

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Town Board meeting on September 7, 2022
(this meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Declaration of a quorum followed by pledge of allegiance
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 8/17/22
5. Bertram Communications Fiber Project Proposal
6. Payment of bills
7. Administrator's report
8. Committee Reports: Highway, Plan Commission, Technology
9. Public Input
10. Modifications to Heartland-10 (HL10) District Zoning Amendment
11. Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Borrowing Resolution
12. Ordinance 10-22, Regulating Short-Term Rentals
13. Allocation of Room Tax to Non-Profit Groups
14. Advertise for Disposal of Buildings at Mariner Park
15. Short Term Rental License(s)
16. Correspondence
17. Future meetings
18. Adjourn

Chairman John Lowry called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Supervisors Janet Johnson, Cathy Ward, Nancy Goss, and Dan Watts were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell and approximately 13 members of the public.

Lowry moved, Johnson second to approve the agenda as posted. Carried 5-0.

Ward moved, Goss second to approve the minutes from 8/17/22 as presented. Carried 5-0.

Bertram Communications Fiber Proposal – Lowry noted this process for better internet has been in the works for 15 years and the UW-Whitewater survey indicated better internet would allow people to stay here longer. The Town is currently working with Nsight on an engineering design which will allow an RFP to be developed for Town-wide fiber installation. Jim Bertram invited attendees to view his diorama of Door County and explained all internet bandwidth is coming from the south. The current towers will be connected and used until the completed fiber network is available. When the fiber network is complete, the tower will no longer be necessary, but they can be repurposed for County Emergency Communications. Bertram's goal is to install 100% of the fiber underground to each home. An AON network includes direct switchboard connections to each home which can be used by any vendor. A GPON network is shared bandwidth and vendor specific. He also identified Network Interface Devices (NIDs) could be used to allow students to transmit information to their school without a network connection which means this wouldn't affect available bandwidth within that home. The estimated cost is \$16.9 million with approximately \$12.9 million to be requested from the Town. It would be an open network with the Bertram foundation as the administrator. Any provider could be chosen after the network has been created. Bertram cited previous projects completed in the Village of Random Lake, and Ogden, Utah. He noted the current supply-chain concerns will not apply because a division of their company builds the materials, and they currently have an adequate inventory of cable. Town-wide installation could be completed in 8-10 months. The Fiber Project Agreement will determine the average length of drop and the cost will be included in the make-ready process. Historically, installations have been free for customers that join during the first pass, and the fee increases to \$250-500 to install later based on the length of the install. RFPs will not be necessary because divisions within the company will handle the system design and construction processes.

Ward moved, Goss second to approve the payment of bills totaling \$142,373.43. Carried 5-0.

Administrator – None.

Committee Reports – Dale Stewart, Highway Committee, reported paving and chip sealing is done. Nancy Goss, Plan Commission, Mariah Goode confirmed that Marine repair is included under auto repair so there are no additional changes needed to the current amendment application. Bell confirmed that the supporting documents should be available for the County by the end of the week. David Studebaker, Technology Committee, the Pilot Project will be split into two phases, Nsight is planning to complete the drops to all properties if permission is granted by owners. The County survey will assist the Town in their eligibility for future grants. He is gathering information related to mailings which have been completed by other Towns. He noted there may be opportunity to create a joint RFP with Baileys Harbor once the engineering design is complete. The AON network is service beyond the needs of residents, zoning may dictate required line burial depths, and fewer lines within the fiber cables could result in connections being shared.

Public – Jody Bensyl, Sister Bay, asked for information regarding Nsight's project proposal, noted fiber networks take time to install, and there may be middle-mile grants available for the engineering design costs. Sean Donohue, Ellison Bay noted the engineering study may not be necessary if Bertram were selected to install the network.

Heartland-10 Amendment – Information provided in committee reports.

BCPL Borrowing Resolution – Bell noted this is required to complete the loan application. It was the consensus to discuss this after the Town Board and Technology Committee have had an opportunity to discuss the presentation from this evening. The joint meeting was scheduled for 6:00pm on 9/19/2022.

Ordinance 10-22 – Lowry noted the Finance Committee recommended the license fee be increased to \$500 annually due to the impact on housing and infrastructure. Ward noted fees must be reasonable per Statute and there have been court cases when fees are unreasonable. **Watts moved, Goss second** to change the fee to \$450 annually for STR licenses. Roll call with Johnson, Watts, Goss, and Ward voting aye, and Lowry voting nay. Carried 4-1.

Allocation of Room Tax – Lowry noted non-profits current receive 90% of the room tax money received by the Town. Goss noted it was the understanding that the additional 10% was to be set aside for SBLG Fire Department Capital Reserve. It was the consensus to discuss this at the next meeting.

Disposal of Mariner Park Buildings – **Lowry moved, Goss second** to advertise to remove the buildings at Mariner Park. Carried 5-0.

Short-Term Rental(s) – **Goss moved, Ward second** to approve STR licenses for 1575 Hill Road and 11313 Beechwood East. Carried 5-0.

Correspondence – None.

The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 21, 2022, immediately following the Sanitary District Committee meeting which is scheduled to start at 6:45pm.

Lowry moved, Watts second to adjourn at 9:47pm. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 9/21/2022 Town Board meeting.