

Minutes of the Town of Newbold Town Board Regular Town Board Meeting held on Thursday, April 27, 2023

The Town of Newbold, Town Board, met on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., for the Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting, held at the Newbold Fire Station, 4588 Highway 47, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, Oneida County, Wisconsin. The following were in attendance: Chairman Dan Hess; Supervisors Mike McKenzie, Scott Ridderbusch, Petra Pietrzak and newly appointed Supervisor Bradley White; Kim Gauthier, Clerk and Jodie Hess, Treasurer.

Chairman Dan Hess called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Hess led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and the Clerk verified the agenda was properly noticed to the public.

Public Comment and Communication Period per Wisconsin Statutes whereby the Town Board may receive input on any matter raised by the public. Dan Hess read a letter of thanks to the Fire department for the recent aid to woodland fires in the southern part of Wisconsin.

Approve prior Town Board meeting minutes of April 13, 2023 regular Town Board and Finance Meeting. *Motion by Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Pietrzak to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

Discussion and possible action on appointment of vacant Town Supervisor position. Board discussion on options of filling the vacant supervisor position held by the newly elected Chairman Dan Hess. Either request letters of interest or go by the recent election resulting in Bradley White the next highest voted candidate.

Motion by Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Pietrzak to bring Brad White on in the vacant position. Voice vote carried on five ayes including the Clerk (in absence of the fifth board member).

Discussion and possible action on Pelican River Forest easement presentation. Chairman Hess allowed Joe Steinhage to speak on behalf of the group representing the matter along with various others. The proposal, as presented by Clint Miller property owner and conservation fund member includes a phase approach of obtaining a conservation easement from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund along with matching funds for purchase of the 56,000 acre forest with established easement from the Forest Legacy Funds. Seven public individuals spoke in favor of obtaining the easement in the Town of Monico. Chairman Hess comments related to those counties and towns affected should be weighing in on the matter, not the Town of Newbold. Other board members discussed understanding both sides of the issue, agreement with Mr. Hess and concern of giving up the land for consideration of future generations. No action taken.

Discussion and action on Town Building Project, Updates and any other building project matters. Chairman Hess reported that former building footings were mistakenly destroyed and the project will be set back one or two weeks due to the error. No change in cost to the town.

Discussion and possible action or update on Fundraising Activity for the Town Hall construction project. No change in fundraising activity. Further discussion at the next meeting.

Monthly District Library Report by Newbold Representative(s). Representatives Ruth Jaeger was present and provided a written report of budget information, programs, statistics and building committee update. It was noted new board member from Pelican is Nancy Sattler and new member from the school system is Colleen Wendt. Wisconsin State Park day passes will be available for check out starting in May from the Friends of WI State Parks.

Monthly County Board of Supervisors Report by Newbold representative(s). Mr. Roach and Mr. Winkler present. Mr. Roach commented on work being done on Chapter 9 of the shoreland zoning ordinance and his position on the land easement matter presented as land should not be “locked up”. Mr. Winkler spoke on his involvement with the conservation and social service committees, workforce development issues and needs for skilled labor and childcare in the county. He also mentioned available PACE funding for small business energy assistance.

Monthly report of Terrestrial Invasive Species activity by Newbold representative and WHIP. Absent and excused.

Discuss and action on Oneida County Zoning Requests, Plan Commission and Citizen Zoning Request, if any along with Plan Commission Chairman’s Report.

Discussion and action on administrative review permit application of GPS, Inc., owner of Blue Sky Storage of St. Germain to expand the existing commercial storage rental facility that includes the construction of four (4) new storage buildings on the following described property; Part of the NW fractional ¼, Section 3, T39N, R8E, PIN #NE-952-9, at 6347 State Highway 70, Town of Newbold. Chairman Hess noted the commission reviewed this permit application in April, however no action taken by the board due to the notice language. *Motion by Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Pietrzak to approve the permit application with the eight conditions set by the county. Motion carried on a voice vote of all aye. Mr. Ridderbusch abstained.*

Discussion and action on Town Plan Commission Member appointments. Dan Hess announced his intent to chair the plan commission for the remaining term Mr. Sueflohn resigned. *Motion to appoint Jeff Pennucci to another three year term by Mr. McKenzie and Mr. White. Motion carried voice vote all aye. Motion to appoint Dan Chronister, Sr. to another three year term by Mr. Ridderbusch and Mr. White. Motion carried on a voice vote of all aye. Motion to appoint Scott Ridderbusch to the three year term in the vacant commission position. Motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.* Question raised if there was a conflict with Mr. Ridderbusch’ work at the county zoning department. Mr. Ridderbusch indicated the county zoning director has no issue.

Discussion and action on Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan as it relates to the town portion.

Mrs. Gauthier discussed the review process of the plan every five years, noting the last review was done by the former town outdoor recreation committee. Mrs. Gauthier recommends based on previous involvement and citizen input that Fredericks Landing be added to the document, as previously discussed striking the pickle ball court consideration since the city of Rhinelander has provided for this activity. Mrs. Gauthier did not recommend striking the proposal of upgrades to the bike trail and possible expansion, as she believes it has always been the intent the town would consider the Newbold bike trail along Hwy 47 would possibly extend into Lake Tomahawk someday. *Motion by Mr. Ridderbusch and Ms. Pietrzak to add Fredericks Landing to the outdoor recreation plan, strike development of pickle ball courts and leave the remaining items as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.* The clerk will forward the changes on to North Central Regional Planning.

Approval and payment of any bills and/or funds adjustments. *Motion by Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Ridderbusch to approve bills as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

Administrative review and action, if necessary, concerning general government, public safety, recycling, sanitation, culture, education, job assignments, project updates, transportation, budget items, fund transfers, and future agenda items.

Regular board meeting and finance meeting set for May 11, 2023. Agenda items must be to the Clerk by the Friday before the next meeting to allow ample time for her to post the agenda.

Public Comment and Communication Period per Wisconsin Statutes whereby the Town Board may receive input on any matter raised by the public.

Comment by Eric Rempala asked that the board keep an eye on what the county does with the Pelican River Forest easement and give input to the county representatives.

Comment by Robert Kraetsch the Wisconsin Census data indicates 43% of housing in the town is vacant and 30% of the county is made up of lakes and rivers. Newbold is not an island unto itself and decisions affect the county as a whole.

Comment by Joe Steinhage, he believes there are some false statements being made about federal, state and county land, as 18% is public and 10% is water with 80% taxable land. He does not believe land value will go down with the proposal.

Adjournment at 8:20 p.m., with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Gauthier, Town Clerk