

Town of Mercer
Meeting Minutes: Nov. 21, 2019 (approved).

Call to order

Chairman John Sendra called meeting to order at 5:30pm at the Haines Bldg.

Roll call

Town Clerk Amber Thompson conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Supervisors Chuck Schroepfer, Eric Snow, Opal Roberts, Mike Lambert, Chairman John Sendra and Attorney Fritz Schellgell. Absent was Treasurer Lin Miller.

Approval of prior meeting minutes:

Motion to accept prior minutes made by Opal, seconded by Chuck. Carried.

Items for Discussion/Possible Action

Sign/billboard Ordinance Revisions: Fritz discussed with the Board that combining these to be one ordinance is fine but there needs to be clarification so there is no confusion. Combining the definition of Sign/Billboard would allow a billboard on the side of any building and not I'm sure if that is what you want.

Bonnie from the Planning Commission stated at the next Commission meeting, they will discuss the revisions and bring a recommendation to the Board with clarifications of any and all the revisions that will be needed.

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Public Video/Voice recordings of Town board meetings: Fritz discussed with the Board regarding if it is allowable to do so, and he stated, "the answer is yes". It is allowed as long as it doesn't interfere with the meeting being conducted.

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Transfer Station-Saturday Snow removal: John discussed with the Board that he spoke with Jerry about Saturday snow removal and what might work best. Chuck stated Jerry had mentioned getting a snowblower for the attendants to clear snow themselves.

A motion to approve Jerry getting a snowblower for the Transfer Station was made by Chuck, seconded by Opal. Carried.

Introduction of New DNR Property Manager-Beth Fiend: John introduced Beth Fiend and welcomed her to our area. Beth stated she is the new Property Manager for Bureau of Parks and Recreation with Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. She looks forward to being out at the Flowage and working with everyone. She thanked the Board and residents for their time.

Tourist Rooming Houses popping up like Daisies: John noted to the Board that the Health Dept. has contacted us regarding numerous rental houses that have not been permitted by county or the Town but are advertising on Airbnb and other places like that. He has sent letters out to these properties regarding the taxes owed and the process for getting permits. We will wait to hear from them.

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Legal: Fritz had nothing to report, he needed to leave but stated he will contact The Town of Sherman regarding the revised Intergovernmental Agreement.

Approvals

Vouchers: The Clerk presented checks 39798 to 39836, 1000521 to 1000525 totaling \$55,447.10 and checks 39837 to 39876 totaling \$422,566.75. A Motion to approve vouchers and issue checks, made by Chuck, seconded by Eric. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Clerk stated that the general account ending total was \$627,830.11 and our total amount of funds were \$1,761,748.85. Motion to approve as read made by Opal, seconded by Eric. Carried.

Bartender's License: None

Liquor License: None

Cemetery Deeds: None

Operations Reports:

Chair's Report: Chairman John Sendra reported and discussed the following items: Update on the Gilbert TRH - a couple of complaints came in from people nearby the property and some people have submitted their objections. Something to consider as the owner may be putting their application back in at county.

Mike Lambert was listed as the Liaison for Forestry was put in the Daily Globe and that was a joke the board made at the meeting. John stated he will be the liaison.

County Meeting- The Corporation for Enbridge pipeline, that was to go through the Reservation, is requesting an alternate route to go around the Reservation. The Reservation was offered a sizeable amount around (12.5 million,) and they refused. Mellen was offered around 4 million to reroute it through their public property, and that would mean Iron county might benefit from that as well.

Garbage Bags- Discussed with Jerry the plan to move to stickers instead of the blue bags. The price would be about \$2.00 per sticker. Chuck stated what about having a smaller sticker valued around \$1.00 for garbage weighing less than 30 pounds. John stated they are looking at getting an industrial scale and will look at a couple different price options for stickers based on weight of garbage bags.

County Human Services- The WI Health Department services the Sandridge Secure Treatment Center that houses sexually violent persons. This program assesses and treats these individuals for a safe return back into communities. These sexual offenders are resettled to the communities they came from and there is one scheduled to return to Mercer. This is something everyone should be aware of and John is looking into what can be done.

Letter came from Xcel Energy regarding less energy usage than normal. They are sending a technician out to look at our meter. It most likely is due to our solar panels.

Bay Area Rapid Transport (BART)- Good news bussing is coming to Mercer. The route will be Hurley to Mercer to Minocqua with around a 9am pick up and a 2:30pm drop off in Mercer.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer had nothing to report.

Supervisor Eric Snow reported on Fire Dept. - We have several members that have been in service for 30 plus and 50 plus years. They should be recognized with a plaque commending them on their service. This was an idea Adam brought to me. It will go on an agenda to discuss further.

Heard John went to the school concerning a fight that broke out. Just want to make sure you went as a concerned citizen and not as a representative of the Town Board as this is a School Board issue. John confirmed he went as a citizen not as Chairman for the Board.

Supervisor Opal Roberts reported on the following: Cemetery- would like to have a laptop just for the cemetery to store all the records and photos of monuments as well as a plot map. This would be passed on to whomever is the administrator for the cemetery. That way the entire database is in one place. Would like to have the clerk order one.

Library- At the last meeting they addressed policy changes at the Library.

Senior Center- is working towards getting new members.

Town Hall- before any more updates happen in this building the meeting room should be updated first.

Levy info- While reading info from a town workshop we don't have to do a referendum. The Town board can adopt a resolution at a special meeting. This is an excellent way to raise the levy without a referendum.

Supervisor Mike Lambert reported on the following: Park- plans to put tennis courts in. They received a few calls on when this will happen. The money is no longer available, and he would like to look into this further as the Park needs the tennis courts. John and Chuck agreed to research this and will talk to Lin about having a segregated account just for room tax monies. The board will get back to Park Board on this.

Lake of the Falls Rd-County is looking to put passing zones in and it's not a very good area. Maybe the town should send a letter to County about why it's not a good idea for this area. Some objections may be brewing from families who live there.

John stated to Adam if the ambulance or fire trucks need repair, we would like to have our mechanic work on them or discuss if we have the room to do the maintenance for them. Would like to have a meeting with Adam and Steve to discuss before making any decisions.

Clerk's Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Kathy Tutt from Planning Commission stated she was asked to look into the zoning requirements for tiny home sizes and the minimum requirement for a one bedroom is 500 square feet and a two-bedroom minimum is 700 square feet.

Closed Session:

Opal made a motion to go into closed session at 6:23pm, seconded by Eric. Amber took roll call vote and the ayes were Chuck, Eric, John, Opal and Mike.

Chuck made a motion to return to open session at 6:51pm, seconded by Mike. Opal took roll call vote and the ayes were Chuck, Eric, John and Mike.

No action taken on closed session.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Mike, seconded by Chuck. Carried. John adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Town Clerk, Amber Thompson

Approved: 12/5/19