

**MINUTES FROM THE TOWN OF LEON MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
LEON TOWN HALL, PINE RIVER
7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Sorenson.

2. ROLL CALL, AUDIENCE PRESENT

Present: Supervisor Heise, Supervisor Engel, Treasurer Christy Groskreutz, and Clerk Cindi Gotthart. Audience: Gary Lawrence, Liz Page, Gail and Carter Timm, Mark Piechowski, Mike Getchius, Joe Horvath, Linda Forsyth, Karen Syverson, Adell Jewell, Lois Jewell, Brier Golz, Joshua Macijewski, Jane and Lewis McBriar.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM JULY 13, 2022 SPECIAL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEEING

Motion by Engel, second by Heise to approve the July 13, 2022 minutes from the Special Board meeting and the Regular Board Meeting as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Groskreutz gave the treasurer's report from July, 2022.

General Fund BOM balance is \$135,480.19, and EOM balance = \$106,937.02 Interest for the month=\$42.97.

Cemetery Fund balance = \$4,487.50.

Dam Fund balance = \$2,314.06.

Pine River Community Park balance = \$14,895.03.

Pine River Restoration Fund balance = \$29,487.27.

Poy Sippi Fire Dept. Retirement Fund balance = \$10,000.00

Poy Sippi Truck Fund balance = \$17,191.33

American Rescue Fund balance = The payment of \$27,089.04 was reversed and put back to gen fund for roadwork, for an EOM bal= \$151,478.70.

Road Work Expenses = \$96,253.43.

Library \$12,047.89.

Motion by Heise, second by Engel to approve the treasurer's report as presented, but to hold the \$98,584.00 payment to Scott's Construction until adequate funds are deposited from the August Tax Settlement. All ayes, motion carried.

Chair Chris Sorenson will contact Steve at Scott's Construction and let him know this.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

Roadside mowing is not completed yet. Suggestion to use the Restoration money to add Air Conditioning to the Town Hall as well as an electric upgrade. Sorenson said there a few other projects that need to be done on the outside as well.

6. ROAD REPORT – FOLLOW-UP ON ROAD COSTS

Scott Construction finished the chip sealing. The shared joint roads repair has been done in Mt. Morris and the Town. The shoulder work on Buttercup has not been done yet.

7. DISCUSS, CONFIRM, APPROVE NOT-TO-EXCEED COST FOR FLAG FIRE SIGNS TO BE PURCHASED FROM WAUSHARA COUNTY FROM ARPA MONEY – SUPERVISOR HEISE

Sorenson said that the \$11,000 for the fire sign estimate from Waushara County is only to put up the flag fire signs, and includes labor and equipment, but it will be determined on the list of how many signs are needed. Carl, from the County will have to go around and see what signs are needed. There will not be duplicates signs.

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8. DISCUSS/APPROVE CLARIFY WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TREE REMOVAL FROM STORM DAMAGE, OR OTHER DAMAGE, IN ROADWAY OR DITCHES

Chair Sorenson said that from his research with the Wisconsin Town's Association (WTA), the responsibility for tree and brush removal is that of the property owner. The law does allow for the Town to do the removal/clean-up and bill the property owner, but so far, they have not done this.

Horvath offered that the Town Board members doing the tree removal results in an impact to others that may want to run for Town board, but won't if they are being relied upon to do tree and brush cleanup. He would like the board to consider finding a better way to handle the clean-up and emergency removals. He understands that it will cost more money but he feels that it is something to be looked at. He thanked the Board for doing this work.

Sorenson said there are options, each municipality can handle this type of thing differently. Property owners could hire the work to be done. Audience members wondered if perhaps there could be a place designated for people to take the tree and brush? Sorenson said it would be feasible if a site could be found for this. Getchius indicated that the north Pearl Lake Rd. area has some tree and brush problems. Lawrence thanked the Board for all they do for the Town.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. DISCUSS/APPROVE REPORTING OF COSTS AND WAUSHARA COUNTY EMERGENCY FUNDING AS A RESULT OF STORM DAMAGE FROM JUNE 15, 2022

Chair Sorenson will submit the costs accumulated for remediation of the June 15, 2022 storm damage by individuals, both Poy Sippi and Redgranite Area Fire Departments, along with expenses from service providers. Gabe's gave an estimated quote of \$67,000 to clean up tree and brush on numerous roads. The submission is due to the State by August 15, 2022.

b. COMPLETE WAUSHARA COUNTY NATURAL HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS & MITIGATION QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY - FROM ALLEN LUCHINI, WAUSHARA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chair Sorenson indicated that he has filled out similar surveys from the county in the past. He will fill this one out as well and submit it to the county. This survey needs to be submitted if the Town wants to qualify for future grant funding.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. REVIEW AND APPROVE WEB PAGE DESIGN

Liz Page gave a presentation on the Town's new web page. It will go live as soon as the Board approves it. She had taken pictures, imported maps and provided links to Laura to put on the web page. Clerk Gotthart has assisted in providing some information for the site. Sorenson wanted to know if the web site would provide information on how many "hits" the site gets to determine if it is being used. There was also a suggestion to provide a link to the Pearl Lake Association or Pearl Lake Restoration District, which is a public link.

Motion by Engel, second by Heise to approve the web site for the Town of Leon and to have it go on-line on Thursday, August 11, 2022. All ayes, motion carried.

The name of the web site is: **townleon.com**

11. REDGRANITE AREA FIRE DISTRICT REPORT

Supervisor Heise said there was no fire department meeting in July.

12. ZONING LETTERS

Chair Sorenson reviewed various zoning letters and notifications to property owners from the County. No action taken.

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13. CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Gotthart reported that the election turnout for August 9 was 384 voters. There were some issue with the voting machine creating paper jams, but the polls workers took care of it and at the end of the day, the count matched.

Also, she handed out a revised Annual Report to replace the previous one from April 2022.

14. DISCUSS/APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/EXPENSES

Motion by Heise, second by Engel to approve the bills as presented, but to hold the check for \$98,584.00 to Scott's Construction until the August Tax Settlement payment is received this month, and to void checks # 9996 and #9997, 2% Fire Dues payable to Poy Sippi and Redgranite Fire Department, until the amounts are recalculated, using the 2020 budget to determine the 2021 payment and the 2021 budget to determine the 2022 payment. Noting that the 2021 payment was flipped and the dollar amount paid was incorrect. All ayes, motion carried.

15. ACCEPT RETIREMENT OF CLERK GOTTHART, AUGUST 31, 2022, AND AGREEMENT TO ASSIST IN TRANSITION AND TRAINING OF CLERK'S POSITION

Motion by Engel, second by Heise to accept Clerk Cindi Gotthart's retirement resignation, effective August 31, 2022, with the agreement to keep her as an employee, for the month of September, to help train the new clerk, with the board to review the status of the training at the end of September. All ayes, motion carried. Sorenson thanked Gotthart for her work with the Town.

16. DISCUSS/APPROVE HIRING OF LOIS JEWELL AS THE NEW TOWN CLERK

Motion by Heise, second by Engel to hire Lois Jewell as the new clerk for the Town of Leon, effective September 1, 2022, and to pay her wage for all of August, with the wage being the current \$8,000 a year, as she will be training and doing work while she is in training, and to review the position in 6 months from September 1st. All ayes, motion carried.

17. REGULAR MEETING CONCLUDES; CONTINUE DISCUSSION/APPROVALS WITH ATV/UTV COMMITTEE, REVIEW REVISED PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2022-05

Treasurer Groskreutz left the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Liz Page gave the committee/board information on the number of entrance signs the Town would need to mark on the Town roads for the ATV, UTV trails, which is 17; 16 Town and 1 County. She had contacted Brian Freimark, Waushara County Highway Commissioner, with a list of roads for Town entrances, along with County Roads with 35mph or less speed limits, and County Road entrances under County Jurisdiction.

Brian responded that an ordinance for the ATV/UTV is only for Town Roads, he would need to have more research done for County Roads below 35 mph, and other roads would need to be approved by the County Board. Any signs placed on County roads will be installed by the County following MUTCD guidelines. Leon has a 35 mph exception with County E on the north side of Pine River. We will also have to address how many ATV/UTV Route ends signs are needed. Previously, the sign were \$125 per sign installed, but the County will have to review their cost as sign material have increased.

Liz believes that the Town should wait on the adoption of Ordinance 2022-05 until we know more on the 35 mph issue, and why include trails in the ordinance, when the Town doesn't have any trails? Others didn't think there was any reason to wait. Sorenson reminded all that the first step is to approve the ordinance.

Motion by committee member Golz, second by committee member L. McBriar to recommend to the board that it accept the proposed ordinance 2022-05, ATV/UTV Operation within the Limits of the Town of Leon, as it is presented, with the knowledge it will be reviewed by legal counsel. Voice vote, all ayes, with Liz Page opposing, motion carried.

Motion by Engel, second by Heise to approve and accept the committee's recommendation to adopt Ordinance 2022-05 ATV/UTV Operation within the Limits of the Town of Leon, as is presented, with it to be reviewed by legal counsel. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

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18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heise, second by Engel to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Clerk Cindi Gotthart