

Town of Plum Lake

Special Town Board Meeting Minutes

8/25/25

Approved

Open Meeting Verification: The meeting was duly called by Chair Postuchow at 5:00pm 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.

Roll Call: Chair Postuchow, Supervisor 1- Rasmussen, Supervisor 2- Eliason, Clerk Arnold and 16 guests: Helen Bryner, Phil Desautels, Gary Errington, Bonita Thomas, John Maines, Bob Hermanson, Gary Kelner, Susie Govier, Sheehan Donoghue, Patty Heperern, John Arnold, Jeremy Arnold, Jim Thomas, Laurie Zaruba and Shane Zaruba were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizen Comments/Concerns:

Jim Thomas asked the following questions: How much will it cost to demolish the Town Hall?

How much does it cost to maintain the Town Hall? Can the Town Hall be kept for storage?

John Maines also asked about the cost to maintain the Town Hall? Could the building be kept and only heated for part of the year to reduce utility costs? John Maines discussed the importance of history.

Bonita Thomas discussed structural memories. She asked what it would cost to bring the Town Hall building up to code? Could designation as a Historical Building allow for building code updates to be waived or grandfathered? Could the building be used as veterans memorial in partnership with the Vilas County Historical Museum? Could the Chamber of Commerce or Service Clubs use the building?

John Arnold stated that there were similar debates regarding taking down the old school building which is now the location of the park. He suggested having space within the new community center for memorabilia of the Town Hall

Bob Hermanson asked about the cost to heat and maintain the building. He recalled that the town has paid a lot of money to renovate the Town Hall recently.

Sue Govier explained the process of deciding the location of the new community center and the decision process of needing to demolish the Town Hall. She stated that designation as a Historical Building does not offer a public building to be grandfathered or exempted from code updates. Sue discussed how the site plan honors the Town Hall Building.

Sheehan Donoghue gave the history of her residency and involvement in the town. She stated that she voted to demolish the Town Hall at the Annual Meeting with a heavy heart. Sheehan stated that the building maintenance cost would also need to include septic, well and furnace costs. There will also be a need to carry insurance on the building. The bathrooms would need to be brought up to ADA compliance and that expense could be very high. Sheehan expressed gratitude for the Community Center Committee and their efforts.

Bonita Thomas asked Why it would need to be brought up to code? She stated that she feels the building should be here for future generations.

Shane Zaruba stated that saving the building for future generations will also mean that future generations will have to deal with its maladies.

Chair Postuchow read a letter from the Women's Club in support of letting the Town Hall be demolished.

Approve Agenda to Be Discussed in Any Order: Motion made by Chair Postuchow: To approve the agenda in any order. **Seconded by Supervisor Eliason. Vote: Unanimous/Carried**

Approval of minutes from earlier meeting: Tabled until the next regular Board meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on RFP for Asbestos Remediation for Town Hall:

Supervisor Eliason discussed the Asbestos & Lead Testing Report from North Star Environmental Testing. The town will need to get a cost estimate for remediation. Contact will be made with the company that handled the Town Garage prior to its demolition. The Request for Proposals (RFP) process will need to be determined. Supervisor Eliason stated that the 30 page testing report will be printed and available to view at the town office if anyone so chooses. Supervisor Eliason requested that the RFP for remediation be put on the September Town Board Meeting Agenda.

Recitation and Approval Resolution 2025-006 To Vacate a section of Sayner Avenue:

Resolution 2025-006 was read by Supervisor Eliason. **Motion made by Supervisor Rasmussen:** To adopt Resolution 2025-006 that vacates a portion of Sayner Avenue. **Seconded by Supervisor Eliason.**

Vote: Unanimous/Carried

Motion made by Supervisor Rasmussen: To adjourn the meeting. **Seconded by Supervisor Eliason.**

Vote: Unanimous/ Meeting Adjourned at 5:50

Recorded by T. Arnold, Clerk this 25th day of August