

Town of Mercer
Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2017
(unapproved)

- Chairman John Sendra called the Board of review to order at 5:30 pm in the Haines Building.
- Roll Call: Chairman John Sendra, Supervisors Tom Thompson, Mike Lambert, Jeff Stenberg, Chuck Schroepfer, Clerk Christan Brandt and Treasurer Lin Miller. Absent Attorney Schellgell.
- Board of review has been set for August 30, 2017 at 9:00 due to the tax roll not being complete.
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- Regular meeting called to order at 5:32 pm
- **Approval of meeting minutes:** Motion to approve prior meeting minutes made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Public Comment:** Bill Brundage stated that the stop signs that were at the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and County J are now missing. Supervisor Mike Lambert stated that Tom had looked into this and the Sheriff Department stated that the signs were not official size and that the town did not place them there, but we would still be liable if something happened. It was stated that maybe a legal yield sign could be placed on Lakeshore Drive near the Brundage's property. Joyce Brundage stated that the dust on Lakeshore Drive was terrible over the busy holiday weekend from the ATV traffic. You could not be outside or walk down Lakeshore Drive. Discussion was held about placing speed limit signs on the drive and to maybe reduce the speed limit. Several individuals also spoke about charging fees for the park pavilion rental.
- **Gogebic Range.net to discuss broadband:** Brandon from Gogebic Range.net discussed that they now have broadband service that will reach some of the areas in Mercer that are currently not serviced as well as areas that did not have internet. The cost per household is \$296.00 to hook up, but they are currently running a special at \$99, unless a special piece of equipment is needed then it could be more. The consultation is free of charge. They also have 3 different internet speeds to choose from.
- **Mercer Chamber permission for street dance July 3 and August 1:** Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor
- **Sidewalk from Scheel Road to Park:** Supervisor Jeff Stenberg asked if we plan on applying for this grant or will we do the sidewalk this year. Chairman Sendra stated that he spoke to Tanya Eversal at the DOT about the grant and the project is too small, and we would not qualify for the funds. Supervisor Stenberg asked if we could do this in two segments then and do the sidewalk from Scheels to the Park this year and redo the rest from Scheels to the school next year. He would like permission to get quotes from local individuals that do concrete. The board agreed to let him get some quotes.
- **Park Board to discuss park and recreation concerns:** Noel Brandt from the park board stated that the park board has been working on planning things for the future. The park is recreation/ tourism based, and the park board would like to see funds from the room tax annually allocated to the park. They believe the current budget that they are given to work with is not enough to help maintain the building and grounds. They get \$3000.00 a year to take care of 4 buildings. They would like to have the board approve an annual allocation of Room tax funds to help defray costs to the tax payers and to help improve the park. Motion to allocate an annual amount of 20% out of the Towns 25% portion of room tax funds made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg. Carried.
- **Discuss the approval/denial of Library solar project:** Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. No second was voiced motion for Approval denied.
- **Equipment needs:** Chairman Sendra stated that we basically need a plow truck and Ken had received a quote that was copied for the boards review. Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer stated that they need a new plow truck as the one we are looking to replace is 17-years- old but we

would like to keep it as a backup. Motion to put bids out for a new plow truck made by Supervisor Tom Thompson seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried. Supervisor Mike Lambert stated that he knows we need a new pickup truck as well and asked when they were going to look into this? Chairman Sendra stated that we would consider this at budget time in next year or later. Supervisor Schroepfer stated that we would need to get a sander this year. Some of the items that we will need to look at soon are the street sweeper that is a 1984 model that we purchased used. This piece of machinery is a constant maintenance item as it is always in the dirt and mud. Our excavator is alright but if it goes down, we can always go and lease one. The lowboy tractor and trailer are not that great either, but one priority must be addressed at a time. Our main priority right now needs to be the plow truck.

- **Approval of designated Mercer Internment agent:** Considering recent issues regarding the cemetery and the fact that we allowed issues to deviate from our approved policies, we need to take steps to make sure that errors do not take place again. We need to have a designated internment agent and that individual is the only one that would be allowed to take care of the internment, and there will be no exceptions. Currently Steve Altman is the agent in charge and has been for 20 years.
- **Amend Cemetery Ordinance 2007-5:** Motion to amend the ordinance to state in Section 4.9 all burials must be made by the authorized Mercer internment agent only and recorded in the town office. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Request for speed limit to be lowered on County J from Hwy 51 to Horners Rd:** Supervisor Mike Lambert stated that the speed limit in this area is 35mph and 15mph when children are present around the school, but he feels that it needs to be 25 mph. He believes that this may help slow down some of the individuals through the residential and school area. It was also mentioned to maybe see about slowing the speed down on County H from East Echo Lake Road to County J. Motion to approve the sending a letter to the County to ask for a change in the speed limit made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Vouchers:** The Clerk presented checks 36657 to 36680, 100284-100288 totaling \$39,091.99 and the vouchers for checks 36681 to 36700 in the amount of \$53,222.79. Motion to approve the vouchers and issue the checks made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer stated the general account had an ending balance of \$176,987.53 and the total amount of funds was \$1,748,235.92. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Bartender's License:** We had applications for Kim Waszak-Guenther, Rita Wellman, Deanna Pierpont, Julie Brownwell, Patricia Perna, Pamela Jaso, Dawn Semenek and Rose Laughlin. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Liquor License:** A temp beer license for the Mercer VFW Father's Day luncheon at the Mercer Senior Center on June 18. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Cemetery Deed:** We have a transfer of a deed from Marlene Lameka to Deanna and Kayla Lameka for section 3 block 26 plot 4 sites 1 to 8. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Chair's Report:** Chairman Sendra stated that he and Chuck had a meeting with the road crew and morale is very positive now. Wilson Lake East is almost complete and the crew did a great job. He spoke with Kevin Meyer regarding the Cramer Lake bridge and still has no good news. Our next step is to contact the National Guard to see if we could somehow qualify to use the Bayle bridge. Over the weekend we had problems at the transfer site as well as Hadley pit. We now have cameras placed at the recycle center as well as at the Hadley pit. We had complaints about ATV's speeding up and down Popko Circle, and he has already spoken to Tom Vavra from

the ATV club about placing speed limit signs along the Circle.

- **Supervisor Tom Thompson:** He stated that he was out checking the priority roads for ATV signs and so far, they will need some out by Circle Lily Road out near the town line as well as Cedar Lake Road. This will take some time to go through all of the roads, but we will get it done. We need to know the number of signs so that the ATV club can get them signed. Eagle Waste came in and brought the new bins for recycling, and hopefully, by tomorrow, Waste Management will have the old ones out.
- **Supervisor Mike Lambert:** He asked if it was looked into getting a dual-purpose sign with ATV and Snowmobiles on them. This would be cheaper, and it would look cleaner with having fewer signs. Also, the Methodist Church by the School has placed chains across the driveways in-between the no parking signs. Who is liable if something happens because they are in the town right of way? Supervisor Schroepfer stated that he will speak to Dick Wilson about them.
- **Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer:** He stated that the town crew will complete Wilson Lake tomorrow and then we will ride out to Swamp Creek and Moose Lake to the areas where the DNR has indicated that they want work done. Once the conditions are alright, the crew will start seeding it and working the banks. Noel Brandt had talked to him about a dead spruce in the cemetery, and he spoke with Steve who still has his backhoe out there. The crew will cut it and Steve said he would help us load it up and take it out of the cemetery. We also have a dead tree to take care of across from the hall. Jeff Wilson is not trapping beavers at this time as the little beavers are born now, and he will not trap while they are out. Gael English had called about Lake Tahoe. We have a huge issue out there with the water flooding over the road. We have taken pictures and the information was sent to John Simonsen from the DNR. This is the first thing that needs to be done in order to get permitting. Our issue is actually with the private culvert that is backing up. We had the testing done on the old garage for asbestos and they want to know who will demo it. Supervisor Schroepfer spoke with the guy who did the testing, and he stated that the town crew could do this. We can talk to the crew to see what they think, but it may save us money. They also worked on the road plan as it had not been updated in a while and we rejuvenated it for 2017. Concerns are Cramer Lake and getting it ready for 2018. Mercer Lake Circle will pave over the chip seal. The crew is going to do this right and start in town with the roads and work our way out. Ken is driving all the way out to 24 sections to mow the fire department property. He felt that it would be more cost effective to have someone that is already out there mow, and he has already spoke to Scott Tomek. He is willing to do this for us if the board is alright with that. The Board felt that would be fine.
- **Supervisor Jeff Stenberg:** He had some complaints about flat tires out on Popko Circle because of rocks on the shoulders. We have had the guys out there with cleaning it up, and we are aware of it. We also talked about putting insulation in the Community Center and he would like to go ahead and get an estimate for us blowing the insulation in ourselves.
- **Public Comment:** Dorothy Wahner asked if the fees at the park would be exempt now that they were getting funds. It was not known for sure.
- **Closed Session per WI State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) discuss employment applications:** Motion to go into closed session at 6:57 pm made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Roll call taken.
- **Return to Open Session:** Motion to return to open session at 7:52pm. We will have a special closed session meeting on June 6th to interview the remaining applicants.
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:53pm made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.

Approved:

Christan Brandt, Town Clerk