

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting of the Township of Spring Green

Proceedings of the Town of Spring Green Regular Board Meeting, held at 7:00 pm on December 7, 2017 at the Town Hall located at E4411 Kennedy Road, Spring Green, Wisconsin:

1. **Call to Order:** Kevin Lins, Town Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Legal Posting:** Kevin Lins, Town Chairperson certified compliance with the open meeting law.
3. **Roll Call:** Members present were Chairperson Kevin Lins, Supervisor Dave Radel, Supervisor Carla Carmody and Treasurer Karen Shelton. Clerk Jenny Pappas was absent. Also present were: Brad Haas, Marian Copus, Louis Weston, Kolby Hirth and Fred Iausly.
4. **Adopt Agenda:** Radel moved and Carmody seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
5. **Minutes:** Carmody moved and Radel seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, November 16, 2017 Public Hearing and November 16, 2017 Town Electors Meeting.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Shelton presented the November Treasurer's Report with had a beginning balance of \$344,262.38, with receipts of \$195,109.22 and disbursements of \$26,072.66 for an ending balance of \$513,298.94. Radel moved and Carmody seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.
7. **Monthly Bills/Invoices:** Radel moved and Carmody seconded to approve the monthly/invoices for payment as presented. Motion carried.

8. **Chairperson & Supervisors Reports:**

Chairperson's report/Kevin Lins:

- November 3rd Received an email from Sauk County Treasurer Elizabeth Geoghagen informing me that the County "Property & Insurance Committee voted to sell the property to the Town of Spring Green for cost (what we have in it)". This refers to delinquent tax parcel 032-0411-00000 in the Wismar Forest subdivision. This on the agenda for later.
- November 6th Sent a revised contract with TACS (Town and Country Sanitation) to Jenny with the latest changes approved at our November board meeting. Jenny then sent this out for them to sign and return with an updated insurance certificate.
- November 7th I signed the updated contract with TACS and left on Jenny's desk for her to attest. When Jenny signed and returned the contract, we gave the go ahead for TACS to notify the residents of the change in pick up dates for garbage and recycling and also the delivery of the new recycling totes. The start date was November 28th.
- November 8th Attended the JEZC meeting at the Village Hall and substituted for Fred.
- November 9th Received an email from Jenny Erickson, Sauk County UW-Extension Community Development Educator, containing a draft broadband needs survey and cover letter that will be mailed to all residents in the Village and Town of Spring Green just after Thanksgiving. I suggested one change which was then incorporated into the final survey. The information gathered through the survey will be included in Reedsburg Utility's application for a PSC broadband expansion grant in early 2018.
- November 9th Attended the SCDC (Sauk County Development Corporation) meeting at Reedsburg.
- November 13th Met with Spring Green Fire District Chief Gunderson at the fire station concerning a recent letter he sent out about a driveway in the township. Later that day I sent an email to Chief Gunderson asking if he was intending to help residents circumvent our driveway ordinance, and if he wasn't, I asked for a revised opinion on what could be done to make the existing driveway safe and efficient.
- November 14th I did the TRIP application online for the next biennium and also changed the project for our previous TRIP grant. I also made corrections to the two year road plan.
- November 16th We had a budget meeting here at the town hall followed by an electors meeting to approve the budget.

- November 17th Received an email from Kathy Butts, legal assistant for Lori Lubinsky, the attorney representing the Town in the Joost lawsuit over the Big Hollow Ditch with the following attachment. (Show attachment)
- November 18th -25th Left for a trip to North Carolina. While there I received a phone call from a resident needing a driveway permit for her and her husband in order to get a permit from Sauk County. I contacted Tracy Johnson who took care of that for them.
- Near the end of November Brad brought the Town's tractor out to the north end of my farm to test the front wheel assist on a hill. Earlier in the year, the tractor failed to engage the front wheel drive while backing up on a hill, so we tried to replicate that to see if we could cause it to happen again and sure enough it did. So Brad has arranged for the tractor to be picked up and checked for that issue along with some other things.
- November 29th I received an email asking me to respond in my chairman's report about an article in the Baraboo News Republic concerning a survey being done in the Village and Town of Spring Green and comments made by a local county supervisor in this article. "Supervisor Dennis Polivka of Spring Green said he was concerned that the main coverage area proposed for the expansion already has plenty of service options available. He said it does not focus on truly rural areas that have limited access. Why would I go for this when it's just going to be for a small area that already has access to the internet, he said. Polivka — who lives in the town of Spring Green — said his home is served by Bug Tussel Wireless, and gets service fast enough to stream online movies while several computers surf the web."

So what is the Village and Town of Spring Green trying to do with the broadband grant application? We are both trying to bring in high-speed broadband internet into an area that is both "underserved" and "unserved". The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines high-speed broadband Internet as a connection with a minimum download of 25 Mbps and 3 Mbps upload. "Unserved" means no connection of that speed is available in the area. "Underserved" means less than two providers service an area which really means only one, with no competition. The combined area of the Village of Spring Green and Town of Spring Green is currently completely "underserved" as there is only one provider currently capable of meeting that standard. Most of the Town of Spring Green is "unserved" as the only high-speed provider, Charter has its only connections close to the Village. I, currently have Bug Tussel's highest speed offered, which is 4 Mbps down and 2 Mbps up. This service is not adequate to stream online movies and have several computers surf the web. If you try it, you will get the little circular "wait" symbol constantly, making all connections so slow as to be unusable. I may be able to stream one movie as long as no one else is using bandwidth and it also depends on the time of day. I am thankful for being able to get that, as my previous provider, Frontier, could only deliver 1.5 Mbps down and 768 Kbps up as a DSL connection. The Town Hall has Bug Tussel as their provider with a 2 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up connection. I tried to upgrade that a year ago, but the signal quality was too weak to allow for it. Wireless internet connections do not work well in areas with a lot of trees, and our Town has many homes surrounded by trees. On November 6th I had WiConnectWireless do a site survey at my house to see if they could provide 10 Mbps download speed, which I was told over the phone was now available in my area. Maximum speed the technician could get was 4.8 Mbps down from the silo on the Verhoef farm (1.9 miles). This was clear line of sight with no obstructions. You can see the antenna cluster with binoculars. He couldn't connect to the silo at the Sprecher farm (2.6 miles). Charter is not available where I live. So this means I live in an area unserved for high-speed broadband along with most of the other residents in the Town of Spring Green. When we (broadband committee) first started looking at ways to extend service to the more rural areas, it became quickly apparent the cost would be too high even with a grant. Even with a smaller goal at startup, our last grant request would have used roughly one third (33%) of the \$1.5 million dollars available. This was listed as one of the reasons our grant was denied. Another reason for denial, is the fact that providers tend to mark out large areas on maps where their service is available, when in reality it is not. The reason for this should be obvious. It is to reduce the possibility of new competition coming into the area. This is the purpose of the survey; to better define the areas that are underserved or unserved. The current round of funding has \$7.5 million dollars available. Our current grant request

amounts to six (6%) of that amount. The highest grant amount awarded in the first round, was eighteen (18%) of the total \$1.5 million dollars available. It costs \$100,000.00 per mile to bury fiber in a residential area and \$25,000.00 per mile to bury fiber in a rural area (costs quoted from Reedsburg Utility). Our township has 62 miles of roads. This is why we are not starting out on all the truly rural areas. Wireless service does not work well in trees, currently has no high-speed options available and has limited speed increase capability do to the wireless specifications. If you have fiber to the home, you will immediately get 100 Mbps down and have 1 Gbps down available immediately for more money. Wireless is just a dream away from getting to that level. Sauk County repeatedly talks about trying to get millennials to either stay or come into the county. Schools are closing because of a lack of students. Millennials don't want to live in an area without high-speed broadband service. Most other people that do live in that area, wished they had high-speed broadband available. . Our current strategy is to get the service started and then use income from that to expand into the farther reaches of the township.

- December 1st Received an email from Kathy Butts, legal assistant for Lori Lubinsky, the attorney representing the Town in the Joost lawsuit over the Big Hollow Ditch with the following documentation. (Showed files Joost_3 first)
- December 4th Went to a broadband meeting here at the town hall to discuss applying for another grant. An updated MOU with the Village and RU needs to be signed for the grant. This is on the agenda for later.
- December 6th Picked up Brad's well tracking report and entered it into the spreadsheet. (showed spreadsheet)

Supervisor report/Dave Radel:

- November 9th Attended Sauk County leadership forum.
- November 17th Received email from a resident upset about the new recycling dumpsters. I was asked if the garbage rate would be reduced because of reduced pickup dates of recyclables. I explained the cost would be the same but Town and Country was holding costs without an increase. I also explained Town and Country was doing this for safety and insurance reasons. I also explained the need for sorting recyclables was greatly reduced. No further reply.
- December 5th Received a call from a gentleman representing Dollar General. He told me they are interested in a parcel of land south of the Round Barn. I explained to him the Town of Spring Green was not governing body for zoning in the area. I referred him to the village of Spring Green.

Supervisor report/Carla Carmody:

- November 9th Attended the Sauk County Development Corporation Meeting in Reedsburg.

Topics covered:

- Workforce Development Study – Ed White
 - Four Goals
 1. Talent retention – work with local education institute with emphasis on Youth Apprenticeships
 2. Talent development – identify and contact high schools and secondary education students
 3. Talent attraction – identify workers and students from small communities outside Sauk County
 4. Place making – provide A-1 workers and consider Sauk County after graduation
- Inspire Madison Region – Paul Jadin
 - Career Cruising – all students must now complete an online portfolio before high school graduation
 - Students can engage with people in these career areas with may not be in the area the student lives
 - Capacity to lure people to your area for work force and have entry level housing
- Place making – Todd Johnson
 - Identify areas of investment for growing the community.
 - Bring people together to make their community special.

- Place making team goes to community and works with them to help establish where and how they want their community to head.
 - November 14th – Attended the Planning Commission Meeting
 - November 16th – Attended the Budget Meeting and Electors Meeting.
9. **Comments from the Public:** Jason Falteisek: He and his wife, both Engineers, bought the Freel property on Highbanks Rd. Before buying the property they were told they could get high speed internet from Frontier. This did not happen. It's been almost 2 years and they have not been able to find a company that can provide high speed internet to them at their location. They are disappointed and are now considering selling their property and moving out of the Township.
- Fred** lausly: River Valley School District his holding their last strategic planning workshop on Dec 18th. He reminded residents this meeting is for the public to attend to help identify the opportunities and challenges for the future of the River Valley School District and encouraged the public to attend.
10. **Reports:**
- a. **Patrolman:** Haas stated he worked on the following in November: Brush cutting, Ditch mowing, Snowplow maintenance and replacement of additional reflective signs.
 - b. **Building Inspector:** Lins reported two (2) permits issued for November: 1) Ed Weidner, Hwy 14, Shed and 2) Mary Peterzak, temporary electrical service
 - c. **Emergency Planning:** No meeting
 - d. **Plan Commission:** lausly reported the following for the month of November: Nov 14th the commission held its regular meeting and discussed how junk would be handled. ATV/UTV route for Hwy G was defined.
 - e. **Extraterritorial Zoning Committee:** November meeting – discussed how to deal with junk, discussed accessory building permits. lausly also stated the attorney's opinion on driveway ordinances was to remove non zoning issues such as septic permits, river way permits, and driveway permits from the zoning ordinance.
 - f. **Fire District:** Radel reported for the month of November. Nov 21st meeting Rhonda Schreiber reported they fire department has received 300 calls to date. Spring Green fire department continues to work closely with Plain Fire department on coverage. Feb 10th and Feb 12th refresher courses will be held. 185 students toured the fire station.
11. Agenda items for discussion and/or action by the Town Board:
- a. **Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of an exception to utilizing the recycling and garbage totes for Peter Livingston and Sharon Stark:** Lins stated Town and Country agreed with Livingston and Stark to allow them to use dark bags for garbage and clear bags for recyclables instead of using their large trash and recycle bins. Cost would be \$5.00/each per month. Carmody made a motion to allow Livingston and Stark to use bags instead of totes for garbage and recycles and to create a list of residence for Town and Country. Radel seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. **Discussion and possible action regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Reedsburg Utility and The Village of Spring Green concerning a Broadband Grant Application:** Lins stated the dates on the grant application will need to be updated to resubmit the application for the next round of grant money. Motion made by Radel to allow Kevin Lins, the Town Chairman to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding with Reedsburg Utility and The Village of Spring Green. Carmody seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. **Discussion/possible action on clearing a portion of the line fence on the west side of the cemetery:** Lins stated his concern over the overgrown trees and branches at the west end of the cemetery. He feels they should be cut down along the fence line and cleaned up with wood chipper. Motion made by Carmody to allow Kevin Lins, Brad Haas and Bill Mertens to clean up the trees along the fence line. Radel seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. **Set date for Special Electors Meeting to discuss lot purchase in the Wismar Forest area:** Lins stated several months ago he received a letter from Sauk County with a list of delinquent property. There was one lot in the Town of Spring Green in the Wismar Forest area on the list. The cost to purchase the property is \$2,263.63 (total delinquent tax amount) if the Town has no intention to sell the property and has an end use for the property. Lins explained that if the Town

bought the property, one option for future use could be a Broadband station. The process to purchase this property is to place a notice in the Home News for 2 weeks for a Special Elector's Meeting and set a date for the meeting. Radel made a motion to recommend to the electors to purchase the delinquent property, legally post the meeting notification and set a date for the Special Elector's Meeting at the Town Hall under class 2 Notice for the purpose of using as possible broadband Community Hub. Notice will be posted in the Home News Dec 13th and Dec 20th with the Special Elector's meeting scheduled for December 28th at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. Lins seconded. Motion carried.

- e. **Discussion/possible action regarding the Town of Spring Green 2018 Budget:** Radel made a motion to formally approve the 2018 operational Budget for Town of Spring Green. Carmody seconded. Motion carried.
 - f. **Discussion/possible action regarding the 2018 Patrolman Agreement:** Carmody made a motion to formally approve the 2018 Patrolman Agreement with change to payout unused vacation time not to exceed 1 year, paid at the current patrolman's hourly rate. Radel seconded. Motion carried.
 - g. **Appoint Election Inspectors for 2018-2019:** Lins stated there were not changes to the election inspectors for 2018-2019. Radel made a motion to reappoint the same people as election inspectors for 2018-2019. Carmody seconded. Motion carried.
12. **Adjourn:** Radel moved and Carmody seconded to adjourn at 8:50pm. Motion carried.