MINUTES
TOWN OF PLOVER BOARD MEETING
MARCH 27, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
Chairman Garbe called the meeting of the Town of Plover Town Board to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Bentley, Firkus, Pingel, and Rossier; Clerk/Treasurer Weller; Superintendent of Highways William Honaker; Town of Plover residents Priscilla Garbe, Terry Olds, Douglas Ross, Susan Ross, Michael Schoenholz, Debra Sniadajewski, and William Sniadajewski; Town of Linwood resident and District 19 Portage County Board candidate Amberle Schwartz; District 19 Portage County Board Supervisor Scott Soik; Building Inspector Michael Bembenek of Residential Inspection Services & Evaluation (RISE), LLC, and Karla Lockman of the Boston School Forest.

2. **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:**
Chairman Garbe and Supervisor Pingel reported on correspondence relating to the proposed State Highway 54 improvement project between Maple Drive and Interstate 39.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
There were no public comments.

4. **BUILDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE:**
Building Inspector Michael Bembenek of Residential Inspection Services & Evaluation (RISE), LLC, answered questions about his proposed updated Building Inspector Contract and Building Permit Fee Schedule, mentioning the need to increase fees and his desire to reduce his workload in the near future. Bembenek and Chairman Garbe will communicate with Village of Plover officials to determine their interest in taking over commercial and possibly residential building inspections.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to adopt the updated Building Inspector Contract and Building Permit Fee Schedule as proposed, effective April 1, 2024. Supervisor Bentley seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PURCHASES:**
Superintendent of Highways William Honaker reported on using the new back blade, shouldering, road conditions during and after the snowstorm, and maintenance on the recently purchased Crafco Super Shot 60 melter/applicator.

6. **PURCHASE OF CRACK FILLER:**
Board members and Superintendent of Highways William Honaker discussed purchase options and reviewed quotes for crack filling material.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to authorize the purchase of up to four pallets of crack filler, one pallet at a time as long as funds are available in the 2024 budget, from A-1 Services Wisconsin Rapids LLC, for $1,620.00 per pallet or $0.72 per pound undelivered. Supervisor Rossier seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. **STATE SALT CONTRACT FOR 2024-2025 WINTER SEASON:**
Board members and Superintendent of Highways William Honaker discussed purchase options and reviewed quotes for road salt for the next winter season; advantages and disadvantages of a salt contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation were considered. Chairman Garbe

recommended the guaranteed early fill option with delivery by December 1, 2024; he estimated that the Town would need to purchase three quad dump truck loads or approximately sixty-six tons of salt to fill the salt shed.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to purchase road salt for the next winter season. Supervisor Bentley seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried. Supervisor Rossier voted against the motion.

8. **LINCOLN AVENUE SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ORDINANCE:**
Chairman Garbe provided information regarding speed limits on Lincoln Avenue near the Boston School Forest. The portion of Lincoln Avenue in the Village of Plover has a speed limit of thirty-five miles per hour whereas the portion of Lincoln Avenue in the Town of Plover has a speed limit of fifty-five miles per hour. Although a traffic study is usually required to reduce the speed limit on a town road, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will waive the study and allow the Town of Plover to reduce the speed limit on Lincoln Avenue by ten miles per hour through an ordinance that provides justification for the reduction. At the March 6 meeting, board members supported reducing the speed limit by ten miles per hour for the entire mile of Lincoln Avenue within the jurisdiction of the Town of Plover.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to adopt Ordinance 20240327, Reduction of Speed Limit on Lincoln Avenue, as presented. Supervisor Rossier seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

Chairman Garbe will work with Superintendent of Highways William Honaker to update Lincoln Avenue signage to reflect the lower speed limit. Boston School Forest Program Leader Karla Lockman expressed interest in partnering with the Town of Plover to purchase and install rectangular rapid flashing beacons on Lincoln Avenue to mitigate the safety hazard for children using the Boston School Forest.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF RESCINDING RESOLUTION 20240201 – (TO DESIGNATE NUMBER OF POLL WORKERS FOR TOWN OF PLOVER ELECTIONS):**
Board members, Clerk/Treasurer Weller, and meeting attendees discussed Resolution 20240201 to designate the number of poll workers for Town of Plover elections, which requires the Town of Plover Clerk/Treasurer to receive approval from the Town of Plover Town Board for the number of poll workers before elections. Comments revolved around the balance of Town of Plover Clerk/Treasurer discretion and Town Board fiscal oversight, adequate staffing to help voters learn how to use the new voting equipment, and the current budget status of election accounts.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to adopt Resolution 20240327 to rescind Resolution 20240201 as presented, thereby reenacting Resolution 091216 to allow the Town of Plover Clerk/Treasurer to use her discretion to designate the number of poll workers for Town of Plover elections without needing approval from the Town of Plover Town Board before each election. Supervisor Firkus seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

10. **POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF RAILROAD CROSSING ON MEEHAN DRIVE SOUTH:**
Chairman Garbe reported that he has been contacted a couple of times by a representative of Canadian National Railway who has requested that the Town of Plover abandon the Meehan Drive railroad crossing and has mentioned possible closure incentive payments. The representative did not seem interested in attending a meeting but agreed to put together information for board

members to consider; nothing has been received to date. Town resident Debra Sniadajewski noted that a public hearing should be held before any action is taken on the possible abandonment.

11. **ALLIED COOPERATIVE EXPANSION PLANS – REQUEST FOR VARIANCE AND SPECIAL EXCEPTION:**
Chairman Garbe indicated that he has learned from Portage County Planning and Zoning Department staff that Allied Cooperative has plans for a building expansion. Due to the project requiring approval of a variance and a special exception by the Portage County Board of Adjustment, the Town of Plover will be asked to provide input in the near future.

12. **STATUS OF TRID/TRIS APPLICATION FOR MEEHAN DRIVE:**
A decision regarding the Town's application for Town Road Improvement Supplemental funding for the reconstruction of one mile of Meehan Drive is still pending.

13. **RFP FOR ASPHALT OVERLAY PATCH ON JOHNSON AVENUE:**
Chairman Garbe shared his recommendation for an asphalt overlay on 425 feet of Johnson Avenue. Board members supported moving forward with posting and distributing the request for proposals as presented.

14. **BID SPECIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR 2024 CHIP SEAL PROJECT:**
Board members reviewed chip seal project plans.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to proceed with publishing and distributing bid specification documents for 2024 chip seal projects. Supervisor Rossier seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

15. **VISTA SANDS SOLAR UPDATE:**
Chairman Garbe will be attending a meeting on March 28 with Attorney Nicholas Flanagan, Attorney Stanley Riffle, Attorney Shane VanderWaal, and Portage County Corporation Counsel David Hickethier to discuss the Joint Development Agreement between Town of Plover, Town of Grant, Town of Buena Vista, Village of Plover, Portage County, and Vista Sands Solar LLC. Chairman Garbe is working with Town of Grant Chairperson Sharon Schwab and Attorney Nicholas Flanagan to designate roads that Vista Sands Solar will be allowed to use for heavy vehicles during the term of the agreement.

16. **WEBSITE UPDATE:**
Chairman Garbe mentioned that Town Web staff have finished transferring all historical agendas and minutes from the old website to the new website. Town resident Priscilla Garbe asked for help in verifying that Town of Plover historical information on the website is correct; Chairman Garbe requested pictures that can be published on the website and suggestions for website content. Ordinances, resolutions, and minutes still need updating.

17. **SHARED REVENUE UPDATE AND MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENT:**
Chairman Garbe reported on his communications with the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue regarding his questions about the Town of Plover's maintenance of effort certification requirement for fire and emergency medical services contracted with the Village of Plover. Chairman Garbe passed this information on to Village of Plover officials.

18. **MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETINGS AND ANY OTHER MINUTES TO BE PRESENTED:**
Supervisor Pingel made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2024, town board meeting as presented. Supervisor Rossier seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024, joint meeting of the Town of Plover Town Board and the Town of Plover Plan Commission as presented. Supervisor Firkus seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

19. RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS AND CASH SUMMARY:

- **RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS:**
  This item will appear on the next town board meeting agenda.

- **CASH SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 27, 2024, AT 6:00 PM:**

COMMITTED FUNDS:			$ 201,785.73
UNCOMMITTED FUNDS:	GENERAL ACCOUNT	$ 1,002,820.58	
	NOW CHECKING	$ 21,210.69	
TOTAL UNCOMMITTED FUNDS:			$ 1,024,031.27
TOTAL CASH FOR TOWN OF PLOVER:			$ 1,225,817.00

Supervisor Pingel made the motion to approve the cash summary as presented, Supervisor Bentley seconded, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

20. BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:
There were no budget adjustments presented.

21. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT, SIGNING OF VOUCHER LIST, AND AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS:
Supervisor Pingel made the motion to approve the payment of $31,242.98 to cover Checks 27178 through 27194 and electronic funds transfer EFT021Q24. Supervisor Bentley seconded the motion, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

22. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS:
The next regular town board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, at 6:00 PM. The annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, at 6:00 PM, with a regular town board meeting to follow. Road bid letting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, at 6:00 PM.

A Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, at 6:00 PM.

23. ADJOURNMENT:
Supervisor Rossier made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM, Supervisor Firkus seconded, the question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Patricia Weller, Clerk/Treasurer
Approved: 05/02/24