

Town of Mercer
Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2018
(unapproved)

- Chairman John Sendra called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Haines Building.
- **Roll Call:** Chairman Sendra, Supervisors Tom Thompson, Mike Lambert, Chuck Schroepfer, Jeff Stenberg, Clerk Christan Brandt and Attorney Fritz Schellgell. Absent Treasurer Lin Miller.
- **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** Motion to approve the March 15, 2018 minutes made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Public Comment:** Bonnie Banaszak asked if the second public comment could be placed back on the agenda. She also had questions about the Planning Commission not receiving the design plans to review for the commercial building going up on the south end of town. Chairman Sendra stated that he would contact the County Zoning Office.
- **Mercer Business Park Ordinance and Covenants revision 2018.3:** The verbiage in section 5.2 is changed as follows: "Facility Construction must begin and be completed within Two (2) years after the acquisition of the Real Estate from the Town of Mercer is recorded with the Iron County Register of Deeds Office. If the purchaser fails to comply with the provision of section 5.2 of this ordinance, he/she shall be in default of the terms of the sale and be subject to foreclosure." Motion to approve made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Owner of Mercer Rentals to discuss/ decide possible purchase of Business Park lot #4:** Bob Hynes, the new owner of Mercer Rentals, stated that he purchased the building in town and not the previous owner's storage unit which is north of town. They are doing auto repair, towing and rentals of equipment. He would like to purchase a lot in the business park to rent bigger equipment such as excavators and concrete tools. He would also like to get an alignment rack as that service is not able to be offered at the current small building in town. They currently employ 5 people. Motion to sell Lot 4 of the Business Park to Bob Hynes of Mercer Rentals for a \$1000 an acre made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Iron County Forestry to speak on the process to move trails off town roads:** Tara from the Forestry Department stated that in order to move some of your trails off the road into the ditch line there are some factors that must be considered. There is a WI statue that states that at night the traffic must go two ways if you are less than 40 feet off the traveled portion of the road. This means that you would have to have a trail on each side of the road. You can get funds to help with grooming. Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer asked if there was any funding available to help build the trails. She replied that there would have to be 8 feet on each side of the trails. Tara stated that there is funding available and the Forestry Department would apply for the funding. A plan and approvals from property owners must be in place. It is best that the snowmobile club do the leg work on this as they are the friends and neighbors and it is easier for them to get approval. The deadline for funding is April 15 of every year, and then the grants are awarded in late summer or early fall. Motion to move forward with this plan made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Appointment of Planning Commission Chairman:** Chairman Sendra stated Jeff Stenberg resigned from the committee, and Kathy Tutt will take over. Motion to approve Kathy Tutt as the new Chairman of the Planning Commission made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Appoint alternate member to fill vacated seat on Planning Commission:** Motion to place Dave McNutt to fill the remainder of the vacated term made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.

Sign Ordinance revision 2018-05: The sign ordinance will be amended as follows in section 4.6 shall read; **“One free-standing or integrated Electronic Message Board may be permitted per private business on commercially zoned property. It must comply with ALL Town of Mercer requirements for state, county, and local government Electronic Message Centers, except the message for a private business must remain static and may not change more than one (1) time during a 24-hour period.”** Motion to approve made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried. Attorney Schellgell stated that they should also define the word “Static” in the ordinance under the definitions.

- **Lotter BP sign:** Motion to deny made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Discussion on options for Town and Cemetery Mowing season:** The Board discussed the mowing of the bike path, and they are working on something with the MECCA as they have the equipment to already do this. There was also talk of placing the bike path under the Park Board as they are the Parks and Recreation Board and the trail does fall under this heading. Supervisor Mike Lambert asked if they could use the same person for town and cemetery mowing that they used last season as they did a fine job. Statutes state that we do not have to put this out for bids as it is the under the \$25,000 limit. Motion to give the mowing contract to Noel Brandt of Northwoods Lawn and Home for the same fee as was paid him in 2017 made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Williams Electric street lighting:** The handout from the last meeting is void and Pete gave a new cost sheet to the board. Replacement options would include the whole light head. The town has 33 tall lights and 41 short. The lights are two years past warranty, and we currently have 2 heads and one pole coming in next week. That is all we have for spares. New heads would have a 5-year warranty on them, and he has projected this into a 3-year project at \$16,000 a year for the next three years to replace what is needed to maintain the lights. Motion to approve with bulk of contingency fund paying for this made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert, 2 in opposition. Chairman Sendra determined the tie breaker and voted to approve. Motion carried.
- **Legal:** Attorney Schellgell stated that he has the agreement prepared for the Chamber to do the 4th of July.
- **Vouchers:** The Clerk presented checks 37760 to 37803, 1000366-1000370 in the amount of \$43,470.02 and the vouchers for checks 37804 to 37837 totaling \$51,157.18. Motion to approve the vouchers and issue the checks made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Treasurer’ Report:** The Clerk stated that the general account had an ending balance of \$255,249.54 and that our total amount of funds was \$1,821,342.03. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.
- **Liquor License:** The clerk stated that we have an application for a temporary beer license for the Mercer Lioness Cinco De Mayo salad luncheon at the Community Center on May 5. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Chair’ Report:** He stated that two weeks ago, the Cramer Lake bridge was going to cost us an additional \$112,000. He made numerous calls and finally was able to get \$90,000 removed from the increase due to the cap that was placed on the 80/20 grant. So now we are moving forward with the bridge project. At the zoning meeting, they reported the number of permits granted last year: Mercer had 227 out of the 417. Tony Owens from Mid-State Consultants is working with Century Link and they are placing cable for high speed internet in our area. Some of the

roads they will be on this year will be Pine Forest, Fisher, Mercer Lake, East Popko, Rice Lake and Echo Lake.

- **Supervisor Mike Lambert:** The Fire Department did not receive any bids again for the step van so they will try and place it on the Government website for Wisconsin.
- **Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer:** There is some rebar up behind the sand/salt shed that has been there for some time. Would anyone have an issue if we made some inquiries into selling it? No one had an issue. Chuck asked Tom if he had a chance to speak with Charlie Watts regarding the steps at the Community Center. Tom stated that he did and that we are better off going with precast steps.
- **Closed session per WI State Statue 19.85 (1) (c):** Motion to go into closed session at 6:41pm made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried. Roll call taken.
- **Return to open session to report any action taken if necessary:** Motion to return to open session at 6:54 pm made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried. Roll taken. Motion to put Jake Saarnio in charge of shop and road operations made by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson, Carried.
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.