

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 21, 2023

Members Present: Jane Mueller, James Rolbiecki, Robert Solberg, Karen Tomesh

Staff Present: Janelle Henning, Jackie Vold

Members/Staff Absent: Jeffrey White

A quorum being present, Chrm. Solberg called to order the monthly Town Board meeting of the Washington Town Board at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the Town Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen's Input and Action Thereon:

None

Minutes:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 17, 2023 TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. Mueller.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 22, 2023 SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. Rolbiecki.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Public Hearing & Board Consideration from Sunflowco LLC and Peter Gartmann, Agent to Rezone 5.32 Acres from Agricultural Preservation (AP) to Agricultural Residential (A2) at 6760 Hickory Road, Eau Claire:

Matt Michels, Eau Claire County Planning & Development Senior Planner introduced the application. The request is not to create a new lot but to rezone it to A2. Under AP there is a requirement for a minimum of \$6,000 annual income from ag use which is not feasible on this lot size. There is a mix of AO and A2 in the area. The future land use plan shows this parcel as rural lands.

Staff does recommend approval with the conditions outlined in their Staff Report.

Angie Bowe is a member of the Sunflowco LLC with her cousin and indicated that a family friend may build on the lot in the future.

Chrm. Solberg opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition.

Chrm. Solberg closed the public hearing.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM SUNFLOWCO LLC AND PETER GARTMANN, AGENT TO REZONE 5.32 ACRES FROM AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION (AP) TO AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL (A2) AT 6760 HICKORY ROAD, EAU CLAIRE. The motion was seconded by Chrm. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

August 2023 Financial Statement was reviewed.

Checks

Chrm. Solberg moved TO APPROVE CHECKS PR0823-9 THROUGH EP0923-5 FOR \$749,589.32. The motion was seconded by Supv. Tomesh.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Licenses:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE TOBACCO LICENSE FOR TAQUERIA LA POBLANITA AND THE BARTENDER LICENSES FOR ISABELLE G. HENRY, BRAANNA M. STEEN, PAULA E. BIESTERVELD, RYAN L. BARTHOLOMEW, HAYLIE K. PETERSON, JOSHUA S. WURZER, HALLIE E. HUNTER, ISAAC C. COREY, LAUREN E. ELMERGREEN, MARIE A. KONZEN, AND CASSANDRA E. OBERG. The motion was seconded by Supv. Rolbiecki.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Discuss/Consider Convening in Closed Session for Purposes of Conferring with Legal Counsel About Strategy Regarding Current or Likely Litigation Pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(g).

Chrm. Solberg moved TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONFER WITH LEGAL COUNSEL. The motion was seconded by Supv. Mueller.

Roll Call Vote: Supv. Rolbiecki – Aye
Supv. Tomesh – Aye
Chrm. Solberg – Aye
Supv. Mueller – Aye

Motion to Reconvene to Open Session for the Purpose of Discussion and Possible Consideration on the Matter Entertained in Closed Session.

Supv. Mueller moved TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION. The motion was seconded by Supv. Chrm. Solberg.

Roll Call Vote: Supv. Mueller – Aye
Chrm. Solberg – Aye
Supv. Tomesh – Aye
Supv. Rolbiecki – Aye

Funds Transfer - \$350,000 from LFIP #10 ARPA to #3396 Fed Grant Applied – Building Outlay:

Admin. Henning indicated we will transfer funds in phases to maximize interest.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE FUNDS TRANSFER - \$350,000 FROM LFIP #10 ARPA TO #3396 FED GRANT APPLIED – BUILDING OUTLAY. The motion was seconded by Supv. Rolbiecki.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Land Planning Services Quote:

Admin. Henning reviewed the proposal from Becker Professional Services. The Town borders were reviewed and the Board discussed options.

Supv. Mueller moved TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM BECKER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AS PRESENTED. The motion was seconded by Chrm. Solberg.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO AMEND THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM BECKER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN TWO PHASES. The motion was seconded by Chrm. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

2024 Budget Schedule:

Admin. Henning reviewed the dates for the upcoming budget schedule.

2024 Salaries & Benefits:

Admin. Henning reviewed the handout given to the Board regarding 2024 benefits and salaries including insurance, salaries, WRS, life & disability insurance. The area affordable health insurance provider premium went down this year.

Supv. Mueller moved TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN SALARIES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES BY \$13,000.00 AND DISTRIBUTED TO EMPLOYEES BY ADMIN. HENNING AND TO APPROVE THE BENEFIT PLAN AS PRESENTED (SEE ATTACHED) IN WHICH THE TOWN WILL PAY \$828.98/\$2035.16 FOR SINGLE/FAMILY HEALTH INSURANCE, WISCONSIN RETIREMENT, LIFE & DISABILITY INSURANCE AND DENTAL INSURANCE OFFERED AT 100% COVERED BY THE EMPLOYEE. The motion was seconded by Supv. Tomesh.

Aye 4 Nye 0

2024 Road Projects Draft:

Admin. Henning reviewed a draft of potential roads for 2024 reconstruction and maintenance projects.

Ordinance 2023-09-21: Amend Municipal Code, 3-1.0140 – Continuation of Business:

Deputy Clerk, Jackie Vold reviewed the potential language changes to the ordinance.

Supv. Rolbiecki moved TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-09-21: AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE, 3-1.0140 – CONTINUTATION OF BUSINESS. The motion was seconded by Supv. Tomesh.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Ordinance 2023-09-21B: Amend Title II, Division 1, Chapter 2, Article 3 – Speed Regulations of the Town of Washington Municipal Code to Amend Sindelar Drive to 25 MPH:

Admin. Henning indicated that all the roads in this area are 25 mph with the exception of Sindelar; which is also a bus route.

Supv. Mueller moved TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2023-09-21B: AMEND TITLE II, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 3 – SPEED REGULATIONS OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE TO AMEND SINDELAR DRIVE TO 25 MPH. The motion was seconded by Chrm. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Amend Municipal Code Appendix A Fee Schedule Effective 2024:

Admin. Henning reviewed the suggested changes in the fee schedule.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE APPENDIX A FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE 2024. The motion was seconded by Chrm. Solberg.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Amend Rest Haven Cemetery Fees Effective 2024:

Admin. Henning indicated the last increase was in 2016.

Supv. Tomesh moved TO AMEND REST HAVEN CEMETERY FEES EFFECTIVE 2024. The motion was seconded by Supv. Rolbiecki.

Aye 4 Nye 0

Administrator's Report:

The S. Lowes Creek bridge maintenance project was completed in one day and under the anticipated cost. Our road crew and American Express did a remarkable job.

The building addition project in near completion. The interior walls will be skim coated and painted with a portion of the cost will be paid by the Town; however the general contractor and the sub who did the brick work will bear the majority of the cost. The exterior brick also needs to be sealed. There is legislation regarding an ETJ bill that the WTA is promoting that is favorable for towns. 2 letters sent regarding garbage at curb on Beverly Hills Drive.
1 letter sent regarding lawn not mowed on Corona Avenue.

Chairman's Report:

Spoke at the American Legion District meeting in Brackett on September 16.
Attended Emergency Management training in August.
Thanked the road crew for all their work.

Supervisor's Report:

Supv. Mueller asked about broadband timeline.
Supv. Rolbiecki has received several calls about the broadband fiber timeline. Calls regarding speed limit on the corner of Peuse and Walnut.

Future Zoning Requests:

None

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:

None

Adjournment:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 19, 2023
AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
5750 OLD TOWN HALL ROAD, EAU CLAIRE

Jackie Vold
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Attendance: Matt Michels, Angie Bowe