sworn in at the February meeting and take over then. Kevin said he will continue to act as Secretary/Treasurer for the Fire Department.

Northland Pines Referendum – Scott Foster:

Scott Foster thanked everyone for inviting him to the meeting and said that he was in his 4th year as District Administrator and has been in the district for 22 years. He stated that Northland Pines school district has an operating referendum that's called nonrecurring, stating that at the end of the school year, 4.6 million dollars comes off their levy to tax local municipalities. Mr. Foster said state funding can be hard to come by and that their 7 board members focus is on providing high quality education to attract people to the communities. They also focus on the kids and being responsible for the tax payers' dollars. He said with board approval he will be asking to continue the 4.6 million. Mr. Foster shared that they have been working on energy saving practices, making the staff more efficient and that schools in Eagle River and Land 'O Lakes will get new roofs. The new middle school in Eagle River will be paid for in the 2nd year of the referendum, which will take 2.4 million off the levy. He said the staff has been working hard to keep the schools open and were able to implement virtual learning when they needed to during the pandemic but opted to keep schools open when able to. He said that the school board meetings are streamed for anyone interested in using that new feature.

Chairman Maines asked Mr. Foster about the bussing issue once work on the bridge on Highway N starts. He said right now the contract bussing service they are using would not be able to help as they are short staffed. His thoughts were that if parents could get the kids to the bridge area, perhaps something could be worked out. Supervisor Rasmussen said a lot would depend on where the safety barriers will be put up. The Chairman thought if the kids could get to the Plum Lake campground road the bus could turn around there. The Chairman asked Mr. Foster to please keep the Board informed as to the status of the bussing situation. It was noted that the projected is slated to start April 4th and finish around the end of May.

Approve Minutes from Past Meeting(s):

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of 12/8/21 and the regular meeting of 12/14/2021. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Approving Techel Cemetery Deeds:

After discussion, Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve the sale of Lot 94, Sites E, F, G & H to Jack and Nancy Techel for the sum of \$800.00. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Approving Cemetery Committee Members:

Chairman Maines stated that the Cemetery Committee members will review all cemetery policies, such as what is allowed and not allowed, fees, etc. Nadean Stahl, Mary Marsh and Sheehan Donoghue were selected for the committee. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve the 3 volunteers to the Cemetery Committee. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried. Chairman Maines will also be a member of this Committee.

Possibly Developing Cremation Plots:

The Chairman said that Alex Reichel had given the Town information about cremation vaults (Columbariums). He explained they come in all different sizes and benches may be set around them to visit ones that have passed. Supervisor Schmidt asked for more information to read about them. The Chairman said the new Committee will have to initially go over everything pertaining to the cemetery to make sure everything is in order before they start working on this new project. The Board would also require minutes from the Committees meetings so that they can stay abreast of what is going on. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to table this item and hand it over to the new Cemetery Committee to look into. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Approval of Public Service/Public Works Committee Members:

Supervisor Rasmussen said that only one citizen stepped forward to be on the Committee, Bruce Kilsdonk. The other people who would be on the Committee and what they will represent are: Kevin Rasmussen – EMS & Town Board; Jeremy Arnold – Fire Department; Jim Mortag - Road Crew; Gary Schmidt – Town Board and Bruce Kilsdonk – citizen-at-large. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that the meetings would be noticed and minutes would be taken to share with the Board. His idea was to start out with one meeting a month. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the list of committee members. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried. The new employee who will be in charge of grounds and buildings may also be on this committee.

Setting a Date for the Planning Committee to Meet:

After brief discussion, the Clerk is to get a couple of dates to the Chairman so he can call the committee members to set up a date and time for the Planning Committee to meet. The Chairman will let the Clerk know the arranged date and time so she can notice the meeting.

Overtime Pay Policy for Holiday Weeks:

Supervisor Schmidt said after doing his research with the County that employees are paid overtime for holidays that fall on a regular work day and that overtime is also paid for any weekend work. Chairman Maines said that the Town Board sets how the employees will be paid and noted that they have to compete with the County for employees and should at least keep up with their policy on overtime. Supervisor Schmidt asked if besides back pay for Thanksgiving if any was due the Crew for the Christmas or New Year's pay period. The Clerk said no. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve paying overtime pay on weeks when they have a paid holiday if they have to work overtime during that pay period, Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Making all Employee Wages to Be Paid by Direct Deposit:

After a back-and-forth discussion on various reasons for or against direct deposits for all, the Board agreed to move forward with requiring direct deposits for all employees starting March 1st, 2022. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to approve requiring all employees, full time and part-time, to be paid by direct deposit. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Approve vouchers.
The Now Account total was \$174,581.50, the Payroll Account total was \$22,209.13 for a grand total of \$196,790.63. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve paying the bills for the amount of \$196,790.63, Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 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 11th day of January 2022 and were entered in this Record Book by:

Regular Town Board Meeting of February 8, 2022

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, February 8th, 2022. 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, Supervisor Rasmussen, Clerk Brooker, and 14 other people were also present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

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

Citizens Comments & Correspondence:

Shane Zaruba asked when the closing of the bridge starts. The Chairman told him that April 4th is the slated start date and that May 27th is the expected finish date. Shane also asked if it would be possible for the bike trails to be kept clean during the winter for walking and brought up that the bike trail may be needed once the bridge is closed. He also felt that the trails would be melted off earlier in the Spring for people to use if they were kept open in the winter. The Chairman said it was under discussion with the school district right now if the school kids will need the bike trail.

Sheehan Donoghue reported that the snowmobiles on the road going past the post office were travelling too fast. After discussion, Supervisor Schmidt suggested that Sheehan contact the Sheriff's department with her complaint and a recreational officer would most likely be sent to monitor and enforce snowmobilers exceeding the posted 25 mph sign. Sheehan also suggested that notices be put up in town to remind snowmobiles to slow down and to possibly contact the local snowmobile clubs too.

Jona Eliason thanked Kevin Rasmussen for his years of service as fire chief and also his service with EMS. She then congratulated Jeremy Arnold on becoming the new fire chief.

Approve Minutes from Past Meeting(s):

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of 1/11/22. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/20/22 special meeting, Chairman Maines seconded; motion carried.

Keyless Entry System for Rec Building:

Lauri Gerlach, who has been researching secure entry systems since last summer, said she had made a list of the companies the Board could choose from. They were Van Ert Electric out of Merrill, Open Path out of California, Best Defense Security out of Madison, Go Keyless and Par Mar out of Wausau. She ran through the pros and cons of each company along with their costs and terms. She said she would recommend going with the company Van Ert Electric. After discussion with the Board, Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion that they purchase the door key card system from Van Ert Electric with the 5-year plan. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Update on Public Safety Committee Meeting:

Supervisor Rasmussen said for the first meeting was 2 hours and that he felt it was very productive. They are working to come up with a 3-year plan. One of the two items they want to take to the Board was on the current meeting's agenda - Updates from Architect & Projects Manager for New Garage. The 2nd item was having the purchase of a laptop approved for the Town Crew. They were waiting for phone and internet service to be installed in the new Town Garage on March 3rd. There is a problem with the generator at the Fire Station. Someone is coming on 2/24 to diagnose why the generator is not kicking in when they lose power. The Public Safety Committee plans to hold their next meeting in March.

Updates from Architect & Project Manager for New Garage:

The Town Board reviewed an update that was received from Kurt Baird from Hassinger/ Blue Design which listed the following items completed: Main shop lights installed, generator load bank was tested, security camera system set up, OMN manual and punch list completed. More lights need to be installed, training for generator and camera system still needs to be done. Once all is done Hassinger will be handing over the keys to the building. Some items will be completed in the spring - landscaping restoration of the west side of building, installation of stone border on east side, sign installed on north side, and generator roof extension. Supervisor Rasmussen asked the Clerk to find out if the Town Garage is insured for occupancy. The Clerk said she will call Meyer Insurance and find out. The Board needs to determine the amount they want to insure the contents for.

Possible Disposal Site for Soil Removed to Create the Eliason Street Retention Pond:

After discussion, it was decided to store the excavated soil on town property to use for projects where they need fill. The low spot on Dads Lake Road was one suggested project. It was noted that if they had soil left over, they could sell it, as they had people interested in using the soil from the retention pond. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to store the excess material out beyond the new garage in the area of the old shooting range on town property. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Setting a Date for the Planning Committee to Meet:

After brief discussion the Chairman said he wasn't ready to set any date as he still had people to contact and decided to table the agenda item.

Setting a Date to Interview Job Applicants & Choose New Employee:

After discussion, Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to have Chairman Maines contact the applicants to set a date for either the 21st, 22nd, or 23rd of February. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Stryker Contract for Maintenance & inspection of:

LIFEPAK 15 – AED Monitor; Lucas 2, CPR Mechanical Compression Device and Stryker Pro-Lift System in Accordance with Changes to Tran. 309

Supervisor Rasmussen explained that he felt this contract should be signed at a town board meeting, rather than just himself signing it due to the fact that it involves town equipment. He explained that there have been changes going on, such as equipment inspections every other year now. He said starting this year, the inspection reports will be available and compliant. He presented a 3-year contract for board members to sign stating it was for a 3-year contract, with an annual payment of \$961.60. Total for the 3 years is \$2,884.80. He said there is enough money in the EMS line item to cover the cost but would like the board to keep this total in mind when it comes time to start work on the 2023 – 2024 budget. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to accept the 3-year contract with ProCare Services from Stryker with annual payments of \$961.60 for a total of \$2,884.80, with the starting date being 1/26/22 and end date being 1/25/25. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Swear in New Fire Chief – Jeremy Arnold:

Kevin Rasmussen officially transferred his fire chief badge over to Jeremy Arnold. Clerk Brooker then read the swearing in as follows: "I, Jeremy Arnold, having been elected to the office of the fire chief, swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Wisconsin and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to the best of my ability, so help me God". Jeremy answered, "I do".

.Approve Vouchers:

The Now Account total was \$838,549.18, the Payroll Account total was \$24,887.11 for a grand total of \$863,436.29. Supervisor Schmidt had a question about check # 20580. Chairman Maines was able to explain that it was for a drag for grooming out at Razorback Ridges. The funds for the drag came from a \$8,500 grant from The Cornell Foundation (Bill Brewer) and a check from the Sayner-Star Lake Lions in the amount of \$500. Supervisor Schmidt also expressed concern about the heating bills being high for the Fire Department, Ambulance Barn, and Town Hall. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve paying the bills for the amount of \$863,436.29, Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 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 8th day of February 2022 and were entered in this Record Book by:

Regular Town Board Meeting of March 8, 2022

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 8, 2022. 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, Supervisor Rasmussen, Clerk Brooker, and 9 other people were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any Order:

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to discuss the agenda in any order. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments & Correspondence:

Marsha Kittleson said she was running for school board because she felt Christian values, work ethics and basic skills were lacking in the students learning. She had also asked to sit in on a class and was denied access because it was felt the students would feel uncomfortable. She said she felt the need to stir the pot when her views were not accepted by others at a meeting she went to.

Dan Zellner asked about the status of extending the bike trail to cross 155 to get to the park. The Chairman said they had not figured out where to cross 155 yet. It was asked if the room tax money could be used on the bike trail, the Chairman said the Town's portion could be used for it. Supervisor Rasmussen explained that permitting and money needed to be addressed yet too. The Chairman said it most likely wouldn't get done this year and that it needed to be put back on the agenda.

Sheehan Donoghue noted that the conditions walking into the Town Hall for the meeting were icy and dangerous and asked why the area in front of the Town Hall had not been sanded and salted. The Chairman said he would mention it to the crew members.

Supervisor Schmidt mentioned that 2 things were missing from the agenda and asked that a special meeting to address how the contingency funds from the new garage will be spent and also the purchase of a light duty truck for the new employee.

Supervisor Rasmussen reported that Zack Kendrick is the new medical director for the EMS service. He also said the EMS was going to apply for a flexible staffing meeting to upgrade medical help and products for patients and said they will need State approval to get the upgrade.

Chairman Maines reported that Holly Tomlonavich put together a committee from the towns involved in the UTV/ATV debate. The Chairman said the for or against stand wasn't brought up at the initial meeting but said that it probably would at the next meeting to be scheduled around the end of March. He did note that the County Board will be having a meeting in November where a vote could take away the Towns being in charge if they wanted recreational vehicles in their town.

Approve Minutes from Past Meeting(s):

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of 2/8/2022 and the special meeting of 2/21/2022. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Allowing the Use of Debit Cards for the EMS & Fire Department:

Supervisor Rasmussen explained that a debit card would really cut down on the paper work involved every time he has to reimburse himself for something he bought with his personal credit card and also said that the auditor felt all the reimbursements didn't look good. Supervisor Rasmussen said that Park City Credit Union offers a debit card service and that there would be one debit card for the EMS and one debit card for the Fire Department. Supervisor Schmidt said he would be in favor of it but wanted to see a new policy written up on how the use of the debit card would be handled. Supervisor Rasmussen said he would amend the current policy and motioned to table the agenda item till the April meeting. Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Purchase of Laptop for the Town Shop:

Supervisor Schmidt said the money for the new laptop and printer could come out of the building contingency fund and that Kurt Hassinger would do the buying. After discussion, Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to have Kurt Hassinger purchase the new laptop and printer out of the contingency fund with a spending limit of \$1,500.

Town Co-Oping Razorback Ridges Management With Sayner-Star Lake Lions:

Chairman Maines brought up the subject of the Board working with the Sayner-Star Lake Lions Club by

Resolution for Nixon Lake Road Improvements Grant:

Chairman Maines reported that Craig Dalton from the DNR was offering another \$150,000 grant for the Town to finish Nixon Lake Road repairs to the Boulder Junction line. He said all the town had to do to get the funds was to approve a resolution to accept the funding from the DNR. The DNR prefers the work be done in the summer of 2022 but noted it must be completed by July 1st, 2023. Chairman Maines read the following:

Resolution 2022-001

Resolution to make improvements to the Nixon Lake Road II
Funded by the WI Department of Natural Resource.

Whereas Nixon Lake Road is a town road within the jurisdiction of the Town of Plum Lake, and whereas the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources forestry Division has requested that the Town of Plum Lake improve the Nixon Lake Road to facilitate better access to state forest lands for all users, and;

Whereas the Department of Natural Resources is offering a grant to the Town of Plum Lake in the amount of \$150,000 to be spent on these improvements, and;

Whereas the requested improvements consist of fixing erodible hillsides with ditching and breaker run placement along a 2 mile stretch of the road.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Plum Lake accepts the grant of no more than \$150,000 and commits to causing said road improvements to be accomplished as part of the 2022 Town Road Program.

Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the resolution and accept the \$150,000 funding grant for Nixon Lake Road repairs. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded.

Vote: Supervisor Schmidt-aye, Supervisor Rasmussen-aye, and Chairman Maines-aye; motion carried.

Note: Clerk Brooker to contact Brian Pitlik to check out Nixon Lake Road.

Improvement Presentation from Sayner-Star Lake Lions about Possible Playground Proposal:

Gary Kaphingst from the Sayner-Star Lake Lions Club was at the meeting to ask the Town Board for permission to purchase some new playground equipment for both Sayner and Star Lake. Gary said he would like to start the process to look for equipment and bring back a proposal for approval. He said he had also looked into grants and foundations and had found people receptive to donations. Alex Reichl from the Walter Alexander Foundation stated that handicap accessible was a plus for him. Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to approve the Sayner/Star Lake Lions Club offer to present a proposal to the Town Board on improving the playground. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; carried.

Implemented Fraud Protection Tools at Nicolet Bank:

After discussion, Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to adopt the fraud protection policies with Nicolet National Bank as proposed by their risk management, Supervisor Schmidt seconded; motion carried.

Setting a Date for the Planning Committee to Meet:

After brief discussion the Chairman said he wasn't ready to set any date for the Planning Committee but said it would be set and they would be meeting before the end of March. A Cemetery Committee meeting was set for the following Tuesday at the Town Hall at 10 am.

Setting a Date to Interview Job Applicants & Choose New Employee:

After discussion, Supervisor Schmidt made a motion to have Chairman Maines contact the applicants to set a date for either the 21st, 22nd, or 23rd of March. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded; motion carried.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Local Road Projects:

After discussion, the Chairman gave permission to have Clerk Brooker and Chuck Rasmussen meet with Phil from MSA to discuss the BIL Grants and fill out the application for the road grant which has to be in by June 1st, 2023. The town will be applying for an 80/20 grant for Razorback Road, expecting the total cost to be approximately \$1.5 million.

Transfer of North Star Resort Liquor License:

After brief discussion, the Chairman said no action can be taken till the liquor license is given back to the town. Clerk Brooker to call Bill Hintz to ask him if he will turn it into the town.

Approve Vouchers:

The Now Account total was \$1,688,752.30, the Payroll Account total was \$32,644.11 for a grand total of \$1,721,396.41. Supervisor Schmidt had a couple of questions which were answered. Supervisor Schmidt also expressed concern about the heating bills being high for the old and new town garages. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to