

**MINUTES OF THE DAKOTA TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Dakota Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Roll call found Chairman Tony Peterson and Supervisor Jeremy Kubasta present. Supervisor Gary Grenier was absent/excused. Other town officials present were: Clerk Melanie Stake, Treasurer Teri Kubasta, Assessor John P. Blader, Sr., and Land Use Planning Commission representative Bill Van Dongen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Peterson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Peterson, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023, regular meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Winter Road Conditions: Edna Reilly, resident of N1699 15th Ave., asked how the board decided when to snowplow. She was unhappy with the condition of her road after a recent snowfall. Peterson said that the Waushara County Highway Department plows most towns' roads, so Dakota usually follows the county's example. The county did not plow town roads on the day indicated, so Dakota did not have Hartwig's plow either.

REPORTS

Treasurer: T. Kubasta distributed a hard copy of the November 2023 bank reconciliation, which is filed with these minutes. She reported that property tax bills had been mailed.

Clerk: Stake said that she prepared tax roll calculations and turned it over to the treasurer by November 30. She continues to receive election-related public records requests. She attended a county-sponsored election training on December 8. Waushara County Zoning Director Todd Wahler said that solar farm parcels would remain zoned as agricultural. Blader was thanked for donating an American flag to replace the one that went missing from the town hall.

Assessor: Blader confirmed that, though solar farms would remain *zoned* as agricultural property, they would be *assessed* as commercial property starting in 2024, and it would remain that way for the duration of the 30-year Alliant Energy land lease. He reiterated that he would be reassessing homes/land in the town next year, as well as business/commercial property. They will be assessed at an amount that similar homes/properties are being sold.

Fire District: None.

Road Matters: None.

Zoning, Land Use and Development Matters: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Hall Rental Applications: Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Peterson, to approve the following applications: MaKrae Kaenel, January 6; Elizabeth Meek/County Cupboard, January 14; and White River Flowage Lake Management District, April 20 and August 31. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2023-09 Re: Burial Fees: Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Peterson, to approve the resolution. Motion carried. The action amends Resolution No. 2022-05, adding a provision that military members and their spouses receive a free plot in one of the three town-owned cemeteries if they die while on active duty and their last permanent residence was in Dakota.

J. Kubasta stated that military personnel also receive a \$2,000 federal benefit for burial for a death related to military service.

Resolution No. 2023-10 Re: Amending 2023 Budget: Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Peterson, to approve the resolution. A roll call vote showed 2 ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried. The budget amendment was necessary due to anticipated overages in legal fees, printing expenses, voting machine costs, and cemetery upkeep. The changes had no effect on the tax levy.

Election Workers: Moved by Peterson, seconded by J. Kubasta, to appoint a slate of election inspectors for the January 1, 2024, to the December 31, 2025, term. Motion carried. Every two years, the board needs to appoint/reappoint citizens who will work at the polls. The list of 14 inspectors is filed with these minutes.

Town Advocacy Council Dues: Moved by Peterson, seconded by J. Kubasta, to pay the Town Advocacy Council for 18 months of dues, totaling \$421.88. Motion carried. This subgroup of the Wisconsin Towns Association is focused on lobbying efforts that bring additional funding to towns.

Approval of Bills for Payment: Motion by Peterson, seconded by J. Kubasta, to approve the monthly bills as presented and filed with these minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Cemetery Fees: Mark Dahlke, resident of W8160 County Road YY, thanked the board for passing Resolution No. 2023-09 for military personnel. Dahlke did, however, recommend that the town charge an administrative fee of approximately \$75 for every burial to cover the costs of cemetery mapping, marking plots, etc. Peterson said the board could discuss this in the future.

NEXT MEETING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Peterson recommended that the board consider amending its cemetery ordinance to clarify how cremains are to be interred, due to a recent lawsuit in Wisconsin.

The town's next regular board meeting will be held at the town hall on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Peterson moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Kubasta. The meeting was thus adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

These minutes are a draft, subject to approval or amendment at subsequent meetings of the town board. Any amendments made will be detailed in the minutes of the meeting at which the changes are proposed, and afterward these minutes will be reposted with the changes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melanie R. Stake".

/s/ Melanie R. Stake, Town Clerk