

Town Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM

May 8, 2024

APPROVED BY BOARD

Stockbridge Community Hall

Chairman Joe Kuhn called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present were Supervisors Mark Ecker and Jon Groeschl, Clerk Steve Phipps, Treasurer Andrea Ortlieb and Road Supervisor Mark Tasch. Approx. 12 residents and/or members of the public were present with the following signing up for public comment: Diane Hoerth, David Hoerth, Fire Chief Mike Funk and Gerry Steffen.

Steve confirmed the meeting notices were posted.

Jon moved to approve the agenda. Mark E. 2nd and M/C.

Public Comment: Diane Hoerth spoke about the adverse effects from wind turbines such as decreasing property value, lower property taxes and is happy to pay more taxes to keep wind turbines out. She hopes to see zoning and understands the town board's concerns about the costs of actions on this issue. Dave Hoerth encouraged the board to do the will of the people and said the town has permission to deny wind turbines based on the comprehensive plan and the town's rural character in the 2nd fastest growing county. Mike deferred comment to the lake access on Faro Springs Road issue and building inspection issue. Gerry Steffen read excerpts of state statutes and rules from the WI Public Service Commission as it relates to protecting health and safety from wind turbines.

Jon moved to approve the April 10, 2024, minutes. Mark E. 2nd and M/C.

Faro Springs Road Lake Access: Steve communicated Harrison President Allison Blackmer informed him the access permit was granted and documents related to that were available. Mike Funk shared a recent fire in the vicinity highlighted the value of another point to get water in the area.

Wind Turbines: Joe recognized Jon as doing a lot of work on the issue and to share any new information. Jon spoke with the chairperson of the Town of

Brighton where the often referenced “Farmland First” ordinance was passed and they were served a notice of intent to be sued which resulted in the rescission of the ordinance and a subsequent ordinance basically increasing the compensation for potential road damage from construction. His requests for copies have been unsuccessful. Jon read communications from Calumet County staff on the county’s position of enforcement of ordinances would be relying on legal counsel as it goes forward. Jon also relayed conversations with staff of WI Rep. Ron Tusler that members of the WI public service commission are pro-wind and help would be unlikely to be helpful. General Discussion occurred among the board. Jon moved to send a letter to State Senator Duey Stroebel and State Representative Ty Boden stating the following:

Whereas, within the Town of Stockbridge wind turbine developers haven soliciting placement of turbines and Whereas, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission has impaired and/or removed local municipality’s ability to regulate wind turbine placement; Therefore, the Town of Stockbridge Board resolves to request your office to return control of the setbacks and return local control and regulation to the municipalities’ residents who will live in sight and sound of wind turbines.

Joe 2nd. Chair called a roll call vote: Joe Kuhn, AYE, Mark Ecker AYE and Jon Groechl AYE. M/C.

In a point of clarification from past information, Joe mentioned the Town of Stockbridge does have a wind turbine ordinance at this time.

Land Offer to Purchases for Hwy 55: Steve informed the board the updated offer was received from the WI DOT for Joe to authorize this evening at terms the electors and board previously approved.

Roads, Buildings and Equipment:

The LRIP grant agreement from the state has been delayed per Joe and the town should proceed with bid invitations prior to a signed agreement. Mark T. asked about putting paving bid invitations out for Hickory Hills Road from Long Rd to Moehrke Rd and doing the work if costs permit. Mark T. suggested keeping the shouldering separate as an optional line item on the non-LRIP project bids. Jon moved to approve the third bid invitation posting for Hickory Hills Road in addition to Long Road and Shady Lane, Mark E. 2nd M/C.

Shady Lane and Hickory Hills Rd. Paving: Joe reported that these two roads abut to the Town of Chilton on a curve and seeks permission from the board to enter

into a contract with the Town of Chilton for each municipality pave 380 feet into the other's municipality in upcoming paving projects. After general discussion, Jon moved to enter into an agreement with Chilton paving 380 feet into the Town of Stockbridge on Hickory Hill Road in 2025 or 2026 and the Town of Stockbridge paving 380 feet into the Town of Chilton on Shady Lane this year. Mark E. 2nd. M/C.

Mark T. reported culvert installations will begin soon.

Salt Shed Inspection:

Mark T. reported the salt shed failed the recent inspection and he has made some structural repairs and needs chip sealing at a cost of approximately \$14,000.00 and due to the small job it may be hard to find someone to do the work. Mark shared the driveway expansion (Extending the driveway 45 +/- feet southeast of the building of the existing driveway.") on the south side (heavy chip seal and included in the estimated cost) would be a good idea as long as the crew is on site for the salt shed required repairs. All salt is bought for this year, but the shed's present condition precludes the town from participating in the state salt buying contract. Jon moved to approve the driveway repair and expansion on the south side and authorized Scott Construction to do the work. Mark E. 2nd M/C.

205 S. Military Road:

Steve shared the discoloration around the chimney from a repaired water leak remains and had an estimate for painting of the chimney area as well the front porch and one interior wall needing paint. After general discussion, Joe moved to accept both proposals from D & T painting to do the work. Mark E. 2nd. M/C. Steve shared WPS is requiring to update electrical service to this property as a result of the Hwy 55 construction and is offering to provide underground service to the house at no charge but such change would necessitate an electrician to make the reconnection and presented a proposal from Mike's Electric for the job. Jon moved to approve the proposal from Mike's Electric. Mark E. 2nd M/C.

CSM: The survey map submitted by Darrell and Agnes Mader was reviewed and again the board members stated that they would not object to the creation but did not want the owner in the future to complain about light and noise from adjacent properties. Jon moved to not object to the CSM creation with the above disclosure. Mark E. 2nd. M/C.

Building Inspections: Fire Chief Mike Funk expressed concerns about compliance issues in the old motel on Military Road as it relates to fire alarms and suppression equipment and thought in the future it may be good to be more involved in the permitting process for commercial properties. The board decided to invite the building inspector to the next meeting to gather more information.

Communications: Steve indicated that WPS was asking for information about underground utilities at 205 S. Military Road and if anyone knew of such to let him know.

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

Payment of bills: Mark E. moved to approve payment of all bills presented to the board. Jon 2nd. M/C.

Jon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Mark E. 2nd the motion. M/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phipps, Clerk