

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 13, 2023 @ 7pm

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Chairman O'Connell and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Devens and Frakes, Clerk/Treasurer Brazee, Deputy C/T Starr, Zoning Administrator McNamee and 3 others.

Fire Dept Minutes: **Accepted as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes.**

First Responder Minutes: **Accepted as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes.**

175th Anniversary Town Celebration Minutes: **Accepted as submitted by Frakes, seconded by Devens.**

Building Maintenance Committee Minutes: **Accepted as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes.**

Approval of Town Board Minutes:

Special Board Mtg Minutes of 10/3: **Approved as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Board Mtg Minutes of 10/9: Devens asked for clarification under the correspondence section Frakes had mentioned that road work was complete on W Paynes Point Rd. That should say South Paynes Point Rd. Brazee will make the correction. **Approved by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Special Board Mtg Minutes of 10/26: **Approved as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

County Supervisor Report: Co Supervisor Farrey updated that the Winnebago County Spirit Fund Commission has approved \$2.1 million for the purchase of Kenwood Radios for fire dept. association in Winnebago Cty. The County Board will vote for final approval on 11/21. Town of Vinland has 33 personal radios and 6 mobile; amount totaling \$145,750. Adding the \$145,000 (some used for Grundman Lane) brings the total funding from the county a little over \$290,000. Additionally, revenue sharing went up almost \$60,000 and ARPA funding at \$187,880. Total funding from Federal, State, and County is \$538,406 (respectively). Devens asked if the current radios being used by the FD will match up with the new radios. Farrey said they should. Kenwood claims they match up identically to Motorola. The Winneconne Police Dept has Kenwood and they haven't had any trouble. There will be a meeting on Nov. 28 at the Fox Crossing Fire Dept and there will be presentations by Kenwood and Motorola. Farrey based his vote on Kenwood's assurance that they are compatible. If the Vinland FD would want to go with the Motorola radios they would have to pay the difference, roughly \$80,000.

Devens asked what happened to the \$9 million (awarded to municipalities). Farrey said it was in a different pot of money. That money has been distributed and it is down to about \$3 million. There was a cutoff date for the application and the TOV missed that date. Devens questioned when the cutoff day was because he drafted a letter that he got to Farrey but it was too late and his request was denied. Devens questioned the remaining \$3 million. Farrey said \$2 million will go to non-profits in the area and the other (roughly \$1 million) is to be determined. Brazee

asked about the cutoff date because she was having a conversation with a fellow clerk that thought the funds were still available and wasn't aware of a cutoff date. Farrey responded that the committee members didn't know or speak of the cutoff date but apparently the deadline was on the county website.

Devens asked Farrey about the ATV/UTV route being open on County Rd T from Maxwell Rd to County Rd G and why not to GG. Farrey said that the commissioner had spoken with the town regarding the routes. O'Connell said he did meet with Hwy Commissioner Doemel and that was the only section that fell within the traffic counts that would allow ATV/UTV traffic.

Devens final question for Farrey was asking if the county was going to lower our taxes this year. He explained what happened last year that the operational mill rate went down 36 cents and the debt mill rate went down 2 cents. Because the county separates the debt payment and the operational budget. Municipalities outside of the county additional budget from library aid, bridge/culvert aid, and property lister are money added on to towns; making the towns have more to pay. The question then goes to how much of the add-ons are apportioned to an individual muni. Last year Vinland's was up. This year Vinland's is down. He is assuming it has something to do with assessed value, but is still trying to get clarification on that. Farrey concluded that he doesn't know.

Public Input: Farrey is requesting a list of the reserve accounts, amount of money in the reserve accounts, and specifically ARPA funding be available for the Budget Hearing. Brazee said she can do that. She retorted the reason she didn't include it for the publication is that reserves are not a part of the operating budget. The electors will be approving the budget not the reserve accounts. Devens asked Farrey how much the County had in reserves. Farrey stated 2 years ago around \$40 million (not including ARPA funds). The County is now down to \$24 million. He feels the county is digging a hole as they used \$5 million last year to buy down the levy and this year over \$2 million to buy down the levy. Spending more than you have coming in and using reserve money to offset the budget leads to a digging a hole. Farrey mentioned that he voted against the hiring of 2 new county officers. His reasoning is because of too many unknowns he didn't feel comfortable spending \$300,000 for new officers.

O'Connell asked if anyone present had any input particularly on the short-term rental draft.

B. Marquart asked if there was any update on the Loren's issue. O'Connell informed him that just last week a judge made a Summary Judgement in the Town's favor. Loren's has 1 year to removal all of the vehicles from the property. Farrey asked if the court's decision was that he had violated the Town's Conditional Use. O'Connell confirmed that was a major factor. Marquart asked if there was going to be soil testing done after the removal of the vehicles. O'Connell said there most likely will be testing and some remediation will be needed. He believes the two attorneys will come to an agreement. He does not believe the town should have pay for the clean up the soil.

Frakes questioned section 335-3 D(1) on the short-term rental ordinance regarding renting out a home for no fewer than 6 consecutive days. O'Connell explained the parameters around what define the short-term rental is when the owner rents out their home more than 10 days per year and less than 180 days and renting out for less than 30 day periods that is when the short-term/vacation rental ordinance applies. The ordinance helps to avoid a new group of renters every weekend. This does not apply to residents who rent out their home during EAA or once a year. He said that the caveat to our ordinance is that the rental must be the primary residence of the property owner. Brazee mentioned the town needs to create an application and determine a fee. O'Connell agreed.

Zoning: No comments.

Financial Report: C/T Brazee quoted the total of all accounts of \$452,849.60 with \$50 in outstanding checks and a total of all receipts for the month of October being \$31,168.38.

Motion to approve the financial report as submitted made by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.

Discussion/Take Action Items:

1. Invoices and payroll: **Motion made by Devens to approve/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**
2. Ordinance 2023-002; Adoption of Chapter 335; Short Term Rentals: **Motion made by Devens to approve adoption of ordinance 2023-002/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**
3. Resolution 009-2023/ building permit fee schedule: O'Connell stated that it is important that our fees align to reflect the cost of services being performed by the building inspectors and that cost be the responsibility of the applicant. **Motion made by Frakes to approve resolution/seconded by Devens. Motion carried.**
4. Resolution 010-2023; Transfer of Reserve funds to CD: Nicolet Bank is offering 5% on a 12 month CD. Brazee is proposing taking \$100,000 of reserve funds and putting it in a CD. There is currently \$115,000 in the reserve account. There will be roughly \$40,000 in carryover at the end of the year to the reserve accounts. Devens asked about the FD 2% dues. Brazee said the funds aren't being taken from an specific account; it is an accumulation of all the accounts. Dec and Jan we sit on a lot of money because of collecting taxes. The interest rate at Fox Communities Credit Union (where the reserve funds are kept) is very poor. O'Connell asked about projects throughout the year. Brazee said projects are paid for from the general fund. Resident D. Berger interjected saying why not split the amount into two CDs in the event that the town needs the funds sooner than 12 months. The board agreed. Brazee will update the resolution to reflect 2 CDs will be opened with \$50,000 in each. **Motion made by Devens to transfer \$100,000 of reserve funds into 2 12 month CDs/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Farrey interjected that he had forgotten to mention something in his county report. O'Connell let him have the floor. There has been a lot of discussion at the County level of passing 0.5% sale tax. Farrey is willing to approve it if it will benefit the towns with revenue sharing. If they pass the tax and the County uses it for bonding only that would prohibit revenue sharing. Farrey would want to hear from the Town of Vinland board to hear their thoughts on the matter.

Sharing of correspondence:

O'Connell: Updated on Loren's. With the Summary Judgement there will be no need for a trial. Loren's did some work in road right of way. He put ditch liners and such and created a hazard. The attorneys are going to meet to come up with a resolution to that issue.

There have been a couple of committees added for the town. One is the 175th Anniversary Committee and the other being a Town Hall Maintenance Committee. The Town Hall Maintenance Committee has been discussing town hall repairs, future necessities and the fire barn. The fire department has outgrown the current building especially once the new truck arrives. There is also an ongoing issue with the septic system that the hall and the fire dept share. O'Connell has a meeting scheduled with Cedar Corp to discuss options, see what other municipalities have done and any opportunities for a grant. The committee is working on coming up with options. Farrey asked about a mound system. The fire dept needs to have the drain that is in the fire barn go to its own holding tank due to hazardous materials. Marquart asked how old the building is. It was built in 1983.

Devens: Devens recycled the most recent 911/address signs and received a check to the town for \$22. There is work being done on Woodenshoe by WPS. There is a guide wire in the road. Devens is working on that. He also spoke about Town of Winneconne's ambulance service going up in price. We are fortunate that we Gold Cross doesn't charge us and they are fantastic to work with.

Motion to adjourn made by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Starr
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Don O'Connell/Chairman