

Town of Plum Lake

PO Box 280, 8755 Lake St.

Sayner, WI 54560

715.542.4531

office@plumlakewi.gov

www.plumlakewi.gov

Special Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm

1. Open Meeting Verification:

The meeting was held at the Recreation Building 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, Clerk Lechner, Kate Reichl from the *Lakeland Times*, Steve Jamroz from Blue Design Group (via zoom), Sam Wessel from North Central Regional Planning Commission (via zoom), and 17 other people were in attendance.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

4. Discussion and Action on the following:

A. Flexible Facilities Program

1. Summary of Program:

Chair Postuchow gave a brief overview of the program. The Flexible Facilities Program is a federal grant that does not require the recipients to match funds. This program is to restore, renovate, or build a community center. \$107 million was designated for Wisconsin, of which \$20 million will go to libraries. The remaining funds will be in the form of a competitive grant. The town is hoping to construct a community building that will be ADA compliant and available for telehealth, education, etc.

2. Q&A Session:

Doug Scott asked where the new building would be located?

Supervisor Rasmussen stated that in 2019 the community was asked about building a new Community/Recreation Center. When Covid hit, the estimates doubled what the electorate approved, and supplies were also limited. The original plan was between the Town Hall and the garage in back. It is likely that the town would still look at building on that spot.

Doug Scott also asked if additional staff would be required?

Supervisor Rasmussen stated not necessarily, but it would depend on the programming that is offered, and that the town would likely look for community volunteers.

Doug Scott asked that maintenance costs be taken into consideration.

Steve Jamroz discussed the Manitowish Waters building which includes an internet café with 24-hour access, which has been in place about three (3) years.

Sheehan Donoghue stated that she plays bridge at the Manitowish Waters facility and stated that the room works well, but she is unsure of the cost and the cost for building staff at least eight (8) hours per day. She also stated that our current building does not meet our needs.

The Town will ask John Hanson, Chair of the Town of Manitowish Waters, about the current costs, including maintenance and staffing.

Steve Jamroz stated that the internet cost would not increase, however, lighting might increase costs, but that the square footage will be the major cost.

Ida Nemec stated that the Manitowish Library is nice, and residents rave about it.

Sheehan Donoghue stated that the Manitowish Waters building was donated by Frank and Betty Koller, and that there is no outside access to the bathroom at their facility.

Kate Reichl stated that she feels an internet café is a great idea.

Steve Jamroz asked Sam Wessel if an internet café would add extra points for the grant?

Sam Wessel stated he was unsure but would look into it.

Supervisor Rasmussen asked if the vestibule could be part of the internet café versus a separate room?

Steve Jamroz stated it could, but it would depend on design and code issues.

Joan Kazda stated that she felt it was important that the community have access to the restrooms, even when the building is closed. Conover has bathrooms open 24/7, 365 days-a-year, and has not had a problem with vandalism.

Steve Jamroz stated that Boulder Junction also has outdoor access to their restrooms and that they should be asked if in the last ten (10) years they have had a problem with vandalism.

Robb Passow asked about a septic system and what the square footage would be?

Steve Jamroz stated that he is thinking about 12,000 square feet, and that a new well and septic would be needed.

Betty Kalley stated that she felt bathrooms would be vandalized.

In response to Betty's comment, Helen Bryner stated that there are always a few who will be disrespectful.

Sheehan Donoghue stated that she feels bathrooms are critical in this community.

Joan Kazda stated that she would welcome the opportunity to do volunteer work in the community such as blood pressure checks, healthy diet classes, etc.

Chair Postuchow discussed VA services, and volunteers for items such as Meals on Wheels. If there was a kitchen, then this would be an option for days that Meals on Wheels are not available. A new building would also be great for follow-up visits and community well checks for the elderly by getting them out into the community.

Amy Hermus discussed the possibility of having a donation center for walkers, canes, wheelchairs, etc. for storage and checkout centers.

Joan Kazda also suggested that the VA could do counseling 1-2 days a week.

Sheehan Donoghue asked if a kitchen would be in the new building.

Steve Jamroz listed the necessary code items for a kitchen.

Louise Randall asked if the town staff would be moving into the new building.

Chair Postuchow stated that yes, the town offices would move, and that there would be meeting rooms, educational spaces, etc.

Steve Jamroz asked if a completed floor plan was necessary for grant submittal.

Sam Wessel and Chair Postuchow both stated that only costs need to be submitted with the grant application.

Amy Hermus stated that a refrigerator for collection of health samples that would be secure for medical purposes would also be a good idea.

Supervisor Eliason asked if the grant is received and there is a compliance issue which would cause the grant to be rescinded, would the town be on the hook? Does the town need a contract to ensure that compliance is followed?

Steve Jamroz stated that the building has to be completed by September of 2026. He feels it is unlikely that funding would be withheld after the grant has been awarded.

Sam Wessel stated that this grant gets dispersed as expenses come in. Costs incurred after the deadline would be at the town's expense. He also felt that the town may receive more grant points if they don't charge for use of the building.

Supervisor Eliason questioned how we would budget for the required five (5) years of maintenance, etc.

Sam Wessel stated that a sustainability plan will be necessary in the grant as a way for the town to report compliance.

Deb Seeger asked if the building would have a sprinkler system.

Steve Jamroz stated that it would not but would instead have fire walls. A sprinkler system would be very expensive.

Sheehan Donoghue asked if insurance costs would increase without a sprinkler system.

Steve Jamroz suggested that proximity to the fire station would assist in any insurance costs.

Helen Bryner asked if the new building would be for recreational purposes.

Supervisor Rasmussen responded that this building would not be for recreational purposes, but that the current recreational building would remain in place.

Steve Jamroz stated that he was hoping to have a budget by the end of next week (June 14, 2024). He will forward those numbers to the Town Board, and once the Board has had a chance to review the numbers, another meeting will be scheduled.

Supervisor Rasmussen asked Sam Wessel if he received answers to all of his questions.

Sam Wessel stated yes, but to make sure that minutes are being taken to show public participation.

3. Resolution 2024-004, Resolution for the Adoption of a Community Engagement Plan:

Supervisor Eliason read the resolution into the record. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-004 for the Adoption of a Community Engagement Plan as read in. Supervisor Eliason seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Adjourn:**

Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Eliason seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

These minutes were taken at the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Plum Lake held on the 4th day of June, 2024, and were entered in this Record Book by: K. Lechner, Clerk