

Minutes to be approved January 8, 2024.....

Town of Rockland December 11, 2023 Board Meeting

Rockland Town Hall @ 7:00 P.M.

Chairperson, Rosalie Geiger called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. Additional officials present were Mike Havlinek, Tim Thor, Paula Winkel, Laura Henze, and Dan Benter. There were four citizens present. Motion made by Mike Havlinek and second by Tim Thor to approve the secretary's report as posted and printed. Motion carried. Motion made by Tim Thor to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried.

The agenda was followed as printed and posted.

Public Input: There is a property with a partially burned shed that has not been removed for over a year. The Board recommended writing a letter to the property owner upon reviewing whether this lack of action is an ordinance violation. A citizen mentioned an icy section of road that needs extra monitoring.

Reports and Communications: Paula Winkel shared communications from the County, including the Bridge Inspection Report for Hilltop Bridge, ARPA grant for culvert work was received in the amount of \$63,002.16, and ExpressVote (new voting equipment) training is occurring late December. Options were shared from the Wisconsin Towns Association on how to handle scenarios as personal property tax is being eliminated effective January 2024. The board agreed to research this further as it will impact the Town relative to WestShore Retreat. Payroll structure options are being explored, and this as well as the personal property elimination next steps will be put on January's agenda. The Town is hosting additional election training on January 11th.

Licenses & Permits: As listed on the agenda.

2024 Budget Approval: Motion made by Tim Thor, second by Mike Havlinek to approve the 2024 Town of Rockland budget as presented at the Special Electors Meeting on November 15th which includes local tax levy of \$360,275 and \$179,765.51 for streets and roads. Motion carried.

Joint Powers Agreement with County and Emergency Survey: Agreement signed by Rosalie Geiger. Annual agreement between Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch System (911 system) and townships.

Election Officials: Approve for 2024-2025: A list of new and returning Election Inspectors were appointed by the Board for the January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 cycle. No nominations for inspectors by political parties were received. Motion was made by Mike Havlinek and second by Tim Thor to appoint Susan Rusch and Laurie Miller as Chief Election Inspectors; Joan Thor, Janet Brandes, Lynn Vallesky, Paula Bubolz, Rose Eberts, Nancy Zutz, Pat Timm, and Rosie Geiger as Election Inspectors; Paula Winkel, Laura Henze, and Chris Hill (if needed for February election) as Municipal Clerks. Motion carried.

Short Term Vacation Rentals: A Bullhead Lake residence is being used as a short term vacation rental. Board discussed reasons needed to adopt potential policy in order to implement parameters and/or regulate a short term vacation rental. Board members may attend a December 18, 2023 meeting at the County to gain further information.

Quickbooks Payroll Software Update: New software is required by May 2024 for handling payroll within Quicbooks as the old software will not be supported. Paula recommended staying with the desktop option as the on-line version is more expensive and has features that the Town would not utilize. The board supported this change which will save about \$200 per year.

.gov Website and Grant: There is currently no cost to updating the Website to a .gov address. It is a more secure/credible option for a municipality. The Board supported making this change in 2024 as part of the website improvements underway.

Communication with Road Superintendent; Road/Culvert Status: Paula reported in Keith's absence. Some interest has been shown regarding advertisements for snow plow drivers. Keith will meet with individuals who have shown interest. Nick Griffey was provided a culvert permit for his property on Boxwood Rd.

Constable Report: Dan Benter reports responding to four hunting related trespassing calls. He also reported that the remains of five swans which had been shot were located in a marshy area.

Vouchers Approved: Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried to approve payments of vouchers #21738 to #21761 and EFT's in the amount of \$7241.28

Topics for January 8, 2024: A safety meeting and recycling meeting will occur prior to the Board Meeting. Those meetings will begin @ 6:00p.m. Topics during the Board meeting will include a rezoning request, discussion on employee pay structure options, and next steps for personal property tax elimination.

Adjournment: Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Henze

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Rockland, Manitowoc County