



## *Town of Plum Lake*

PO Box 280, 8755 Lake St.  
Sayner, WI 54560  
715.542.4531

[office@plumlakewi.gov](mailto:office@plumlakewi.gov)

[www.plumlakewi.gov](http://www.plumlakewi.gov)

## **Town Board Meeting-Minutes**

Tuesday, August 27, 2024, beginning at 9:00 AM

### **1. Open Meeting Verification:**

The meeting was held at the Town Hall in Sayner and was called to order at 9:00 am 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 1-Rasmussen, Supervisor 2 Eliason, Treasurer Klager, Clerk Rosewicz, 23 guests and 1 representative from the Vilas County News-Review.

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

### **4. Approve Agenda to be Discussed in any order:**

Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to discuss the agenda in any order. Supervisor Eliason seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

### **5. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting(s):**

Supervisor Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2024, Special Town Board Meeting as submitted. Chair Postuchow seconded the motion. Supervisor Rasmussen recused himself due to bad phone connection. **Motion passed. (2-0)**

### **6. Discussion and Action on the following:**

#### **A. Acquire New Town Legal Counsel**

Chair Postuchow recommended adding Legal Counsel to the budget in order to gain access to timely feedback and legal advice relating to town business. Chair Postuchow believes this would be in the best interest of the town to have reliable representation. Shared information for Stafford Rosenbaum LLP: Attorney Larry A Konopacki, a Madison area firm, with associates working throughout the Town of Plum Lake area that would support the firm. Supervisor Rasmussen and Supervisor Eliason agree that this should be addressed.

#### **1. Contract Approval**

Motion: Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to sign into contract the services of Stafford Rosenbaum LLP: Attorney Larry A Konopacki as of today's date, August 27, 2024. Second: Supervisor Eliason **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

## **B. STH 155 pedestrian crossing- possible options for WIDOT**

Discussion regarding location, signage, monetary responsibility, and requirements and permitting if necessary for a crosswalk on STH 155. Motion made by Supervisor Rasmussen to ready a plan to submit two proposals to the DOT to ensure that the town is set up for approval before the crosswalk location is finalized. Seconded by Supervisor Eliason. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

Chair Postuchow restated that the board has approved moving forward with two (2) path options to see which is acceptable to the DOT. Then the town will get a list of steps/costs that would be incurred.

## **C. Frontier request to pay cable damage Plum-Vitae Rd**

Supervisor Rasmussen shared that the cable in question was buried less than 6-inches underground. He also noted that it was down the middle of the road. He has photos of the cable. He does not feel the town is responsible for any damage caused by town equipment. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion to deny the notice of claim, but if another claim is received, the town attorney would be contacted. Second by Supervisor Eliason. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

## **D. Assignment of Remaining ARPA Budget**

Discussion regarding the review of guidelines for how the remaining ARPA budget can be spent. Suggestions: Roads Improvements, Park/Pedestrian Walkways, etc. Town Treasurer will notify board of monies remaining in the ARPA budget. Supervisor Rasmussen moved to table the ARPA budget until a later meeting to allow time to gather the information needed to act on this item. Second by Chair Postuchow. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

## **E. Approve and/or make changes Boating Regulations Restricting Certain Enhanced Wakes Ordinance**

Discussion was held regarding a change of wording in Section VII from “posting” to “postings”. Bob Jackson, Lakes committee spokesperson, shared that all of the signage for all of the lakes with Public Boat Landings in the township would be posted by the Lakes Committee. Chair Postuchow shared that there have been threats of lawsuits if the town goes through with the ordinance, however legal counsel has previously commented on this situation and believes the proposed ordinance does not have any threat of lawsuit as written. Lakes Committee, John Richter, reported that lawsuits have been brought up to other municipalities with similar ordinances, but stated that the threat is instead being used as a tactic to prevent the ordinance from being passed. Supervisor Rasmussen moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-004 with the noted correction. Chair Postuchow seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

## **Boating Regulations Restricting Certain Enhanced Wakes Ordinance 2024-004 was read in by Supervisor Eliason**

Chair Postuchow asked the Lakes Committee to move forward with ordering signs and that she would help with monitoring the activity on the lakes.

#### **F. Tennis/Pickleball Court Schedules and/or Signage**

Julie Townsend Smart introduced herself as a Seasonal resident and Tennis player. She addressed the town board in regard to creating a possible schedule for use of the Tennis/Pickleball courts. Townsend Smart shared that the Tennis and Pickleball players have come to what they feel is a possible schedule, Tennis M-W-F and Pickleball T-TH-Sa from 8-noon. They would like signage placed (at their expense) that reflects this schedule. Supervisor Rasmussen asked that more information from surrounding townships be gathered by Townsend Smart and then shared with the board at a later date. Chair Postuchow expressed concern that this schedule would not be inclusive, rather exclusive of other full-time residents and visitors to our community. Lauri Gerlach, year-round resident, shared that her pickleball group has stopped playing at the park because she and others feel that the courts are not being shared. She stated that visitors to the area would also like to use the courts. A conversation was held regarding the possibility of adding new courts in the future, but there are no formal plans at this time. Chair Postuchow stated that she would be more in favor of designating one court for tennis and one court for pickleball. Supervisor Rasmussen made a motion that Townsend Smart and Gerlach work together with Chair Postuchow to create a plan that would satisfy both groups and be equitable to all. Second by Supervisor Eliason. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

#### **G. Town Building(s) Usage and Access**

Discussion regarding the authorized/unauthorized access to the Recreation Building was discussed. It was noted that there are many people that have access to the Recreation Building via Key, Key Card, or through the online APP. Chair Postuchow would like all current access suspended. This would include deactivating key cards and APP access and collecting all keys and/or changing locks on all of the entry points but asked that the board consider having the recreation building open during the day for residents to use. The public would still be able to reserve and use the facility if they have signed up on the town calendar. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that new signage regarding usage and sharing of the building would need to be installed. Supervisor Eliason noted that there should not be preferential access to any one group of people. A motion was made by Chair Postuchow to present a plan for the rules and guidelines for Town Building usage and access at the next meeting. Second by Supervisor Rasmussen. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

#### **7. Citizen Comments and Concerns**

- Deb Seeger asked when requests to add items to the budget would be accepted. Supervisor Rasmussen and Treasurer Klager noted that these requests can be shared with either of them at any time.
- Sheehan Donoghue: Stated her opposition to a 5-Person Town Board.
- Donoghue also inquired as to how the town would notify the public if the Flexible Facilities Program Grant is received. Chair Postuchow stated that this notification if received would be posted in the same ways as other town news is shared: Town Website, Email, Facebook Page, and in addition on the Town Sign located at the Fire Department. In addition,

-Donoghue asked about any developments regarding possible removal of the basketball courts to install more Tennis/Pickleball courts? Chair Postuchow shared that there have been conversations but there are no formal plans to remove the basketball court/nor any follow-up regarding adding any additional Tennis/Pickleball courts at this time.

-Supervisor Rasmussen shared that ACT 97 Flexible Staffing Legislation will allow relief to the department by allowing the department to bill for the costs incurred when rendering ALS services.

Training costs for EMS staff were also discussed.

**7. Approval of Monthly Vouchers:**

Chair Postuchow read the Approval of Claims report aloud. Motion to approve by Supervisor Eliason, Seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

**9. Closed Session:**

A motion was made and seconded to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Chair Postuchow made a motion to move to closed session at 10:42 AM. Supervisor Eliason seconded. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

**A. PTO/Payroll Grievance Review**

**10. Return to Open Session**

Adjourn closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c)

Motion by Chair Postuchow to return to open session at 11:35 AM, seconded by Supervisor Eliason. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

**11. Action from Closed Session**

Motion made by Chair Postuchow to send a letter to Public Works Foreman, Jeremy Arnold, stating that he needs to submit a PTO request form by the last working day of December. Seconded by Supervisor Eliason. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

Motion made by Chair Postuchow to revisit the Handbook for Salaried Employees and clarify the PTO requirements for Hourly Employees. Seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

**12. Adjourn:**

Chair Postuchow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Eliason seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 am. **Motion passed unanimously. (3-0)**

These minutes were taken at the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Plum Lake held on the 27th day of August 2024, and were entered in this Record Book by: J. Rosewicz, Interim Clerk