

Town of Plum Lake

P.O. Box 280 715 – 542 - 4531
8755 Lake St. Sayner, Wisconsin 54560
E-Mail: office@plumlakewi.gov
Website: www.plumlakewi.gov

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm

1. Calling the Meeting to Order:

The meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner and was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Postuchow. The meeting was duly called with the notice posted at the Town Hall in Sayner, the US Sayner Post Office, and notice was given to the *Vilas County News-Review*, *The Lakeland Times*, WRJO, WERL, as well as posted on the Town of Plum Lake website.

2. Roll Call:

Chair Postuchow, Supervisor Eliason, Supervisor Rasmussen, Treasurer Klager, Clerk Lechner, and 27 other people were present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Approve Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting:

Chair Postuchow made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. Supervisor Rasmussen seconded the motion. **Motion carried**

5. Approve Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report:

Treasurer Klager reported that the town is solvent at the moment.

6. Reports:

A. Lakes Committee:

A handout was available and is on record. Joe Heitz stated that the camera surveillance program will continue. There are currently seven (7) cameras on six (6) main lakes. There were 35,219 videos capturing 4,176 boat launches with ten (10) violations that were submitted to the DNR. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program will continue with in-person monitoring. The Small Lakes Program will also continue. The North Lakeland Discovery Center will be conducting an Early Detection, Rapid Response Survey. Star Lakes continues to go through some remediation with the Eurasian Water Milfoil. The Fish Sticks Program this winter was cancelled due to poor ice. It will be rescheduled for next winter.

B. Fire Department:

A handout was available and is on record. Jeremy Arnold, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Department current has an ISO rating of 9/10. Their enrollment continues to be low with 12 members currently. The officers remain the same as last year. There are currently seven (7) Knox Box subscribers. Fire Chief Arnold also stated that he had a \$40,000 check to give the town tonight. The 4th of July Celebration and ChickenQ had a larger turnout than expected. The Spaghetti Dinner had another successful year. They continue to send people for training. There will be a Summer raffle and maybe some pop-up raffles. Supervisor Rasmussen discussed the Reading Heroes Program. The Fire Department is working on membership for Star Lake and would like Engine 2 to move to a building in Star Lake.

C. Public Works:

A handout was available and is on file. Jeremy Arnold, Public Works Foreman, stated that there are currently three (3) employees in the Public Works Department. Jeremy stated that the low amount of snow this winter was easy on equipment. The Town has entered into an agreement with Vilas County for \$75,000 to have their own gravel crushed. Jeremy stated that the Freightliner is aging, has 46,500 miles on it, but has continued to have problems. Jeremy would like to replace it with something with a warranty. Jeremy also stated that the 2016 Ford F-150 has several miles and is beginning to rust, and the lift gate is failing. Jeremy stated that money for roads is needed. The 1.7 miles to finish Nixon Lake Project is currently being done by Kelk Land Improvement. A bid will be going out shortly for Camp 2 Road, which will include 1.9 miles to Jean Lake Road from Weschler. This is a DNR project. The town currently has 96 miles of road.

D. Library:

A handout was available and is on file. Emile Braunel, Library Director, stated that 2023 was a great year. There were 18,209 items borrowed, 3,442 digital downloads, 4,825 free Wi-Fi connections, and 24,172 items available for checkout just at the Plum Lake Library. The library had 137 programs with 1,279 attendees, which is a large increase from the prior year. The library is part of a system that includes 30 libraries. New programs for 2023 included a weekly Knit and Stitch Group, monthly Cookbook Club, Chair Yoga, Tai Chi Classes, free Wisconsin State Park Day passes, and the Northern Waters Library Service Passport Challenge. A basement renovation project is currently underway. Don Novac asked what percentage of library patrons are from St Germain. Emile was unsure of the number, but stated it was significant. St Germain contributes \$10,000 to the Plum Lake Library but are not obligated to give the Plum Lake Library any money.

E. EMS:

Kevin Rasmussen stated that there are currently six members, and a staff of 12 including active and inactive. Kevin stated that Dr. Kendrick, Medical Director, will be moving to South Carolina. He will be greatly missed. EMS is in the process of getting a new Medical Director for the area. EMS has made a request to DHS to go to flex staffing. In 2023 an assist vehicle was purchased, which will be used to pull the EMS trailer with the UTV and Snowbulance. Kevin reported that in 2023 there were 92 dispatches, of which 64 were billable (14 commercial insurance, 9 private/self-pay, 1 from Veterans' Health, and the remainder were Medicare/Medicaid). EMS treated and transported 49 responses in Sayner, 16 in Star Lake, 1 in Boulder Junction, and 26 in St. Germain. Don Novac questioned what makes a run billable or non-billable. Kevin explained that billable is when they are loaded onto a cot and take someone to a hospital. Non-billable would include items such as a stand-by. The total charges through Lifequest were \$49,574. The EMS service revenue, which is revenue brought into the town, was \$33,068. Kevin thanked the town for establishing a line item to pay someone to take an EMS class, which helps in recruitment. There is a program to participate in a ride-along.

F. Sayner-Star Lake Chamber of Commerce:

Jessica Drallmeier, President, spoke on behalf of the Sayner-Star Lake Chamber. She listed their Board members, as well as discussed several events that they hosted in 2023. Jessica stated there was a record turnout at the Street Fair, and that they may be looking at changes to Bags and Brews. Helen Bryner is on their Event Committee and looking at possible events for 2025. Jessica stated that the Chamber will be donating \$5,000 to public restrooms, \$1500 to the Fire Department, \$1500 to EMT, \$4,000 to the town for bike trail maintenance, \$4,000

to the Sayner Barnstormers, \$2,000 to the Plum Lake Library, and \$5,000 to the Lions Club for the Star Lake Park project. The Chamber is currently contracting with Up North Connections. The Chamber has printed 8,500 visitor guides. They are currently partnering with NRG Media (radio) on a geofencing project, and also with OTT advertising, which will include streaming TV ads. The Chamber currently has 17,000 Facebook followers. Jessica discussed the difficulties that the lack of snow had on area businesses. The Sayner-Star Lake Chamber has entered into an agreement with Cloverland to become a Room Tax Commission until at least 2025. They will become the Sayner-Star Lake-Cloverland Chamber eventually. Cloverland dollars will stay in Cloverland except in joint efforts (visitor guide, etc.). This will open up grants, and they are hoping to rebrand.

7. Citizen Comments:

A. ARPA Funds:

Deb Seeger questioned what remained of the ARPA funds that the town received. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that the town is still waiting for the Charter build out to be completed to see what the town will owe.

B. Park by Town Hall:

A donor has graciously agreed to pay for the installation of ADA compliant pavers to the park. Dan Zellner stated that Kate Reichl is working on the history of the schoolhouse sign. A donor sign is currently being designed, in addition to a welcome sign.

C. Miscellaneous:

The Sayner-Star Lake Lions are currently working on an update of Star Lake-Mill Pond Park and could use financial and/or physical assistance.

The Land Use Agreements are currently being updated with the DNR.

Veterans Park needs attention and is deteriorating. It needs some pressure washing, installation of new granite, pruning, etc. The town has requested high school assistance during Clean Up Day on May 1st for Veterans Park.

8. Adjourn:

Deb Seeger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. Sheehan Donoghue seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

These minutes were taken at the Annual Meeting of the Town of Plum Lake held on the 16th day of April 2024, and were entered in this Record Book by: K. Lechner, Clerk