

Town Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM December 8, 2021

APPROVED BY BOARD

Stockbridge Community Hall

Chairman Ken Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Present were Supervisors Mark Ecker, Joe Kuhn, Clerk Steve Phipps, Treasurer Andrea Ortleib, Road Supervisor Mark Tasch, Fire Chief Mike Funk, Art Reif*, Brian Thome* of Waste Mgmt, Judy Hartl*, Bob Kesler*. * indicates the person signed up for public comment. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Steve indicated the meeting has been properly posted. Ken moved and Mark E. 2nd the motion to approve the agenda with moving items 8ai and item 10 to after 17. M/C.

Art Reif spoke about the property at W4797 Hwy E being uninhabitable and did not want to pay the refuse charge for the garbage pickup. He provided an appraisal that indicated the property was uninhabitable. Ken said he would take the issue up a future meeting.

Judy Hartl spoke about recent statistics for the town and/or county as it relates to population growth, employment and substance abuse/use in Calumet County.

Brian Thome and Bob Kesler reserved their comment until later for itemized agenda items.

Joe moved and Mark E. 2nd the motion to approve the November 18, 2021 town board minutes as presented. M/C.

Brian Thome introduced himself as the rep for Waste Management, Inc. and talked about some of the challenges in the industry and promised to get the job done to the best of his abilities. Ken asked about dual chamber trucks and Brian indicated WM does have such trucks and drivers are not to place recyclables in trash compartments. Joe shared that service was getting better from the Sheboygan dispatch and then the problems started again with the transition of truck being

dispatched out of Fond Du Lac. Brian indicated that would be a new challenge and WM was trying to establish driver consistency and the industry is struggling with staff. Brian reiterated WM is trying to do everything from paying driver's children's college education to other incentives to solve the problem.

Damage on Tower Rd: Mark indicated no new information is available. Culvert on Long Road: Mark T. is talking to two organizations that may be able to help with the costs. Trout Unlimited (TU) wants an open bottom culvert but 3 X bigger than we have now. Presently a 5 ft culvert and town will need to expand it at a cost of approx. \$25,000. To make it a open bottom it would be approx. \$33,900.00. Discussion about applying for a grant for 50 % of the cost. However, because TU wants such a large culvert the bridge aid may be reduced or eliminated.

Randy Pingel of Rural insurance arrived at 7:32 PM.

Mark indicated the culvert will certainly need to be made larger but how large is the question. General discussion occurred. Total cost of about \$40,000 for the larger TU endorsed culvert vs about \$25,000 - \$30,000. Board members all indicated Mark T should apply for 75% Michigan grant through TU endorsed plan and then reassess if that is not successful. The timing of the proposal is important since engineering plans/costs will vary based on the plan.

Mark asked about repairing the power steering on the truck and whether to fix it or not. Board indicated to get the truck fixed.

New Truck Purchase: Mark had no update since he was unable to reach anyone.

Lawn Mower: Mark reported a cost of \$5800 - \$7200 for Gravely and \$12,300 for a Ferris. Ken did some shopping too at exMark. General discussion followed about engine size, delivery time, fuel delivery, commercial vs residential quality, etc. Ken indicated he would take a road trip with Mark T. and look at several of them. Ken asked about anyone else who would like to go shopping with Mark and no one indicated they were available. Randy Pingel added that many municipalities he sees are purchasing Spartan mowers for sale at Braun Equipment. Contracting for

lawn cutting was also discussed and Mark E. indicated he would contact someone who cuts for a neighboring municipality to obtain a quote. No action taken.

Lakeshore Drive/Mud Creek Road Bridge: Mark shared the Ayres report details from the county which suggested some structural concerns and call for an underwater bridge inspection.

Insurance: Steve gave a background of the how/why the town board moved to Rural last year where coverage increased and costs decreased. This year's cyber coverage portion has come in significantly more expensive than last year and wanted to inform the board and let them decide how much coverage was appropriate. Randy P. explained the cost was about \$1800/year for the "Cadillac" coverage with reimbursement of loss up to \$100,000 (as the town purchased last year) or the town could opt for reduced coverage for approx. \$86/year with the only benefit being an attorney's service up to \$10,000.00 and no loss reimbursement for a cyber related claim. After general discussion, Ken moved to change coverage to the lesser cost option. Mark 2nd the motion. M/C.

205 S. Military Road: Ken shared the purchase contract was accepted at \$165,750. This amount does not include improvements nor engineering costs for the biofilter. Ken explained the plan to use the property to clean the water run-off using ARPA grant funds (approx. \$148,000) and then long-term plans of using part of the property for driveway expansion at the fire station and community hall contingent upon successful joint planning/efforts with the village. He further explained future use would require possible village/town property swaps/sales if the fire station/community hall would be expanded. If town/village agreements were never accomplished for community the hall/fire station alterations, the property would be sold on the open market for the highest and best use with conditions/alterations to keep the property compliant with ARPA requirements. After general discussion, Joe moved to proceed with the engineering work to fulfill the ARPA requirements, Mark E. 2nd the motion. M/C. Ken will get an engineering estimate.

Short term leasing of house: Jim Hooyman presented a draft in-complete property management agreement and expressed an interest in managing the

leasing and property maintenance until the town no longer wanted to lease the property. General comments were fielded and questions asked of Jim Hooyman. Jim indicated he thought the rent would be at least a \$1000.00/month. Randy Pingel shared the town should make sure it requires the tenant to obtain renters' insurance with the town being named as an additional insured. The town's cost to insure the property would be \$288/year. Steve indicated to make sure the tenant knows and consents to allow the town to work on the property for installation of the ARPA requirements ie. Biofilters, etc. While no decision was made to enter into a management agreement with any property manager. Joe moved to allow Ken to enter into a property management agreement if Ken felt the agreement was satisfactory at Ken's discretion. Mark E. 2nd the motion. M/C.

Borrowing from the Commission of Public Lands: Steve asked the board if they wanted to apply for a loan considering the purchase of the home. Ken indicated the truck expense may come up in January as well using available cash. There is no cost to apply. Joe moved to apply for the loan (not authorizing any draws) as follows:

Joe Kuhn moved it be resolved that the Town of Stockbridge in Calumet County borrow from the Trust Fund of the State of Wisconsin the sum of \$150,000.00 for the purpose of financing land acquisition and for no other purpose.

The loan is to be payable within 2 years from the 15th day of March preceding the date the loan is made. The loan will be repaid in annual installment with interest at the rate of 2.5 percent per annum from the date of making the loan to the 15th day of March next and thereafter annually as provided by the law. Resolved further, that there shall be and raised and there is levied upon all taxable property, within the Town of Stockbridge, in the county of Calumet, Wisconsin, a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying interest and principal on the loan as they come due.

Resolved further, that no money obtained by the Town of Stockbridge by such loan from the state be applied or paid out for any purpose except for financing land acquisition without the consent of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

Resolved further, that in the case the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin agrees to make the loan, that the chairman and clerk of the Town of Stockbridge, in the County of Calumet, Wisconsin are authorized and empowered, in the name of the Town to execute and deliver to the Commission, certificates of indebtedness, in such form as required by the Commission, for any sum of money that may be loaned to the Town to this resolution. The chairman and clerk of the Town will perform all necessary actions to fully carry out the provisions of Chapter 24 Wisconsin Statutes, and these resolutions.

Resolved further, that this preamble and these resolutions and the aye and no vote by which they were adopted, be recorded, and that the clerk of this Town forward this certified record, along with the application for the loan, to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin. Mark Ecker 2nd the motion. Via a roll call vote. Mark Ecker voted Aye, Joe Kuhn voted Aye and Ken Schaefer voted Aye. Motion carried.

As closing for the home is December 31, 2021 and no future meetings are scheduled, Ken moved to instruct the clerk to issue a check to the closing agent not to exceed \$170,000.00 upon receiving the exact settlement statement. Mark E. 2nd the motion. M/C.

Survey Maps: Steve indicated there were no submissions.

Community Hall/Fire Station Update: Ken indicated the committee has not met recently and there are no updates.

Communications: Steve indicated the town has received notice of: timber cutting by Bob Wettstein, grant funding from the WI DNR to Calumet County to purchase 7.087 acres of land within the town and the board could support the oppose the WI DNR's funding no later than Dec. 19, (The letter fails to state nor did County Supervisor Judy Hartl know the location of the land. Judy indicated she would let Ken know by tomorrow.) and a communication from Rural Insurance stressing the importance of having a non-emergency work injured person immediately call the 24-hour nurse hotline at 1-844-334-6477. Randy Pingel further stressed the nurses can advise future health care recommendations – let the nurses do their

job, they are standing by 24 hours a day waiting to help. Failure to do so results in additional reports needing to be filed by town staff. Steve handed a copy to all town staff to assist in remembering to call as injuries always happen and result in stress and concern upon the event. For emergencies injury events, always call 911 first and immediately.

Treasurer's Report presentation: Mark E. moved and Joe. K 2nd to approve the Treasurer's Report. M/C.

Joe read the bills. Joes moved and Mark E. 2nd to approve all the bills presented to the board. M/C.

Everyone left the meeting except the two officers of the board and road supervisor.

Item 8ai: Damage to Mud Creek Road from Lakeside Development

Ken moved at 9:05 to go into closed session due to potential litigation of the Mud Creek Road damage and for discussion of compensation of road maintenance positions compensation allowing the two officers of the board and road supervisor to remain in attendance. Mark E. 2nd the motion. On a roll call vote Ken voted AYE, Mark E. voted AYE and Joe K. voted AYE. M/C.

Closed Session Minutes:

Not published.

Ken moved to go back into open session at 9:25 PM and Joe 2nd the motion. On a roll call vote Ken voted AYE, Mark E. voted AYE and Joe K. voted AYE. M/C.

Joe moved to increase by 50 cents/hour the Road Supervisor's and part-time staff not including the assistant road supervisor their hourly rate effective for the first payroll in 2022 containing any hours in the calendar year of 2022. Mark 2nd the motion. M/C unanimously.

Ken moved to adjourn at 9:27 PM, Joe 2nd the motion. M/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phipps, Clerk