

Town of Otter Creek – October 10, 2023
Otter Creek Town Hall – E5905 County Road S, Wheeler WI
Regular Town Board Meeting – 7 p.m.

Attendees:

Chair LeAnn Ralph*

Supervisor 1 Cecil Hayes*

Supervisor 2 Bob Bernier*

Clerk/Treasurer Roberta Preston

Outgoing Clerk/Treasurer Bev Bernier

Patrolman Gary Anderson

Guests, Jon Robinson, Lori Sudbrink, Bruce Snyder

*Board Members

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday October 10, 2023. Meeting minutes from the 9/12/2023 Regular Board Meeting were not read by Clerk as Ralph and Bob Bernier reviewed the minutes prior to tonight's meeting and agreed that the minutes did not need to be read. Hayes motioned to approve the 9/12/2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented; Bernier seconded. MC.

Public Comments – Jon Robinson cited a statue which allows him to record the meeting, which he did. Stated people are using his driveway to turn around and also had other concerns regarding the leasers who hunt his property.

Set date for Budget Meeting; Special Town Board meeting to adopt the 2023 tax levy to be paid in 2024; Regular Town Board Meeting (November 14th) - Hayes motioned to approve, and Bernier Seconded. MC.

Discussion and possible action on 710th Street repair for logging truck damage and cost of Senn Blacktop and Otter Creek patrolman hauling rock. Chair talked to subcontractor and Curt Hakes, damage to north side, they tried to fix with a skid steer and didn't help. Ralph thinks we need to fix regardless but do we want to foot the cost of the hauling rock and patrolman pay. Landowner should be responsible Stolts, Doug Aspen, Jerrad. Loggers/owners responsibility. Hayes motioned to approve to cut our bill in half for rock and patrolman. Seconded by Bernier. Total of \$750 MC.

Mold board discussion and possible action on moldboard for the Otter Creek grader Gary made a phone call on a price, looking for hopefully used. Ours is bent, continues to get worse. Wears in the middle of the blade, not across the blade. Ralph looked online for new for \$8k to \$10k. Need to be sure if the hardware is included. Gary will keep trying to get estimates.

Tree Removal Discussion and possible action on payment procedure for residents removing downed trees. Question received from resident taking care of downed trees that were cleared last winter. If township doesn't receive a call from the Sheriff's office, then we don't pay. If the Sheriff contacts the township, we would consider. If we have a storm or township receives call from Sheriff we will consider. Review will be after the fact for circumstances and any approved payment. The town board also discussed, and clarified, that the Town of Otter Creek will not pay landowners for removing their own trees that fall in the road from the landowner's land. By state law, the trees belong to them, and it is up to the landowner to decide how to dispose of the wood and whether they want to keep it for their own purposes. Bernier makes a motion to approve to only pay for trees that are down once a Sheriff's call is received to the township. Hayes seconds. MC

Tree Service Discussion and possible action on hiring a tree service for tree limbs that are too large for the patrolman to cut. Low branches that are hanging down. Worried with snow that these will fall. Also there is a concern that the branches that are hanging out over the road, will crack or break a window or mirror on the town truck. Chair will get quotes.

Special Assessment Requests –

- Seller: Estate of Gerald L Goetzinger, County Road S, Wheeler
Buyer: Schmidt

Dunn County Humane Society Contract 2024 – 2023 increase of \$25 per year

Dunn County Treasurer Agreement to collect real estate & personal property taxes for Otter Creek – 2023 fee of \$2.35/tax bill, Ralph motioned to accept agreement, Hayes seconds. MC

Land division- Mary Owen- 5 acres w/o ROW

Address issued to N11889 COUNTY ROAD SS, WHEELER WI- Corey & Linda Carlson

Email regarding WTA TRI Program- Otter Creek not in rotation for 24-25

General Transportation Aid Estimate of \$111,055.08

Dunn County transitioning from GIS to Beacon- expected to be live in November

Township map available for \$200, may not be accurate by the time we receive it. No action.

Brandon Biddle culvert damage on 730th Street. Biddle called the town chair to say someone had damaged his new culvert and crushed the end of the culvert. Biddle also said it looked as though someone had used a skid steer to smooth out the end of his driveway after the culvert had been damaged. He wondered if the patrolman had been working on 730th. Ralph informed him the town no longer owns a skid steer, so it would not have been the town patrolman Ralph advised him to report the damage to the Dunn County Sherriff's Department. Biddle was able to straighten out the end of the culvert so it will still work to drain water.

Fence encroachment—town right of way. State law indicates the town has a legal obligation to remove highway encroachments in the town right-of-way. Town right-of-way, by state law is 66 feet or 33 feet from the center of the road (or described as 4 rods – which is 66 feet) If the town has a right-of-way that the town has been maintaining for years, and then a landowner builds a fence next week, for example, the town has a legal obligation to remove that encroachment from the right-of-way. State law stipulates the process. If, however, there has been a fence in the right-of-way for decades, and the town has not been maintaining the right-of-way beyond the fence, the town's right of way extends only to the fence.

Town property-Review and possible action on charges to recipients of town property. If something is surplus and we're selling it they should pick it up. No action.

Bartender licenses issued 9/21 Amber Moen, Mary Flatland, Elizabeth Harshman, Tonia Wirth, Bernier motioned to approve licenses, Ralph seconds. Motion carries.

Updates from Fred Weber –

- 9/20/2023 Ron Kitchner Electrical and Footing Passed

Road Work/Equipment- Need tires for front of backhoe. \$432.58/per tire-Titan 2 Contractors vs \$531.25/Firestone Radial. Gary would like Radials because he uses it a lot in the snow and they would work better on ice. Radials work better on the road, off road use, use Titan. Wear out one set of front tires to every 3 sets of rear tires. They're over 2 years old currently. Through Days Tire. Ralph motioned to approve the \$531.25 Radial tires + mounting of the tires, Bernier seconds. MC. Need more salt sand. Had carry over last years. Minimum 240 ton last year was 280-300 Ralph says Brent ordered 400. Start being mixed in October ready to go the 16th. Sitting good on tires for next year.

Auditing of bills for payment – bills circulated and approved by the Town Board.

Review Treasurer's Report – Motion by Bernier to accept the treasurer's report, second by Ralph. MC.

Any other business – Dead end sign needed at 765th-1090th due to ambulance getting rerouted. Fire district meeting on Thursday, then we will know what the assessment is for 2024.

Clerk reviewed the finances.	Equipment Account -	\$61,092.57
	Tax Account -	\$48,163.50
	Checking Account -	<u>\$63,313.25</u>
	Total of all accounts	\$172,569.32

ADJOURN - Ralph moved to adjourn the monthly meeting, second by Bernier. MC. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Roberta Preston, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

Gary Anderson – 715-658-1483;

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336;

Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310;

Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Roberta Preston – 715-382-3630;

Town Shop - 715-658-1319;