Town Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: 2800 Ward Ave, La Crosse, WI 54601

**Town Officials Present:** Chairperson Tim Candahl, Supervisors Renee Knutson, Tim Ehler and Marlene Heal, Fire Chief Tony Holinka, Clerk Fortune Berg, Sanitary District President Kurt Knutson, Sanitary District Commissioner Robert Lynn, and Administrator/Treasurer Christina Peterson.

**Town Officials Excused:** Supervisor Tim Padesky.

**Attendance List:** None.

1. **Town Board Meeting called to order by Chairperson Candahl at 5 p.m.**

2. **Approve Minutes from 8/8/2023 and 8/9/2023.** Motion by Ehler to approve minutes from 8/8/2023 and 8/9/2023 with proposed changes to 13, second by Knutson. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Bills Payable.** Motion by Heal to pay open invoices in the amount of $254,975.60, second by Ehler. Motion by Heal, second by Knutson to approve paid invoices in the amount of $17,304.50. Motion by Heal, second by Ehler to approve changes to paid invoices from 7/12/2023-8/4/2023 in the amount of $92,872.15 ($30,051.50 difference). Motions carried unanimously.

4. **Citizen’s Concerns.** None.

5. **Fire Department Report.** Holinka reported the department has responded to 285 calls in 2023. Holinka stated the department is well staffed, four members ending their probationary term, meaning they have completed additional classes and training and now can run internal calls, assist with mutual aid calls, and participate in additional department trainings. Holinka will be attending a demonstration hosted by La Crosse Emergency Management on the RAVE system. RAVE will allow municipalities to contact large numbers of people through text messages during an emergency similar to an Amber Alert. WisDOT checkups on Engine 3 and Rescue 2 were done this week. Rescue 2 did not pass due to multiple minor issues that need to be addressed. Engine 3 is not yet finished. Holinka gave a brief overview of minor issues and will get a quote for repairs. Holinka noted some changes in the home-based first responders for the department. Peterson and Holinka will ensure the town has all necessary information for insurance purposes. Peterson added that the 2019 Ford F150 Police Squad Truck will be transitioned to a first responder vehicle and the First Responder 2014 Ford Explorer will be transitioned to a town vehicle for town related travel (i.e., trainings, etc.).

6. **Backhoe Purchase (Proposed for 2024 Budget, Order in 2023).** Quotes received for a John Deere and a CASE. Peterson noted that Public Works recommends the John Deere backhoe. Heal asked how the budget will reflect this, Peterson noted the backhoe will not be ready until January and the price will be held until January, so it will be reflected in next year’s purchases. Motion by Knutson to purchase John Deere Backhoe, second by Ehler. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Deputy Treasurer Position – Melissa Erdman.** Peterson noted Melissa accepted the position and her start date is September 7th, 2023.

8. **Administrator & Public Works Report.**
   a. Peterson stated Public Works finished prepping Skyline Road (off MM).
   b. Peterson Reported that Scott Construction may be delayed and will begin work first in Greenwald Coulee and then move to Skyline Road.
c. Peterson reported the crew is currently working on Bloomer Mill Road culverts.
d. Peterson reported that Public Works is getting quotes for a mower which was budgeted for 2023.
e. Peterson stated after Bloomer Mill Road, Public Works will begin culvert/ditch work on Hoeth Street.
f. Peterson will start notifying the board about significant permits such as new homes.
g. Since the passing of the ordinance at the last meeting, Candahl and Peterson went to look into complaints and concerns that are enforceable by the town. No violations found, another opportunity to look at ordinances that need to be updated and/or adopted by the town.
h. Peterson met with La Crosse County Administrator:
   i. Discussed Law Enforcement options; La Crosse County will send the first draft of an agreement to contract law enforcement. This may appear on the next agenda. The board will be looking at the basic terms and intent to see if the town should move forward.
   ii. Peterson officially submitted the request from Shelby Ball to expand the fields.
   iii. Peterson expressed interest in St. Joe’s garage to the County Administrator. The towns of Greenfield and Shelby are potentially interested in purchasing the building together. Peterson reminded the board the town is currently using that building for storage.
   iv. Peterson asked the County Administrator about potential for general budget requests to La Crosse County. La Crosse County wants the funding requests to have a connection to a county property or program. For example, maybe a funding request could be submitted for Shelby Ball or Goose Island.
   i. Peterson reminded the board about the Informational Meeting for Arbor Hills residents on Thursday, August 24, Peterson encouraged the board to attend.
   j. Peterson added that Thursday, August 24 is also the WTA picnic and meeting, in Greenfield.
   k. Peterson noted the next Budget Meeting will take place at the September 5th meeting and will begin at 5:00 p.m.
   l. Peterson noted that the board will resume meeting twice a month until further notice.
m. Peterson provided copies of the audit. The board does not need to approve, they provide a good basis for the end of 2022 and will be useful during discussions on the end of 2023 and planning for 2024.

9. Chairperson/Supervisor Reports.
   a. Candahl stated highway fund just got approved for sidewalk from Onalaska to West Salem and wants to inquire about the project for a sidewalk on Highway 14. Discussion on sidewalk projects and separate funding to cover the cost share.
   b. Candahl reported on unhoused persons living in Shelby, discussion on advice and involvement from other agencies.
   c. Candahl noted a potential tavern being built on Highway 35 (old location of La Crosse Diesel) and shared concerns from residents about drainage in the area being affected by construction on the property.
   d. Candahl shared a concern from a resident on Red Oaks Drive about signage and a rundown building in the area.
10. **Closed Session.** Motion by Heal to go into closed session at 5:40 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g) for conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, related to the Sewer, Boundary, and Revenue Sharing Agreements, second by Knutson. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Open Session.** Motion by Ehler to reenter open session at 6:12 p.m., second by Heal. Motion carried unanimously. During closed session the board gave authorization for Attorney Dregne to send letter to the City of La Crosse regarding sewer service area.

12. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. by Heal, second by Knutson. Motion carried unanimously.

Next regular meeting will take place Tuesday, September 5, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Fortune M. Berg, Clerk