Town of Rome
Nekoosa, WI 54457
www.romewi.com

TOWN OF ROME BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021 5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

   Chairman Carl Hasdal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

   Present: Chairman Carl Hasdal, Supervisors Bob Baurhyte, Dan Gohmann, Daniel Minter, Jerry Wiessinger; Administrator Jami Gebert; Clerk/Treasurer Amy Reuteman

3. Certify Posting of Meeting

   Amy Reuteman certified that on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, the Amended Agenda for the Town of Rome Board meeting for Thursday, December 16, 2021 was posted at:

Emailed to the Wisconsin Rapids Tribune	*11:10 a.m.*
Posted at the Rome Town Hall	*10:55 a.m.*
Posted at Lester Public Library of Rome	*3:35 p.m.*
Posted at Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank	*3:30 p.m.*

4. Approve the Agenda

   Motion by Baurhyte/Wiessinger to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

5. Pledge of Allegiance

6. Citizen Comments – During the Citizen Comment period of the agenda the Town Board welcomes comments from any town resident, not a member of the Town Board, on any item not on the agenda. Please know that pursuant to State law the Board cannot engage in conversation with you but may ask questions. The Board may refer the item to staff, a standing committee or a future board agenda for discussion and action. Each person wishing to speak will have up to 3 minutes to speak. Speakers are asked to submit a card to the Clerk/Treasurer providing their name, address and topic for discussion

   a. The board will also take comment from the public on agenda items as called by the Chair, but not during Citizen Comment. Please note that once the board begins discussion on an agenda item no further comment will be allowed from the public on that issue

   No comments.

NO ACTION CONTEMPLATED EXCEPT POSSIBLE REFERRAL TO FUTURE AGENDA:

7. Information Updates, Meeting Recaps, Recent Correspondence, Current Events, Announcements

   Supervisor Wiessinger complimented Interim Fire Chief Kane and Officer Czys on their professionalism during the safety meeting with the Sno-Bandits. Administrator Gebert announced that the deadline for applying for the Zoning Administrator position has been extended from the 19th of December to the 28th of December.

8. Department and Committee Reports

   - Plan Commission
   - Community Development Authority
   - Rome Lester Library Board
   - Utility Committee
   - Police and Fire Commission
   - Visit Rome WI, Inc
   - Parks and Recreation Committee
   - Zoning
   - 14 Mile Joint Water/Environmental Committee
   - Alcohol Beverage License Review
   - Rome Fire Department
   - Rome Public Works
   - Rome Police Department
   - Administration
   - Adams County Report

   Supervisor Gohmann asked how often DOT inspections are done on the Fire Department trucks. Administrator Gebert said she will have to check with Chief Kane. Supervisor Wiessinger stated that these are just recommendations not requirements. It applies to large municipalities where the trucks are used daily and we don't use ours very often. Chairman Hasdal inquired about the accidents on 13th. The Administrator stated that she will get clarification from Chief Lauby on that.

DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

9. Discussion and action – Approval of the December 2, 2021 meeting minutes

   Motion by Wiessinger/Baurhyte to approve the December 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

10. Discussion and possible action – Approval of recommendation from the Plan Commission on consideration of a revised site plan/plan of operation for the property owned by The Lakes Inn, LLC to add Lakes2Sand seasonal UTV and water activities rental business to the property and to remodel existing storage structure into a customer check in/waiting area. Property is located at 1148 W. Queens Way. Also described as part of the W ½, SE ¼, section 17, Town 20N, Range 06E, Lot 1 CSM 513, Town of Rome, Adams County, WI, with a property identification number of 030-00807-0000

    Motion by Baurhyte/Wiessinger to approve the recommendation from the Plan Commission on consideration of a revised site plan/plan of operation for the property owned by The Lakes Inn, LLC to add Lakes2Sand seasonal UTV and water activities rental business to the property and to remodel existing storage structure into a customer check in/waiting area. Property is located at 1148 W. Queens Way. Also described as part of the W ½, SE ¼, section 17, Town 20N, Range 06E, Lot 1 CSM 513, Town of Rome, Adams County, WI, with a property identification number of 030-00807-0000.

Attorney Flanagan stated that the Plan Commission has reviewed the Operational Plan and held a Public Hearing and have recommended it for approval. Administrator Gebert added that there are two maps that were handed out showing how they would get to Dyracuse if 11th Ave is closed due to being covered in water. There will also be a guided tour route if Dyracuse is closed.

Motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible action – Approval of Resolution No.21-31; Sale of Town-Owned Property in the Town of Rome, Bison Trading Co., LLC, to purchase an approximately 1.0-acre parcel in the Mixed Town Center Sub-District of Rome Town Center, for a purchase price of $5,000; parcel Identification Number 030-01136-0602

    Attorney Flanagan explained that the map shows the location of items 11 and 12. The Community Development Authority reviewed the offer and presented a counter offer which was accepted. They also accepted the Development Agreement.

    Motion by Wiessinger/Gohmann to approve Resolution No.21-31; Sale of Town-Owned Property in the Town of Rome, Bison Trading Co., LLC, to purchase an approximately 1.0-acre parcel in the Mixed Town Center Sub-District of Rome Town Center, for a purchase price of $5,000; parcel Identification Number 030-01136-0602. Motion carried.

12. Discussion and possible action – Approval of Resolution No.21-32; Sale of Town-Owned Property in the Town of Rome, Rome Country Meats & Deli LLC, to purchase an approximately 1.209-acre parcel in the Commercial A Sub-District of Rome Town Center, for a purchase price of $6,000; parcel Identification Number 030-01136-0596

    Attorney Flanagan explained that this property was also reviewed by the CDA and presented a counter offer which was accepted.

    Motion by Wiessinger/Minter to approve Resolution No.21-32; Sale of Town-Owned Property in the Town of Rome, Rome Country Meats & Deli LLC, to purchase an approximately 1.209-acre parcel in the Commercial A Sub-District of Rome Town Center, for a purchase price of $6,000; parcel Identification Number 030-01136-0596. Motion carried.

13. Discussion and possible action – Annual Visit Rome, WI Report

    Lisa Kubis, the new Executive Director of Visit Rome introduced herself and stated that she has been with Visit Rome for six weeks. She presented the room tax graph and stated the numbers to increase by 12.5% next year, about $500,000 per year. The Grant Program and restructure were reviewed. In 2021, $74,490 was awarded to the community in grants. That amount is predicted to go up to $140,000 in 2022 after the Grant program is restructured. The market niche focus will be on winter, trapshooting, families and Dyracuse. There will be marketing and advertising spending shifts, more into digital advertising, Facebook and Google. 2,057 people have been driven to the website from google. She will be attending a trade show in Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Sports Show and the Iowa Sports Show. In 2022 the long-range plans will be to improve the bike trails throughout the Town. An RFP will be going out in early January. She will also be exploring a tubing hill for the winter of 2022-2023. Administrator Gebert announced that Tri-Norse will be having a candlelight event with Santa.

14. Discussion and possible action – Request by Wisconsin Dunes, LLC for the exclusion of CSM 6645 Lot #1 030-01790-0819, Lot #2 030-01790-0820, and Lot #3 030-01790-0821 and CSM 6646 Lot #1 030-01790-0822, Lot #2 030-01790-0823, Lot #3 030-01790-0824, and Lot #4 030-01790-0825 from the mortgage granted to the Town of Rome pursuant to a Development Agreement among the Town of Rome, Wisconsin Dunes, LLC and Sand Valley, LLC dated as of August 10, 2016

    Administrator Gebert stated that there are items in the packet to release the mortgages that have been purchased by individuals. Attorney Flanagan added that the Town noted these against what was approved in 2018 as an approved expanded CSM.

    Motion by Gohmann/Wiessinger to approve the request by Wisconsin Dunes, LLC for the exclusion of CSM 6645 Lot #1 030-01790-0819, Lot #2 030-01790-0820, and Lot #3 030-01790-0821 and CSM 6646 Lot #1 030-01790-0822, Lot #2 030-01790-0823, Lot #3 030-01790-0824, and Lot #4 030-01790-0825 from the mortgage granted to the Town of Rome pursuant to a Development Agreement among the Town of Rome, Wisconsin Dunes, LLC and Sand Valley, LLC dated as of August 10, 2016. Motion carried.

15. Discussion and possible action – Approval of Resolution No. 21-33, Amendment to the General, Personnel & Benefits Policy Manual, Policy No. 3.01 Standard Benefits

    Motion by Wiessinger/Baurhyte to approve Resolution No. 21-33, Amendment to the General, Personnel & Benefits Policy Manual, Policy No. 3.01 Standard Benefits. Motion carried.

16. Discussion and possible action – Approval of Resolution No. 21-34, Approving Additional Continuation of Dental and Vision Benefits for Qualifying Retiring Employees

    Motion by Minter/Wiessinger to approve Resolution No. 21-34, Approving Additional Continuation of Dental and Vision Benefits for Qualifying Retiring Employees. Motion carried.

17. Discussion and possible action – Consideration of Town paying for a staff member plus one guest to attend the holiday gathering

    Administrator Gebert explained that there is a memo in the packet regarding this. She explained the costs. To date there are 40 RSVP's and it is expected to increase if the fee is waived.

    Motion by Minter/Gohmann to approve the Town paying for a staff member plus one guest to attend the holiday gathering on January 3, 2022 and to be reviewed annually. Motion carried.

    The change will be communicated to the employees and if those that prepaid do not wish to receive their money back it will be used toward the door prizes.

18. Discussion and possible action – Consideration of possible expanded purpose/duties of the Community Development Authority (CDA) Committee

    Attorney Flanagan stated that this is partly an update and part brainstorming. He explained that CDA has been reviewing and updating the Mission, Vision and Purpose. The CDA will also be brainstorming and looking for the Town Board's support as to what it will look like and will come back to the Board with what the CDA is adopting for the next year. He then asked if there is anything the Board feels that the CDA should be looking at? There is not a need for a motion, they

are just looking for feedback with general thoughts that can be brought back to the committee. Chairman Hasdal feels that they should be focusing on the entire Town and not just the Rome Town Center. Looking at what makes sense where and should the Gateway look different. Attorney Flanagan asked him to clarify if he is speaking about commercial or housing – the Chairman stated both. Supervisor Gohmann stated that he thinks there is a gap between the CDA and the Plan Commission that can be fixed over time. The Plan Commission is going through a comprehensive plan. He sees value in discussing this together. Attorney Flanagan agreed that there are areas that the two committees should be working together on and suggested a joint meeting. Supervisors Baurhyte and Minter asked about Visit Rome being in touch with the CDA as well. Administrator Gebert stated that Visit Rome is the first point of contact and the Town is the second. The Board will receive an update from the CDA as they move forward.

19. Discussion and possible action – Update on Ehlers engagement to complete Financial Management Planning regarding TID #1 and anticipated growth in the Town

    Administrator Gebert stated that there is a memo in the packet and a copy of what it will mean if the TIF is closed. She has spoken to Greg Johnson from Ehlers and he will send an updated projection in early 2022.

20. Discussion and possible action – approve carryover of six (6) days of accrued vacation for the Town Administrator

    Motion by Wiessinger/Minter to approve the carryover of six (6) days of accrued vacation for the Town Administrator. Motion carried.

21. Discussion and possible action – Set winter Town Board meeting dates

    Administrator Gebert stated that this has been discussed briefly that there will be 2 meetings per month and one can be cancelled if necessary. Last year there was only one meeting per month during winter. Supervisor Gohmann prefers to keep the schedule the same because people are expecting it. The Administrator stated that if something on an agenda can wait then that meeting can be postponed. Supervisor Baurhyte didn't think it was a problem last year. Supervisor Wiessinger stated that he is used to the first and third weeks and wants it left the way it is. Consensus is to leave the meeting schedule at the first and third Thursday and to cancel if necessary.

22. Discussion and possible action – Approval of a request from the Lure Bar/Barnum Bay Marina to waive the Stand-by Charge for Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) on January 1, 2022 for the 25th Annual Polar Bear Jump

    Motion by Wiessinger/Gohmann to approve the request from the Lure Bar/Barnum Bay Marina to waive the Stand-by Charge for Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) on January 1, 2022 for the 25th Annual Polar Bear Jump. Motion carried.

23. The Board may go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Town Administrator 12-month evaluation

Motion at 5:49 p.m. by Wiessinger/Gohmann to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Town Administrator 12-month evaluation. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

24. The Board reserves the right to enter into open session authorized by Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(2) to possibly take action from the closed session and continue with the agenda

    Motion at 6:09 p.m. by Baurhyte/Gohmann to return to open session authorized by Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(2) to possibly take action from the closed session and continue with the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

    No action taken from closed session.

DATES AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/MEETINGS

25. Next agenda items

    No additional items added by the Town Board

26. Next meeting date and time

    January 6, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gohmann/Minter to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Reuteman
Clerk/Treasurer