TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
TOWN BOARD MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2024

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Notice of the meeting was posted at the Town Hall and on the Town's website. Town Chair Kris Hampton and Supervisors Mike Fonger, Steve Anders and Mike DuPlayee were present, along with Clerk-Treasurer Kim Banigan, Deputy Clerk Amber Steele, and Highway Superintendent Dan Dresen. Town Supervisor Kristi Williams was absent.

B. Hampton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

C. Flag Pledge.

D. Discuss/Consider approval of minutes of previous meeting:

1. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Anders to approve the minutes as printed, with the correction made at the previous meeting under Finance Report and Approval of Bills. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

E. Finance Report and Approval of Bills:

1. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Fonger to approve checks #36911-36954 with check 36940 voided and EFTs in the amount of $25,332.85. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

2. **MOTION** by Anders/Fonger to approve payment of February per diems as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0**.

3. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that all loan payments were due March 15th and will be paid via bank transfer. Quotes are needed to finance new Ford F550 truck, the board recommended getting quotes from all 4 local banks.

F. Public Concerns: None.

II. BUSINESS

A. Plan Commission Recommendations: Travis Leeser, petitioner, John Donlon/Tracy Teske, property owners, parcels 0711-231-9500-1, 0711-242-9120-8, 0711-231-9800-8 and 0711-231-8140-9 at 3685 Ridge Road: DCPREZ 2024-12018 petition to restructure/rezone 4 parcels into 2 lots to correct an illegal parcel per Dane County: 20.54 acres from FP-35 to FP-1, 2.46 acres from RR-2 to RR-16, 9.6 acres from FP-1 to RR-16. Leeser was unable to attend the meeting. **MOTION** by Anders/DuPlayee to accept the Plan Commission recommendation to approve the rezone as presented, noting that the residential parcel exceeds 2 acres due to topography. Ridge Road right-of-way should be dedicated to the Town with the CSM. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

B. Presentation by MetroGro about the spreading of biosolids on farm land in the Town. Ecosystems Services Director Martye Griffen, Biosolids Specialist and Agronomist Zac Thompson, and MetroGro Operations Supervisor Ross Hollfelder spoke about the program. They shared that MetroGro is a Class B operation which is regulated by the DNR. The product is treated to remove pathogens before application. Free well testing for bacteria and nitrates is available for houses within 1000 feet of an application site upon request. PFAS were discussed. MetroGro is considered a pass-through source of PFAS. Chuck Nahn, attending virtually, asked if MetroGro does well sampling for PFAS. They do not, however Public Health of Madison and Dane County does offer PFAS testing. Nahn also asked who pays for MetroGro. The response was that it is a free service provided to farmers. Griffen discussed PFAS further, stating that it is a topic that is being extensively researched to understand how they move and the potential for contamination of water, soil, and crops. It is something MetroGro tests their product for, and he reported they are under the allowable amount set by the DNR. Hampton asked about accumulation in soil with multiple applications

leading to potential well contamination. Kevin Shelly, 1764 US Hwy 12&18, asked if MetroGro could increase the amount of potassium in their product. He was told they could not. Kathy Eccles, 3267 Field View lane, spoke about her well being contaminated. She requested testing from MetroGro. The results came back that the nitrates in her well are too high and that she can no longer drink her water. She asked if MetroGro could help and they responded they do not offer any remediation. Shelly spoke again, stating that he has explored many other biosolid operations in his line of work and is very impressed with how MetroGro is run. He noted the importance of recycling our waste and said that while PFAS are a concern, they need to be kept out of the ecosystem at the source.

C. Discuss/Consider approval of a Parade or Race Permit for Andrew Haring, Applicant representing Greywolf Foundation to conduct a charitable half-marathon affecting Town road crossings of the Glacial Drumlin Trail on April 13, 2024. Andrew Haring attended the meeting virtually. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Anders to approve the permit and waive the fee and deposit as was done in previous years due to the charitable nature of the event. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

D. Discuss/Consider approval of a 3-lot Certified Survey Map for Jeff Schlieckau on Gala Way (DCPREZ 12009 approved 12/04/2023). Lots 1 and 2 are home sites, lot 3 is deed restricted NR-C. Anders asked where the driveways will be, it was noted they will be on Gala Way. **MOTION** by Anders/DuPlayee to approve CSM dated 8/10/2023 map number 22W-237. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

E. Discuss/Consider agreement with Dane County for 2024/2025 Municipal Bridge Inspections. Dresen stated the number of bridges was correct and that it included Baxter Rd. Inspections to take place next year. Discussion about the settling of the bridge on Femrite Rd. led to realization that the Town is only responsible for half the cost of that inspection due to annexation by Madison. The Clerk will look into getting the cost reduced. **MOTION** by Anders/DuPlayee to approve Bridge Inspections. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

F. Discuss/Consider approval for the Highway Superintendent to attend the WTA Road School on April 30-May 1. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Fonger to approve. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

G. Discuss/Consider approval of online banking access for Deputy Clerk Jennifer Millage. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Anders to approve. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

H. Discuss/Consider alternative plans/dates for the Town Board Meetings scheduled for April 1 and November 4, 2024. No good alternative dates were found. Banigan said she would cut off bill entry on Friday before the meeting to make the current dates work. The meeting room will be set up for elections and there will be limited seating available for the meetings.

I. Set date for annual road and park inspection. To be held Friday April 5th at 10am.

III. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE:

A. Report of Road Right-of-Way permits issued: None issued since last meeting.

B. Dresen reported the bunker is set up to start receiving compost materials. It will be open starting Monday March 11th. Talks have started with Waste Management to set up this year's E-Cycle event. Tentative dates are April 29th through May 5th.

IV. CLERK-TREASURER'S OFFICE UPDATE:

A. Banigan reported the Spring Primary election went well. There were 276 total voters, 125 of which were absentee. She calculated that it cost the Town $7.54 per ballot cast, with $121 spent on ballots that were not returned.

B. Board of Review is scheduled for April 25th from 7pm to 9pm. Open book will be held April 9th from 11am to 1pm. Associated Appraisals had requested to conduct this by phone, however the Board agreed that it should be held in person.

V. BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Hampton said there is a public informational meeting regarding the new Dane County landfill on Wednesday March 6th at 4pm. He shared a map showing areas A, B, and C where residents are being reimbursed by the landfill and noted there are 2 Town residents living in area A.

B. Fonger said the Lions purchased boxes to collect flags needing disposal. They will set one up at the Town Hall.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Emergency Government Committee: Fonger reported that there will be no Emergency Government Meeting in March.

B. Cottage Grove Fire Commission: There are concerns regarding increased calls to support EMS. Consensus was that the EMS and Fire Chiefs will need to have a meeting and work it out together.

VII. Adjournment: **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Anders to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED 4-0.** The meeting ended at 8:24 P.M.

Amber Steele, Deputy Clerk
Approved 03-18-2024