

Town Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM August 10, 2022

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 Ortlieb, Chris and Amy Poppy, Ralph Schmid, Kim Campbell*, Laura Van Eperen* and Thomas Van Eperen.* * Indicates the person signed up for public comment. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Steve indicated the meeting has been properly posted. Joe moved to approve the agenda with Mark E. 2nd and M/C.

Public comment. Kim Campbell expressed curiosity about any initiatives to increase broadband availability and expressed interest in promoting the effort.

Laura Van Eperen said we are in a broadband “dead zone” and volunteer to lead efforts increase availability in the town. Ken thanked them for their interest and explained the item needed to be on the agenda and said he would place the item on the agenda in the September meeting and welcome them next month.

Joe moved to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes with Mark E, 2nd. M/C.

Town owned real estate: Steve reported a purchase agreement of the property of Hwy 55 has been signed and closing should occur by early October. Also, the rent payment(s) on the home owned by the town has been timely.

Roads Buildings and Equipment: Ken and Mark T. looked at the ditch south of Quinney and would try to clean it up with the dredging being feathered to help direct water flow. There are cables located in the ditch and if the landowner wanted more intensive work done the landowner would need to pay to have the cables removed, Ken said.

Quinney Road: The middle section has been started. Ken hopes NEA can add the Long Road culvert area that is being replaced at this time at the end of the Quinney Road project. Ken noted there were no driveway turn outs on Quinney road like MCC did on Long Road.

Ken reported the bridge rating on Lakeshore Drive has been reduced to a 3 and therefore a 20 tons weight limits will be posted. Also, Ken said there may be more land available around the existing town shed to purchase – an estimation of 2-3 acres maybe what the town needs. General discussion occurred with no decisions.

No CSMs to review.

Exceeding Levy Limit Resolution: General discussion about increasing staffing for EMS was discussed and the potential ways to do that as well as keeping the fire department viable in the environment of state mandated training and certification. Joe moved, “The Town Board of the Town of Stockbridge, Calumet County, Wisconsin, has the specific authority under s. [66.0602 \(3\) \(h\) 2. b.](#), Wis. stats., to adopt this resolution.

This resolution, adopted by a majority of the town board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, resolves as follows:

The levy increase limit otherwise applicable to the town under s. [66.0602](#), Wis. stats., may be exceeded to pay for charges assessed by Stockbridge Community Fire Department and First Responders , but only to the extent that the amount levied to pay for such charges would cause the town to exceed the limit that is otherwise applicable under s. [66.0602](#), Wis. stats.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under s. [60.80](#), Wis. stats.” Mark E. 2nd. M/C via a roll call vote with Ken Schaefer voting aye, Mark E. voting Aye and Joe voting Aye. Steve shared the conversation with Frank at the DOR indicating the fire department agreement was too old and WTA attorney seeking to clarify and change the opinion of the DOR staff.

EMS volunteer expense reimbursement: Steve read an opinion from the WTA attorney member indicating stipends and per diems being taxable and needing to be reported to the IRS in most cases and the attorney disagreed with the handout received from the village indicating such compensation could be treated as a reimbursement.

Separate Accounts: Joe K indicated that funds from fundraising being in the general account has an adverse effect on grant funding. Ken had concerns about separate accounts giving the department too much independence to make purchases with long-term recurring expenses. Such items like a pick-up truck. Ken said there needs to be a procurement policy in place. Joe said past practice was for the department to only make purchases without recurring costs or seek the board's approval. General discussion followed about trucks and neighboring departments. Ken shared one of his concerns was individuals representing multiple and sometime contradictory/opposing interests when decision need to be made.

Communications: Steve indicated 1 resident has complimented the town on the new refuse vendor and another has said the old service schedule was adequate and did not need more service. Also, a call came in about a RV being parked in the neighbor's yard and the caller inquired about town ordinances on the issue. Ken said, the town does not regulate such activity. Steve also shared a letter informing the board soil boring will be occurring in the state right-of-way on Hwy 55 and Hwy 151 in preparation for future improvements. Also, the website domain name change is up and running with the old address now redirecting traffic to the new address and the clerk's new email address is up and running. Those changes will be rolled out publicly in the fall/winter mailing. No other communications.

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

Bills: Mark E. moved to pay all bills presented to the board. Joe 2nd M/C.

Joe moved at adjourn at 7:55 PM. Mark E. 2nd the motion. M/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phipps, Clerk