

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 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 Clerk/Treasurer Starr, and 16 others.

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

First Responder Minutes: Devens noted they ended up going to a different restaurant for their annual banquet. **Accepted as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes.**

Approval of Town Board Minutes:

Board Mtg minutes of 2/12: O'Connell asked that the wording for the motion for the Atlas Capital CUP be amended. He would like the motion to read: Motion by O'Connell to approve the CUP under the condition that a traffic study is done currently and what the impact would be with the addition of maximum 100 cars a day on Indian Point Rd. **Motion to approve with revisions made by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Special Board Mtg Minutes of 2/15: **Motion to approve as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Special Board Mtg Minutes of 2/28: **Motion to approve as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

County Supervisor Report: Co Supervisor Farrey didn't have anything to report on and opened up the floor for questions/comments. Devens asked him if he recalled when the town made an ordinance classifying certain town roads as class "B" and if he knew which roads were included and posted. Farrey does recall the ordinance. Starr mentioned that when she looked up the ordinance no roads were ever listed. Devens believes Woodenshoe is posted. Frakes added that Gibbs is posted. Devens is asking because it is required on the ARIP application. Farrey will look at home to see if he has any information from 2018 when the ordinance went into effect.

Devens asked why the city is still accepting applications for ARPA money. Farrey responded that each muni set it up on their own.

Winnebago Cty Sheriff was present and asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns. Hearing none, O'Connell thanked him for joining.

Public Input:

Michael Rust who is a candidate for Winnebago County Judge, Branch 1, addressed the audience about why he is running for judge and what makes him the right choice. He stated he will be around after the meeting if anyone has questions.

Neenah Joint School District School Board candidate, Chari Long, spoke as to why she is running for school board.

Members of the Winchester Area Historical Society (WAHS) updated the board on the book they are working on for the 175th Celebration.

Marina Nelessen is requesting that residents reach out with facts about Vinland. Peter Christenson will take verbal history if residents don't want to type anything up. They are asking for help getting information on schools, farms, and people. Janine Brantley added that WAHS has made books for the Towns of Clayton, Wolf River, and Winchester and is excited to do the book on Vinland as it is the oldest of the towns. This area is rich in history and it will be great to have it documented. They are hoping to have a sample at the celebration. They will then take an order of how many books people want to purchase and that will determine the cost of each book. Bette Lee said they are donating 3 books to the Town of Vinland for the public's use. Subjects included in the books are pre-settlement, settlement, 20th and 21st century, the 8 rural school houses, 3 churches, and veterans of the town, and clubs, organizations, societies. The biggest thing they need is input on farms and families. They would like info on, businesses past and present as well as if any present businesses would like to advertise. The board will help to design the cover. There is a graphic designer at the library that would be willing to work with the board to create a design. They will be having a meeting on March 28 at 1:00 at the Winchester School; the board is invited to attend.

Building and Zoning: No questions or comments.

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

Discussion/Take Action Items:

1. Invoices and payroll: **Motion made by Devens to approve/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

2. Short Term Rental Ordinance/publication: O'Connell went over the edits with the biggest being operations and exceptions: Sec. 335-3 B&C. O'Connell said the entire ordinance doesn't need to be published. A summary will suffice with a reference to see the town website for the full ordinance. Devens said he thinks the Purposes Sec 335-1 should be included. Frakes asked what the cost is for publication. Brazee answered that costs vary. It depends on length. Brazee will contact Winneconne News for an approximate cost. **Motion made by O'Connell to submit the short term rental ordinance final draft for publication of sections 335-1 and 335-3/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

3. Resolution 001-2024; Zoning Coordination/Collaboration w/Winnebago County: This resolution is a result of a meeting of town chairmen to discuss town zoning and county zoning. O'Connell asked Farrey for his opinion on the impact of this resolution. Farrey gave some background. If the subject is in regards to shoreland zoning and the town's ordinance is stricter than the county ordinance then the town's ordinance prevails. There appears to be a lack of collaboration and communication between the county and the towns. Do towns want to take the county to court or go through legislation? In Farrey's opinion, if the law says it is town authority then that is just what it is and the county needs to follow. The Town of Oshkosh Chair would like the towns to sign a resolution and then he will present them to the County Board. Farrey asked out of 15 towns how many are willing to push this with the county. There are two driving forces behind the resolution. O'Connell is questioning what are the impacts that would come out of this resolution. The town isn't prepared to take on their own shoreland zoning. Farrey suggested reaching out to the Town of Winchester as it sounds like they are amending the resolution.

The board will table this subject. Brazee will find out when Chairman Schmeichel would like the resolution back.

4. Omitted taxes: Property homeowner stated that his home complete 4 years ago and that he has been asking when his home will be reassessed. He states he contacted the town accessor and they told him once the proper paperwork is filed with them. The homeowner does not feel he should have to pay the back taxes. The town has the right to go back two years to collect. The proper filing wasn't completed by the previous office staff. It was this year when Brazee noticed the amount of the tax bill and asked the homeowner when he plans on completing his home and he told her it was done 4 years ago. O'Connell recognizes that an error occurred; however, consistency in how the board rules on this is important. He is inclined to charge the amount due in back taxes. He stated that if it were the other way around that the town would be paying the homeowner as well as the town can only collect 2 of the 4 years of back taxes. He asked for supervisor opinions. Devens wanted to clarify that the total amount isn't going directly to the town; it will be going to the school districts and county as well. Brazee confirmed. Devens agrees to pay the back taxes noting the resident got 2 years free. Frakes stated she disagrees. That there was input asking for this to be corrected. She is wondering if the last 5 years have been looked into to see if anyone else was missed. The office has looked back and this was the only one. Starr mentioned that it wasn't a building inspector issue that it was the clerk at the time didn't submit the proper paperwork to Bowmar. Brazee added that this is a learning experience that at Board of Review to determine if there is new construction that you are aware of make sure that the property is assessed properly. People should be made aware of open book when they can schedule a time to meet with the assessor to discuss their concerns. O'Connell asked how the paying to the county, schools, etc. works. Brazee said that is a good question and can be discussed at the Board of Review in May. O'Connell asked if there is a way to amortization over time. Brazee will check with the assessor. The resident will be made aware of when the Board of Review will take place for him to attend and state his concerns.

A motion for a rollcall vote to collect omitted taxes for 2022 and 2023: Supervisor 1-Aye, Supervisor 2-Nay, Chair-Aye

5. Sherman Road RR Crossing: The county cleared out the brush. The signing and signals won't be done until it is determined if there is going to be road repairs on Sherman Rd. Temporary signals maybe installed. The town will wait for an update from the county.

6. ARPA funds: Need to determine what the funds should be applied to. Brazee gave an overview of the numbers. Applied \$50k of the \$187k to Vinland Center Rd. By the end of 2024 we need to have the remaining funds allocated, not necessarily spent. We have roughly \$137,800 for ARPA and a little over \$111,000 of Spirit funds as well. O'Connell said once they do the road review with Mike from the county they can then determine what roads the funds can go towards as well as town hall maintenance such as the holding tank. Brazee said for ease of reporting if we had one large road project. Devens said he spoke with Mike and April 2 or 3 works for doing the road review. April 2 at 8:00am works for the board.

7. Kerber Rose 2023 audit draft: Findings are similar to what they typically find each year. One thing he noted was the staff be trained on end of year reporting. Brazee mentioned that Kerber Rose has always done the report in the past. O'Connell will sign the audit.

8.FFY2025 Surface Transportation/ ARIP programs: To apply for the ARIP the town road needs to be considered a Class "B" road. The office and Farrey will do some research to determine if/what roads we have in class B.

Sharing of correspondence:

Devens: Woodenshoe mowing and ditching is complete.

Frakes: There were trees cut by the county on E. Paynes Point and she is wondering if the property owners will receive the bill. O'Connell said if they were hanging in the road row then it is the town's responsibility.

Frakes added that Clean Up Day is May 4 and there is more info on the Fox Wolf Water Shed website. Also, the 175th Celebration will be a potluck on Sept. 14, 3-7pm at the Town Hall.

J. Cowling asked who keeps up the painting of the yellow center line on the frontage roads.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Starr
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Don O'Connell/Chairman