

**MINUTES OF THE DAKOTA TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 11, 2024**

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 all present: Chairman Tony Peterson, Supervisor Jeremy Kubasta, and Supervisor Gary Grenier. 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 Grenier, seconded by J. Kubasta, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Grenier, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024, regular meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Van Dongen said that legislative maps have been redrawn, and the Town of Dakota will be in the 57th Assembly District and the 19th Senate District. Eventually, the town will likely have new legislators, because the current ones no longer live within the town's districts.

REPORTS

Treasurer: T. Kubasta distributed a hard copy of the February 2024 bank reconciliation, which is filed with these minutes.

Clerk: As requested by the board, Stake wrote a letter to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) about the speed on State Road 21 heading east into Wautoma. WisDOT will do a traffic engineering study this summer, and should have a decision on whether to lower the speed limit by fall. Stake wrote requests for bids for mowing and for siding the former town hall and had them published in the *Argus*. She is preparing for the April 2 election, including fulfilling absentee ballot requests.

Assessor: Blader will provide Stake with numbers for a new state report that asks how much revenue municipalities will lose due to changes in personal property tax law. The state may compensate municipalities for this loss, for a time. Blader will also compare assessment numbers with the state in mid to late May, and then will mail reassessment letters. Open Book is scheduled for June 24, 2024, with Board of Review set for July 15, 2024.

Fire District: The station's entrance doors were replaced.

Road Matters: Moved by Peterson, seconded by J. Kubasta to authorize the City of Wautoma to sweep State Road 21/73 near Wautoma Inn. Motion carried. J. Kubasta will let the city know. The south White River landing has erosion issues. Stake was directed to put this item on the next Road Review agenda. There is a pothole on Chicago Road, and four trees on Cottonville that could fall into the road. Peterson will contact Hartwig about these items.

Zoning, Land Use and Development Matters: Waushara County Zoning sent letters to some residents because they did not obtain land use permits before erecting metal sheds. Peterson received complaints from some of these property owners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

South Cemetery Cleanup: Peterson reported that the town will likely not see a profit from taking down trees in the South Cemetery, as was previously thought. Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Grenier, to have Adam Blader proceed with the project anyway. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Bids for Mowing Town Properties: Adam Blader submitted a bid for \$60 per hour to mow the town hall and cemetery properties. Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Grenier, to accept the bid. Motion carried. The board will re-evaluate after a couple of mowings.

Former Town Hall Siding Bids: No bids were received for this project. Grenier will call Modern Pole Builders for an estimate.

Brush Spraying on Cottonville Lane: Moved by Peterson, seconded by Grenier, to have the Waushara County Highway Department spray the brush/weeds on Cottonville Lane this summer. Motion carried. The town was formerly given an estimate of \$130 per mile, per application, with three applications likely being necessary.

Cottonville Drive Work: Moved by Peterson, seconded by Grenier, to have the Waushara County Highway Department use an edging machine to fix the deteriorating edges of Cottonville Drive. Motion carried.

Peterson will contact the county highway commissioner about the two projects.

Charter Communications Utility Permit: Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Peterson, to approve Charter Communication's request to install underground fiber in various town road rights-of-way this year. Motion carried.

Town Road Speed Studies: J. Kubasta performed speed studies on Southgate Terrace and Chicago Road, which have a default 35-mph speed limit, but were lowered to 25 mph some years ago. The results of the speed studies justify the limit reduction. Moved by Peterson, seconded by Grenier, to accept the speed studies as submitted. Motion carried.

Hillside Street Curb Estimate: Peterson received an estimate of \$38,635 from Northeast Asphalt to put in a curb on Hillside Street. Peterson will also be requesting an estimate from Tom Munsch, who installed the curb on Oakdale Court. Stake was directed to put the subject on the April 16, 2024, board meeting agenda.

Small Bridge/Culvert Inventory: Moved by J. Kubasta, seconded by Grenier, to select the Waushara County Highway Department to take inventory of the town's small bridges and culverts. Motion carried. The 2023-2025 state budget requires municipalities to have these structures catalogued to identify those that need repair. Towns can take inventory themselves, ask their counties to do it, or hire someone from the private sector. Regardless, the state will reimburse towns for the cost of the inventory, and there may be funding available in the future to reconstruct or repair these culverts and small bridges.

2024 Road Review Meeting: It was the consensus of the board to schedule the annual Road Review for April 7, 2024, at 1 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Stake was asked when the town would begin receiving utility aid payments from Alliant Energy's solar farms. She said that should be in 2025, and the state will notify the town of the estimated amount later this year.

NEXT MEETING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS


Peterson directed Stake to put an item regarding transmission lines on the next board agenda. One new section of line is being installed, and others are being upgraded.

The town's next meetings will be held at the town hall on *Tuesday*, April 16, 2024, with the annual Land Use Planning Commission meeting beginning at 6:15 p.m. The Annual Meeting of Town Electors, and then the regular board meeting, will follow immediately thereafter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Peterson moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Kubasta. The meeting was thus adjourned at 7:50 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.


/s/ Melanie R. Stake, Town Clerk