

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 18, 2022

Members Present: Andrea Kott, Jane Mueller, Micheal Peterson, Karen Tomesh, Jeffrey White

Staff Present: Janelle Henning, Jackie Vold

Members/Staff Absent: None

A quorum being present, Chrm. Peterson called to order the monthly Town Board meeting of the Washington Town Board at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at the Town Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2022 TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. White.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Public Hearing & Board Consideration for a Conditional Use Permit request from Michael Larson to Operate an RV Park at 7421 Nine Mile Creek, Eau Claire:

Chrm. Peterson reopened the previously tabled hearing. Ben Bulitz, Land Use Manager with Eau Claire County gave additional information regarding the application. Stated the owner plans to live in the residence that is being built on the same property. The term “tiny home” throughout the application was used by the applicant; the correct term should be “park model” which falls under the definition of a camping unit under the County Code. The Eau Claire Highway Department issued a driveway permit allowing for a 35’ commercial driveway with a loop at the end of the campground with an outside diameter of 60’. The campground will consist of 8 sites with a sand/gravel base and topped with crushed granite. Each site would offer electric, and water/sewer. The applicant indicates that the sites can be reserved for a maximum of 2 weeks. Storm shelters are not required through the County Code; an emergency evacuation plan is recommended to be in place. A sanitary permit has been issued for the home but not for the campground. The well permit that has been issued is intended to serve both the residence and the campground; the distribution system to the campground would be permitted through the DNR. The site plan was reviewed. Staff does recommend approval; Ben reviewed additional conditions in the Staff Report including: requiring a one year review of the application if it is approved, sanitary permit would be issued from the Health Department, water distribution would be issued from the DNR, references to tiny home are required to meet the County Code definition of a camping unit, 14 day maximum rental of each site, no ATV/UTV, snowmobiles are not to be operated on the property with the exception of the owner of the single-family dwelling, garbage dumpster to be secured, and dogs must be on a leash.

The Board asked several questions.

Phil Schumacher with the Eau Claire Health Department stated the septic system for the campground has not been applied for yet; the system for the residence was approved as an at-grade system. The water distribution system would be applied for an approved from the WI Dept. of Safety and Public Services (DSPS); not the DNR.

Board asked questions regarding if there are monitoring wells close to the site and what the readings of those are. No clear answers.

Alyssa Streveler with the Eau Claire Health Department stated the County Code permanent units are not required to be removed from a campground; in this case they would just not be reserved for more than 2 weeks at a time.

Michael Larson, sites would be reserved through a campground website. Three sites have the potential for park models.

Admin. Henning stated Kevin Stelljes submitted a letter in objection today at 4:15 p.m. that has been supplied to the Board.

Chrm. Peterson opened the public hearing.

Eric Borst, 7736 Beulah Lane spoke in opposition to a campground in a residential neighborhood and too many unknowns.

Henry Erickson, 7331 Nine Mile Creek Road spoke in opposition; asked about the well that was put in.

Katie Wolff, 7455 Nine Mile Creek Road spoke in opposition. Purchased the unplatted portion of this property when it was sold and split with the Larsons. Campground is not appropriate for this residential area. Were originally told that a log cabin was going to be built on the property. Property line seems to be in dispute.

Geisa Thielen, 2508 E. Hamilton Avenue spoke in opposition. She lived on this parcel for three years and sold a portion to Michael Machak/Katie Wolff and the larger portion to Michael & Kris Larson. Did not want to see this developed and sold it to the Larsons because they stated they wanted to build a cabin in the woods. Ground water is contaminated even with a deep water well there were high nitrates and was not drinkable. Eau Claire Energy has an easement for power lines on the property.

Michael Machak, 7455 Nine Mile Creek Road spoke in opposition. Lives next door on the unplatted lot.

Jason Rathbun, 1730 Beulah Lane spoke in opposition. Mentioned groundwater concerns and the contamination from the former landfill.

Linda Hays, 1791 Valley View Drive spoke in opposition. Mentioned residential area, driveway near dip in road, traffic, fire hazard, and noise issues.

Rich Hager, 1340 Valley View Drive spoke in opposition. Works for SHE Environmental, mentioned contamination, creek, old culvert, railroad tracks and steep slopes.

Mike McCluskey, 7525 Nine Mile Creek Road spoke in opposition. Has lived in the area since 1983; mentioned privacy, ground water concerns, high capacity well, and fire danger. The conditional use permit issued years ago from the County has caused the contamination from the paper sludge landfill.

Cory Sisk, 7301 Nine Mile Creek Road spoke in opposition. As County Board Supervisor for District 8 he represents this neighborhood, he has not heard anyone who is in support.

Chrm. Peterson closed the public hearing.

The Board discuss the proposal. Many unanswered questions remain regarding water quality.

Supv. White moved TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FROM MICHAEL LARSON TO OPERATE AN RV PARK AT 7421 NINE MILE CREEK, EAU CLAIRE.

The motion was seconded by Supv. Kott.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Proposed Meeting/Election Room Expansion, William Boettcher, PE:

Bill Boettcher reviewed the proposed room expansion with the Board and estimated costs including parking lot and answered questions. A section of the roof would need be replaced with this expansion if approved. Bidding should be done no later than January 2023 if the project would be proposed for 2023 construction. Admin. Henning stated AV equipment and sound system would need to be considered. Supv. White asked why it is needed. The room is no longer big enough for many of our elections; especially the general elections.

Maintenance Employee Hire/Wage:

Admin. Henning stated Andrew Weiss started on Monday this week. We are on budget with this hire.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO THE WAGES AND BENEFITS AS PRESENTED (SEE ATTACHED).

The motion was seconded by Supv. Kott.

Aye 5 Nye 0

July 2022 Financial Statement was reviewed.

Checks

Supv. White moved TO APPROVE CHECKS 03002 THROUGH 030067 FOR \$822,464.69. The motion was seconded by Supv. Mueller.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Licenses:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE "CLASS B" LIQUOR LICENSE AND AMUSEMENT MACHINE LICENSES FOR GOOD TIMES TAVERN, LLC; ZENAS UNDERWOOD, AGENT. The motion was seconded by Supv. White.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Supv. White moved TO APPROVE THE GARBAGE HAULERS LICENSE FOR TRASH ON TRUCKS. The motion was seconded by Supv. Tomesh.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Administrator's Report:

Partisan Primary Election held on Tuesday, August 9 – just over 37% of registered voters; Statewide was a 25% turnout. The day went very well.
Andy Weiss will be working 4/10 hour days.
Working on the annexation matter.
Road and equipment schedules; looking at next year's budget.
1 letter sent for cement base obstruction under mailbox at 4728 Allemande Court.

Chairman's Report:

Working with Admin. Henning on annexation.

Supervisor's Report:

Supv. White will be attending the upcoming State WTA Conference. Would like the Town to consider being a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Town.

Future Zoning Requests:

None

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

None

Adjournment:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
5750 OLD TOWN HALL ROAD, EAU CLAIRE

Jackie Vold
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Attendance: Michael Larson, Angelia Fliehr, Terry Planert, Dennis Behrens, Charlotte Erickson, Henry Erickson, Carol Draeger, Don Draeger, Scott Eslinger, Melissa Eslinger, Mike Koehler, Kathy Watt, Vivian McDonald, Robert McDonald, Missy Kostman, Todd Kostman, Brenda Watt, Richard

Watt, Phil Schumacher, Ben Bublitz, Michael Machak, Alyssa Streveler, Brodi Schulz, Bill Boettcher, Geisa Thielen, Michael Lampshire, Ron Hays, Linda Hays, Peter Deetz, Mike McCluskey, Zenas Underwood, Mary Rasmussen, Cory Sisk, Rich Hager, Krissy Reinhart, Samantha Atwood, Eric Borst, Peggerly Mueller-Carlson, Katie Wolff, Bob Solberg, Debbie Planert, Rich Asp, Jason Rathbun, Todd Adams