

Regular Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Wascott Town Hall

-Minutes-

Work Session – 6:30 p.m.

The work session was called to order by Chair Jenson at 6:30 p.m. to review financial claims presented for payment by Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson. Board members present – Chair Jenson, Supv Youngquist, Supv Sorensen and Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson. **A Youngquist/Sorensen motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.; motion carried.**

Regular Town Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call - The meeting was called to order by Chair Jenson at 7:00 p.m. Board members present - Chair Jenson, Supv Youngquist, Supv Sorensen, Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson and 21 guests present.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3) Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 3 and Special Town Board Meeting Minutes of August 18
 - b. Approval of Agenda
 - c. Bartender License-Sandra Bennett
 - d. Driveway Permits-Lori Verdon, 15380 S Whitefish Lake Road; Taci Ball, 15386 S Whitefish Lake Road; Rob & Julie Rogalla, Blue Ribbon Trail S
 - e. Treasurer's Report
 - f. Approval of August/September vouchers

A Youngquist/Sorensen motion to approve consent agenda; motion carried.

- 4) Public Comments – Please be advised per § 19.84(2), comments and announcement will be received from the public. Comments are to be directed to the Town Board and limited to 2 minutes per person. No action taken by Board. *Agnes Kennard* asked if a sign could be erected by Little Sand Lake titled “Children Playing/Crossing” as speed is a factor. *Ray Santangelo* would like to have the ordinances relative to regulating water traffic on our lakes, reinstated. These ordinances were rescinded by the Board recently.

The following public comments are in reference to Agenda Item 6.b. Petition to Rezone -

Steve Trainor - Steve worked on the 20-year updated Town Plan effective until 2035. Need to be very considerate of our shoreline setbacks and is not in favor of the rezone for a hobby farm. *Knute Pedersen* - didn't think it should be zoned R-2; should be agriculture. Asked this rezone not be approved. Knute commented a horse can produce about 50 pounds of manure and urine a day and was concerned some of this urine would reach the water table. *Nancy Pedersen* asked why can one just request a zone change for no reason. Nancy commented other issues with having a hobby farm is the smell it would generate, soil contamination from the horses, and too close to the lake water. *Ann Carroll* commented she is very opposed to the rezone. *Pete Hanson* had no objection for this rezone stating the McNeils are fulfilling all the requirements and doing everything to minimize the issues cited. *Rick Gondik* commented he felt this rezone would have a negative impact on surrounding property values for the following reasons - odor, soil contamination and noise. *Jeannette Atkinson* commented that as far as the possible soil contamination, what about residential sewer systems along lake shores where they are 75' from the lake waters and property owners are close together. Further, how much contamination is there from old sewer systems. And there is concern about a few horses contaminating the soil.

Craig and Christine McNeil outlined their objectives and goals for a hobby farm. There would be up to 4 Mangalarga Marchadors horses, a breed native to Brazil, with less than 300 in the United States. To control the tick population, they would have 6-10 chickens (no roosters). To help alleviate smell or odors emanating from the property, an Aerated Static Pile (ASP) Method of composting will be utilized. An electric blower induces airflow through the pile

to maintain aerobic conditions at all times. This system greatly expedites the composting process and eliminates the “2-year pile syndrome” and instead takes place in 30-60 days. Craig further stated he would be removing the manure each day for composting. Also, plans are to be adding additional trees along the fence line to provide more privacy.

5) Department and Representative Announcements

a) Fire Department - absent.

b) EMS Asst. Director – Stacey Vig - absent

c) County Board Representative – Mary Lou Bergman reported -

- 2022 Budget process has begun. Net new construction came at 1.12% equaling \$183,300, which is what we can, by law, raise the levy.
- There are currently 2500 parcels in the County with delinquent taxes of which 106 will have tax deeds issued.
- Finance received a clean, unmodified opinion of WIFLI on the 2020 audit. Everything was in compliance with internal controls, and no communication difficulties or corrected or uncorrected financial statements during performance of audit. For the 10th consecutive year, we have received an award for our audit.
- Information Technology issued a warning to watch for cyber security attacks. They are suggesting doing security assessments, if possible.
- Last year Forestry developed a temporary policy on opening and closure of campgrounds. Two were opened prior to Memorial Day and closed Sept 28. Worked very well. This year they will remain open with full service through Oct 4. With the improvements over the past several years, revenues and use continue to increase.
- PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) on county forest lands in each respective Town, will be increased from \$.30 per acre to \$.63 per acre, effective June 2022.
- The requested Campground Moratorium did not pass committee; however, in discussion with corporate counsel, Burnett County introduced a new zone district for campgrounds exceeding 25 units. We will look at this, in depth. The Towns must approve the zone changes, giving them control over campgrounds.

d) Chair’s Report - Attended a Zoning Committee Meeting. Committee voted against a moratorium on future campground development. They are revising proposed zoning amendments and having legal counsel review.

Lidberg Bridge Replacement Grant application has been submitted. Cost estimate - \$750,000; town’s share is \$75,000.

The County has rejected our request to reduce speed limit to 45 near Stop-a-Sec, based on traffic data collected.

2020 census indicated Wascott had the largest increase in population growth with an additional 149 residents. Proposed county-wide redistricting plan moves Town of Solon Springs out of our 21st district. County Board will hold a public hearing on Sept 14 to adopt plan.

Highway Department - ahead of schedule on road projects. Paving by Monarch and fog sealing by Fahner should be completed in a week or so. Road inspection tour planned for Sept 22.

e) Supervisor’s Report - none.

6) Specific Matters for Discussion and Possible Action –

a) Ordinance 2021-04-Boating: Slow-No-Wake Zone on Minong Flowage - A Youngquist/Sorensen motion to approve Ordinance 2021-04; motion carried.

b) Petition to Rezone - Craig & Christine McNeil - from RR-1: Residential Recreational Zone District to R-2: Residential Zone District (Hobby Farm) - The Town Plan Commission and Town Board met at the McNeil property on August 30 at 10:00 a.m. gathering information relative to the rezone petition. The Town Plan Commission met again on September 7 at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of providing a recommendation to the Board. The Town Plan Commission voted to take a neutral position and defer to the Town Board. Chair

Jenson outlined the process the Town Board has. Whatever the Board's decision is, Douglas County must approve accordingly. If the Board disapproves, it must provide a valid reason. Supv Sorensen commented he felt the McNeil's gave an excellent presentation and felt they are going above and beyond in doing what is right. Supv Youngquist - it is their property and I see nothing to not approve.

A Youngquist/Sorensen motion to approve the Petition to Rezone for Craig & Christine McNeil from RR-1 to RR-2; motion carried.

c) Boating Regulations on Wascott Lakes - Chair Jenson commented there are signs being erected at all boat landings with DNR Boating Regulations, #'s to call. Supv Youngquist stated the Town should not get involved with regulations of lakes. The DNR are responsible. Supv Sorensen commented the Board is considering getting our own law enforcement to get a handle on this.

d) Plan Commission Vacancy/Appointment - Tabled.

7) Adjournment - **A Youngquist/Sorensen motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.; motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson
Clerk/Treasurer