

TOWN OF STAR PRAIRIE, WIS.
TOWN BOARD MEETING - MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
STAR PRAIRIE TOWN HALL
2118 COOK DRIVE, SOMERSET, WISCONSIN

The Town Board Meeting was called to order by Tom Heintz at 6:05 p.m. in the Star Prairie Town Hall: 2118 Cook Drive, Somerset, WI 54025. Present were Tom Heintz, Michele Hermansen, Darryl Wendt, Bob Crotty and Andrea Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer. Brian Duggan was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda: Motion M/S by Darryl Wendt/Bob Crotty to approve the agenda, as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion M/S by Michele Hermansen/Darryl Wendt to approve minutes from the August 6 Town Board Meeting and the August 19 Work Session and the August 21 Special Meeting, as submitted. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed. No action taken.

Building Permits: The August 2024 building permits were read, as submitted, by the Building Inspector. Motion M/S by Bob Crotty/Michele Hermansen to accept the report, as submitted. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Nancy Karastes addressed the board regarding trees that were down at Oakland Cemetery. Two very old (1800s) headstones were damaged from fallen limbs. She agreed to contact the Board in the future for cleanup help/resources.

St. Croix County Community Development - Land Use Permit: Board reviewed permit for Ty Dodge, authorizing site prep, a single-family dwelling with attached garage, gravel driveway and septic system at 2158 100th Street in Somerset, Wis. No action taken.

DNR - Managed Forest Land Application: Board reviewed application for Joseph Rivard to enroll 40 acres at 8XX 210th Avenue into Managed Forest Land. No action taken.

DNR - Pending Application for Proposed Dredging: Board reviewed application for dredging on Apple Lake, submitted by Ryan Grubbs. No action taken.

Plan Commission Recommendations & Next Meeting Date: Mark McClenathan of Auth/Associates presented a CSM for Jay and Tina Andrews. It was recommended for approval at the August meeting of the Plan Commission, conditional upon completed driveway and septic easements. Motion M/S by Bob Crotty/Michele Hermansen to approve the CSM for Jay and Tina Andrews, Job No. 7610-002. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Plan Commission is Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. (rescheduled from September 18).

Comprehensive Plan Update: The Comprehensive Plan meetings will be the Third Wednesday of the month, starting November 20 with a community focus group. County will publish a survey to collect public input. Meetings will start at 5:30 p.m. to accommodate the discussions.

Plan Commission Compensation: Board discussed compensation of the Plan Commission. Commission members are paid \$25 per meeting, a rate that has not changed in 20 years. Motion M/S by Darryl Wendt/Michele Hermansen to increase the Plan Commission compensation to \$50 per meeting. In a roll call vote, Michele Hermansen, Darryl Wendt and Tom Heintz voted “yes”. Bob Crotty abstained. Motion carried.

Town Maintenance Building: Board is working on a bid package for a maintenance building, including three overhead doors and two service doors. No interior walls. Building will be used to store tractors. Clerk to add agenda item to September Work Session. No action taken.

Building Inspection Services: Board met with All-Croix Inspection Services at the August Work Session. Current service through Brian Wert Inspection Agency is changing ownership. Last contract was signed in 2013 and it has been automatically renewed annually ever since. If the Town elects to terminate the agreement, Town Attorney Nick Vivian recommended the town provide a 90-day notice and indicate that the Agreement will not be renewed at year’s end. Motion M/S by Michele Hermansen/Darryl Wendt to communicate a termination of the Brian Wert contract as of December 31, 2024. In a roll call vote, Michele Hermansen, Darryl Wendt, Bob Crotty and Tom Heintz voted “yes”. No one opposed. Motion carried. Clerk directed to email All-Croix to proceed.

Schedule Monthly Work Session: Scheduled for Wednesday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Town Road Maintenance - Road Patching, Repairs, Mowing and Other Issues:

Road Concerns: Tom confirmed the reported pothole on 200th Avenue, approximately 2/10th of a mile West of CC, was communicated to the County. A large pothole is still terrorizing drivers on 115th Street. There are visibility concerns at the intersection of 100th Street and County Road C.

Mowing: Clerk to confirm older tractor model with Archie Serwe for mower deck options. Town to discuss flail head attachment for new tractor—potentially getting one in the Spring for road cleanup.

Road Boundary: Clerk directed to add Boundary Agreement discussion to Work Session agenda and invite City of NR administrator and planner.

Storm Cleanup: Tom to follow up with the City of New Richmond regarding use of the compost site. Town discussed whether to include information in the annual tax letter regarding trees that lean out into the road right-of-way.

Replacing Road Signs: Clerk directed to contact Aric with County Highway and ask him to stop by Tom’s shop to discuss a process to update road signs within the township.

Approve Payment of Town Bills and Adjourn: Motion M/S by Michele Hermansen/Darryl Wendt to approve town bills and adjourn. Motion carried at 7:07 p.m.

Andrea Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Star Prairie