Minutes **Town Board Meeting**
Date: **October 10, 2023**
Time: **6:30 pm**
Location: **Dekorra Town Hall – W8225 County Road JV**

Town of Dekorra
www.dekorra-wi.gov
608-635-2014

FIXED AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance.
   The October 10, 2023 Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Kyle R. Knuteson at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call
   Present: Kyle R. Knuteson, Kim Lindholm, Chris Crawford, Blake Young and Michelle Hartley. Also, present were Peggy Tomlinson-Town Treasurer, Holly J. Priske-Town Clerk, and 8 audience members.

3. Approval of Agenda
   ACTION: Motion (Lindholm/Crawford) to approve the October 10, 2023, Town Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried.

4. Approval of previous TB minutes
   ACTION: Motion (Lindholm/Young) to approve the September 12, 2023, Town Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried; Hartley abstained.

5. Town officer Reports
   a. Clerk's Report
      Clerk Priske reported that all is going well in the Clerk's office.
   b. Constable's Report
      William Schmidtknecht-Town Constable reported that there was one complaint of not picking up animal feces, otherwise quiet.
   c. Treasurer's Report
      Peggy Tomlinson-Town Treasurer gave an overview of the monthly financial report. All is tracking well. A full report is available in the Clerk's office.

6. Payment of Bills
   ACTION: Motion (Lindholm/Young) to pay the October 10, 2023, bills as presented. Motion carried.

7. Committee/Commission Reports
   a. Fire Commission
      Knuteson noted that the draft minutes of the September 26, 2023, Fire Commission meeting are in the packet. The new fire engine has been delivered.
   b. Parks Commission
      Parks Commission Chair, Mark Niebuhr, reported on projects of the Commission including barge use of Copse landing, minor repairs will be made, more work has been on the heritage trail noting that the ravine has been used by people as a rubbish dump and that is being cleaned up, discussion of steps. Discussed proposed ARPA fund requests and additional funds that are available, including applying for the PACE grant.
   c. Plan Commission
      Knuteson reported that there was a Plan Commission meeting and there is an item on this agenda, noting that the Plan Commission recommended approval.
   d. Pier Committee
      No meeting.
   e. Safety Committee
      No meeting.

f. Town Roads Committee
Roads Supervisor Roger Palmer reported that there was a meeting to discuss future project, issues and possible use of ARPA funds.

g. Town Hall Design Committee
Priske reported that there was no meeting. She noted that the final grade of the parking lot will commence next week with blacktop to follow.

8. Open Public Comments- Any Open Public Comments may only address topics not on the agenda and are limited to three (3) minutes maximum per person.
No comments.

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS:

9. Dorshorst, Michael – Parcel 11010-263.07, W8761 Bilkie Road – Town of Dekorra, Columbia County, WI. Rezoning of 4.49 acres from A-1 Agriculture to RR-1 Rural Residence, further assignment of A-4 zoning to approximately 0.45 adjacent acres, and CSM to into two lots Parcel 263.07 which includes those lands and others.
ACTION: Motion (Knuteson/Lindholm) to approve the rezoning of the northeastern 4.49 acres of parcel 263.07 to RR-1 while assigning A-4 zoning to the northwestern 0.45 acres (i.e., Lot 2 flagpole), and

ACTION: Motion (Knuteson/Lindholm) to approve a CSM dividing said parcel (Knuteson File No. 823-3101/2561), subject to the conditions in the 9/20/23 Town professional's report. Motion carried.

10. Roads

a. Roads committee – recommendation to appoint P.J. Theron as citizen Roads Committee member.
P.J. was present and introduced himself to Board members including qualifications.
ACTION: Motion (Lindholm/Crawford) to appoint P.J. Theron as citizen member to the Roads Committee. Motion carried.

b. Information for road vacation process
Clerk Priske noted that the information she found was in the packet.

c. Project recommendations
Palmer reported that the committee is in the beginning planning stage and there are no recommendations at this point.

11. ARPA fund designation
Knuteson is recommending that the Town Hall parking lot should be paid for by the ARPA funds. Palmer noted that Roads is looking to find projects with safety aspects in mind. Niebuhr noted that ARPA was originally designed to make up for work and/or budget impact from the pandemic. He noted that roads is a part of the newer relaxed requirements to use funding. He noted that roads have many opportunities for State funds and that the Town will now have increased funds due to paying off the previous loan. He noted that the proposed projects are a third of the original amount planned and that Parks have had very few major upgrades for many years. He noted that some of the money in the Parks fund is saved for purchasing new park property. Niebuhr submitted a list of 7 projects. Lindholm is opposed to dredging the river at Camp Rest and steps versus a bridge at the Heritage Trail. Niebuhr noted that they had discussed concrete steps. Hartley asked if the list was in priority preference order. There may be some grants available through Alliant Energy as well for any shoreline work.

12. Columbia County Solar ordinance amendment information
Knuteson noted that the County is proposing changes to their Solar ordinance and will be conducting a public hearing. Details are provided in the packet. Denise Brusveen, County Supervisor and Planning & Zoning Committee Chair was present to answer any questions. She noted that State Law really handicaps what the County can control, and that the County regulate above and beyond what the PCS allows which is why the limit is 100 megawatts. Discussion of how large solar farms affect the tax roll.

13. Schedule Budget workshop meeting
ACTION: Motion (Hartley/Knuteson) to set budget workshop for October 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

14. Set date and time for public hearing for 2024 budget.
ACTION: Motion (Crawford/Lindholm) to set a public hearing for the 2024 budget at 6:15 pm on November 14, 2023. Motion carried.

15. Call special Town Meeting for approval of the 2023 tax levy.
ACTION: Motion (Knuteson/Crawford) to call a Town Meeting for November 14, 2023, at 6:20 pm or immediately following the budget public hearing. Motion carried.

16. Beach Garden Plat information
Tomlinson reported that it is a bigger project than anticipated. Two of the parcels are under 1952 reforestation resolution and one in 1997 and stating that there wouldn't be any development to avoid water runoff. These parcels/lots are not available for sale. Lindholm asked if it could be changed. Ken Erdahl said that the resolution of the County was that parcels turned over for nonpayment of taxes could not be sold for residential lots due to being highly erodible land. Dorshorst noted that if the Town owns it, they can control its usage. Lindholm noted that there was a time that the Town sold some of that Town land up there. Dorshorst disagreed. Erdahl stated that the Township has a resolution acknowledging the County's resolution. Hartley requested that Tomlinson document her findings.

17. Audit
Nothing new has been found.

18. Set next Regular Town Board Meeting date/possible agenda items.
Next regular TB meeting will be held on November 14, 2023 or immediately following the Town meeting which follows the public hearing for the budget starting at 6:15 pm.

19. Adjourn
ACTION: Motion (Lindholm/Crawford) to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Holly J. Priske, Clerk-Town of Dekorra
Approved: 10.19.23