

Town of Somerset
Public Hearing & Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Public Hearing: Chairman Schachtner called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. Present: Rauch, Demulling, Plourde, Germain and Schachtner. The purpose of the public hearing was to address comments and questions regarding the adoption of a new subdivision ordinance. Board discussed covenants, deed restrictions, lot access standards, design standards for common open space, developer's agreement and notification of adjacent landowners. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Demulling to adjourn the public hearing at 7:55 p.m.

September Town Board Meeting: Chairman Schachtner called the Town Board meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Rauch, Demulling, Plourde, Germain and Schachtner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Public input-none. Motion by Germain, seconded by Plourde to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Clerk's & Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Demulling, seconded by Rauch to approve the August 5th, 11th, 12th and 25th Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to approve the August Financial Report. Motion carried.

Animal Control Report: Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to approve the August Animal Control Report. Motion carried.

Building Inspector's Report: Motion by Rauch, seconded by Plourde to approve the August Building Inspector's Report. Motion carried.

Fire/Rescue Commission Report & Internet Invoice: Demulling read a report from Chief Belisle. August resulted in 31 calls; 253 to date in 2009 (260 to date in 2008). FEMA grant for generator is paid and installed; busy with tornado in Town of St. Joseph, no 2008 concert payment so trying to find alternate ways to raise funds. Tom Roy reported five members will be attending a conference. Discussion on invoice for internet. Transportation & Facilities Committee denied payment. Crotty was present to ask for an explanation. Board consensus was the Town is paying 55% of the internet already and is putting in new lights. Motion by Germain, seconded by Demulling to approve the Fire/Rescue Commission Report. Motion carried.

Parks & Rec Committee Report: Germain reported on progress of walking trails and driveway at old dump. Possible name: Parnell Park will be an agenda item for joint meeting on Sept. 30th at Village Hall. Board reviewed Park Fund Grant Guidelines and Donation Request Application. Board consensus was to put an annual application deadline of March 1st with park donations being considered at June meeting. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Rauch to postpone Grant-making Policies and Procedures and Donation Request Application form with modifications. Motion carried. Oct. agenda.

Transportation & Facilities Committee Report-New Hire, Equipment Needs, Road Projects, Pine Lake Project: Schachtner introduced Brian Pinska, the newly hired road maintenance employee. Transportation & Facilities Committee is looking at 2010 possible road projects; replacement of single axle truck, replacement head for mower, PACER ratings and road certification to be completed soon, road crew will attend Winter Safety Seminar in Eau Claire on October 9th. Pine Lake Project-Belisle is requesting \$1,100.00 for extra aggregate. Motion by Germain, seconded by Rauch to approve payment of \$1,100.00 to Belisle Excavating for washed aggregate on the Pine Lake Project. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Report-Northland Surveying/Will & Peggy Grubbs-2 Lot CSM: All Planning Commission concerns have been met concerning driveway over mound system and separation of the driveways shown on map. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to approve the 2 Lot CSM for Will & Peggy Grubbs pending receipt of the Park Fee. Motion carried.

Landmark Surveying/Jack Walsh-1 Lot CSM: Joel Anez presented a 1 Lot CSM for Jack Walsh. Setback lines must be removed from the final map. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to approve the 1 Lot CSM for Jack Walsh with the modifications that setback lines be removed. Motion carried.

New Business-Shannon Hagberg-Request for Donation to Landzkape Teen Center in New Richmond: Hagberg presented information regarding a membership-based teen center to provide programs and activities in an existing building at 240 Wisconsin Drive (2 blocks from Wal-Mart). Schachtner thanked Hagberg for her presentation and stated the Board will take the request into consideration.

Library Funding Update: Rita Lawson introduced Fred Horne, Scott Vrieze (New Richmond Library) and Norma Scott (Somerset Library). Spreadsheets, circulation rates, usage by municipality and budgets were presented with much discussion. Libraries are asking for the County Board to increase the funding formula to 100% for Towns that do not have a library in their municipality. Circulation rates and library usage have increased substantially. Discussion on how libraries benefit the city/villages by bringing income into the businesses. Suggested proposal of a three year, incremental increase in percentage.

Letter from Town of Richmond Regarding Library Taxation Formula & Funding: Letter stated Legislature reviewed the library statute in 2006 and did not change the formula. Towns receive a lower rate since cities have a larger potential tax base to draw from-namely commercial and industrial enterprises. Town of Richmond is opposed to increasing the library taxation percentage.

Town's Position and Possible Recommendation to St. Croix County on Library Funding: Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to recommend to St. Croix County Finance Committee to increase the County Library Taxation Formula from 71% to 100% in three-year increments. Motion carried.

County Board District 30 Supervisor Vacancy-Town Board Comments or Recommendations: Nobody has come forward; therefore, the Board has no recommendations.

Consideration of Adoption of Subdivision Ordinance 2009-02: Motion by Rauch, seconded by Germain to adopt Town of Somerset Subdivision Ordinance #2009-02. Motion carried.

Codification of Ordinances: Plourde sent Municode a list of 71 ordinances to get an estimate on the cost. Estimate should be available by budget time.

Update on County Zoning Violation: Apple River Tubing & Hideaway signs have been removed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Jeri Koester, Clerk

