

Town of Otter Creek – February 13, 2024
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 Bev Bernier

Patrolman Gary Anderson

Guests, Chuck Boyer, Paul Flatland, Pat Sand

*Board Members

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 13, 2024. Meeting minutes from the 1/9/2024 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 1/9/2024 Meeting minutes as presented, Ralph second, MC.

Public Comments – Paul Flatland – would like to have an ATV discussion for next month regarding 1180th. Main concern, either way from his house is a mile to get to an approved route. Going to Woodwind Park, there is access from other townships, not Town of Otter Creek. To get to S is 1 ½ mile, 1 mile to Wilson township. This will be an agenda item for the March, 2024 regular board meeting. Board to discuss at the March meeting that a review will be done on a yearly basis going forward.

Pat Sand – anything on County passing ADU. County is working on this for Spring construction season.

Communication from Town Chair –

- 1/17/2024 Webinar - 6 – 20 foot culvert inventory and assessment program
- 1/29/2024 Webinar - Town Focused 6 to 20 Foot Culvert Webinar
- Reminder of ATV/UTV operator requirements – communication with Colfax School District

Town Chair has been in 3 webinars. Culverts take up 6' 1" to 20' road span. Has to be squared. We have 6 culverts. Chair and patrolman will take the culvert inventory and submit to the County. We will submit the form stating the Town of Otter Creek will conduct their own inventory of culverts.

Todd Sinz, mailboxes close to road (Kragness and Anderson). Call from Dan Larson – S & 990th corner Larson had question on 990th driveway access. Had a call from the WTA regarding ag weight limit.

Discussion and possible action on culvert inventory -- proposal for town patrolman and town chair to complete the inventory. Decision due by April 15, 2024, and must submit form to Wisconsin Towns Association and county highway commissioner. Inventory must be complete by December 31, 2024. Motion by Hayes to submit the form that the Town of Otter Creek will submit the inventory, second by Ralph, MC. Clerk will submit the completed form to WTA and Dustin Binder, DC Highway Commissioner.

Communication from Town Supervisors; Hayes got a call on burning permit. Patriot group invited all the town board members to patriot meeting, had 12 people come. There are 29 county board members.

Bernier signed a driveway permit for logging for the Riesdorf logging. He had a question on everyone needing a driveway permit. In the summer, with road bans off, does he just phone patrolman or chair. If logger had a permit, but needed extension, that is acceptable.

Clerk communication –

- 1) timber cutting permit Zaffiro, LLC, off Hwy 64 next to Dean Naber, access to 64 – no town road access.

- 2) Sampson Funeral Home asked if the Sieger family had 4 burial sites at the Otter Creek Cemetery. They purchased and used 3. If they need more, they can purchase a site for \$250 on either side of the existing graves, or if they have cremains in the future, they can bury on top of existing gravesite.
- 3) Rural Mutual – Reduction of coverage notice – exclusion for existing damage, exclusion for cosmetic damage, update to legal action against property loss, from 2 year to 1 year
- 4) Delinquent personal property tax \$16.06 for Dish Network, Englewood CO – need to collect. Clerk will send tax notice with interest and penalty.
- 5) January 2024 Colfax Rescue Report – 19.6% of the calls for Otter Creek

Assessor - Discussion and possible action on Assessment Proposal and Assessment Contract from Tamarack Springs Assessing, LLC. Clerk to gather more information. Motion to table action until the March meeting by Hayes, Bernier second, MC.

Fuel - Review of fuel contracting for Fieldmaster or Roadmaster from 4/1/24 to 11/30/24 at the rate of \$2.98900 (add \$.553 for on-road taxes). Completed and sent in.

ATV/UTV - Review and possible approval of ATV/UTV Ordinance 02-13-24-01 update to include opening 670th Street from County Hwy S, south to 1090th Ave, for designation as an ATV route. Motion by Hayes to table the ATV/UTV Ordinance update until the March meeting, Bernier second, MC.

Referendum - Boyceville \$18,000,000 referendum for April 2, 2024 ballot. Infrastructure for updates to school buildings, no affect on the mill rate. This will replace the previous debt which is expiring.

Manual - Review and possible approval of Town of Otter Creek Employee Manual revisions. Hayes motion to approve the changes to reflect the changes in the workweek and comp time, Bernier second, MC.

MFL – Chris Apelgren – change 140 acres open MFL to closed

Special Assessment requests:

- Wigdahl (990th Ave)/Cascade Horizon Properties, LLC D/B/A LandHaven Equity Properties (sm strip)
- Goetzinger/Dahlberg, N11267 County Rd S, Wheeler

Weber Inspections December report – none.

Roads - Review and possible approval of road paving bid ad. Discuss 5-year road plan. Bernier made a Motion to approve the 2024 request for bids, second by Hayes. MC. Motion by Bernier to open the request for bid discussion. Bernier made a Motion to approve the modified request for bids, Hayes second, MC. The 5- year road plan was presented by the patrolman. Comments on roads presented by the Board.

Transfer - Review and possible approval of transfer of \$12,500 from checking account to equipment fund. Motion by Hayes to table the discussion until after the bids come in for the road project, Bernier second, MC.

WTA District Meetings – March 18 and March 19 (BOR) – virtual – Chair to attend \$65.

WTA District Meetings – March 2, 2024 (Saturday) – Clerk to attend in-person/Eau Claire \$65.

Upcoming dates:

- 4/1/2024 – deadline to request dog licenses/tags, review start of road bans
- 4/2/2024 Spring Election
- 4/16/2024 Annual Town Mtg, Monthly Board Mtg, review road bids, schedule Spring road insp.

- 5/28/2024 Open Book – 1 pm to 3 pm
- 6/11/2024 Board of Review & Reg Brd Mtg

LP Gas fill in March, currently at 40%;

Rural Mutual WC audit due 3/24/24;

Patrolman report of road work/equipment. Brushing done except for small portion, did 693rd, working on the mower for next summer, beefing it up, deck OK, putting carbide edge on, building a hitch. Got the torch back. Graded roads. Did some patching with reground blacktop on a 50-degree day. Going to doctor to see if/when they replace right hip. Faron is available for backup as needed. Want to put all new hydraulic hoses on the mower. He has done all the rest of repair needed, so new hoses may cost about \$500. Bernier motion to replace hydraulic hoses on the mower, Hayes second, MC.

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

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

Any other business – none.

Clerk reviewed the finances.	Equipment Account -	\$61,420.95
	Tax Account -	\$420,148.26
	Checking Account -	<u>\$49,617.63</u>
	Total of all accounts	\$531,186.84

ADJOURN - Ralph moved to adjourn the monthly meeting, Bernier second, MC. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

Gary Anderson – 715-658-1483;

Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310;

Bev Bernier – 715-658-0131;

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336;

Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Town Shop - 715-658-1319;