

Regular Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 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 6:33 p.m. to review financial claims presented for payment by Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson. Board members present – Chair Jenson, Supv Sorensen, Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson. Supv Youngquist was absent. **A Sorensen/Jenson motion to adjourn at 6:44 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 Sorensen, Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson and 15 guests present. Supv Youngquist was absent.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3) Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a) Approval of the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of November 2 and Special Town Board Meeting Minutes of November 13 and November 16, 2021
 - b) Approval of Agenda
 - c) Treasurer's Report
 - d) Approval of November/December vouchers**A Jenson/Sorensen motion to table agenda item 6.a. - Application for Permits for Buckley Island Pit. Approve agenda with change; 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. *Mark Howard*, representing the Whitefish Lake Association, pointed out that the watercraft activity on the lake is becoming an issue. He cited on the 4th of July, there was an estimated 137 watercraft on the lake. Mark felt the amount of camper units in campgrounds, has an effect on all lakes. He would like the Town Board to be proactive when it comes to addressing how many campgrounds the Town can safely handle. *Steve Trainor* commented he has concerns with lakes getting polluted. There seems to be lots of private campers in addition to the campgrounds. None of them pay taxes.
- 5) Department and Representative Announcements
 - a) Fire Department – Chief Michalek - 2 medical; 1 unattended brush pile fire
 - b) EMS Asst. Director – Stacey Vig - absent
 - c) County Board Representative – Mary Lou Bergman - report sent via email -
 - Executive Committee meets 12/7 discussing and taking action on the use of County ARPA funds. Health and Human Services has requested the release of \$10,000 to help aid homeless folks with Covid. Remote attendance at County Board and committee meetings is on the agenda.
 - Zoning will address the McNeil rezone and CU.
 - Election for County Board Supervisors will take place in April. Nomination papers are available at the County Clerk's office. Mary Lou will be a candidate and would be pleased for the town's support.
 - d) Chair's Report - Chair Jenson reported the following -

- DOT has approved additional 80/20 funding for Lawler Bridge reconstruction. Construction bid of \$398,000 was awarded to Pheiffer, the low bidder. Construction is scheduled for Spring of 2022.
- Working on securing the permitting from the DNR for boat landing repairs on Bond, Smith Bridge and Cranberry lakes.
- McNeil hobby farm rezoning and CU permit requests are on the DC Zoning Committee agenda (12/8).
- Working with Commissioner of Railroad's Office to enhance safety at the Red Lake RR crossing. Looking at installation of lighting, signs and traffic study.
- Highway Department - replacing more damaged or stolen signs; destroying beaver dams; fixing road damage.

e) Supervisor's Report - none.

6) Specific Matters for Discussion and Possible Action –

- a) Application for Permits - CU 3-year renewal for Nonmetallic Mine and Reclamation Plan for Nonmetallic Mine (Buckley Island Pit) - Tabled until next meeting.
- b) Approve Quote for Fire Truck Chassis - A Sorensen/Jenson motion to approve the quote for a Fire Truck Chassis in the amount of \$107,857; motion carried.
- c) Resolution 2021-13 - Resolution Recommending Approval of Douglas County Proposed Amendments to Zoning Ordinance 8.0 - Discussion - Lynn Koalska, Town Plan Commission Chair, provided the following Plan Commission recommendations: consider camping fees in lieu of or in addition to property taxes; hobby farms should be classified as A-1, not the current R-2; would like Zoning to clarify the following: RRC-1, the 75' setback from all property line boundaries and recommend using language similar to Burnett County's zoning ordinance - Douglas County's is too confusing. Lynn commented just don't feel the ordinance has had sufficient discussion in order to make an informed decision.
 Chair Jenson reviewed information provided by the County related to the proposed resolution, options we can consider, and the need to respond by December 15th. A majority of towns must approve proposed changes prior to adoption by the County. The goal is to get something in place as soon as possible for reasons outlined. It is anticipated that additional revisions will be made in April/May after further study. Jan Newsome commented the initial draft of the ordinance was sent out in July and the next one in November. Need an opportunity to be able to clarify the many questions and concerns there are. Supv Sorensen felt there has not been a good discussion on this. Would like to have input from the campground owners. No public hearing has been conducted at the County level. Would like to have more time to review.
A Sorensen/Jenson motion to deny approving Resolution 2021-13 - Resolution Recommending Approval of Douglas County Proposed Amendments to Zoning Ordinance 8.0 and requesting a public hearing be scheduled by DC Zoning allowing for public input. In addition, Chair Jenson will compile a letter outlining the reasons for denial. Motion carried.
- d) Variance - Eleanor & David Baldwin - area variance to allow for a three-tier retaining wall within the shoreland setback area of Whitefish Lake - A Jenson/Sorensen motion to approve the variance for Eleanor & David Baldwin; motion carried.
- e) Request to vacate town ingress/egress easement on private property - Gary Braun, E Red Lake Drive - A Sorensen/Jenson motion to approve the request to vacate a town ingress/egress easement on private property; motion carried.

7) **Adjournment - A Sorensen/Jenson motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.; motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson
 Clerk/Treasurer