

Town of Mercer  
Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2019  
(approved)

- Chairman John Sendra called the informational PRAT Tax meeting to order at 5:00pm in the Haines Building.
- **What is PRAT?**

PRAT stands for Premier Resort Area Tax. Pursuant to ss. 66.113 Wis. Stats. It's a retail sales tax authorized by Wisconsin State Legislature and administered by the Department of Revenue. It requires certain retailers, related to the tourist industry, to collect an additional sales tax.

Adoption of PRAT allows our town to share the expense of maintaining our local road infrastructure. The rate of the PRAT Tax is one half cent on the dollar (0.5%) and the revenue from this is shared by all who utilize our roads not just tax payers.

**Example: on a \$50.00 purchase, the PRAT Tax would total .25 cents (twenty-five cents).**

PRAT Tax would be collected from the retailers at the same time as the rest of the State and County taxes are collected and paid to the Department of Revenue. Once paid to the DOR, the funds would be turned over to the town.

**What can PRAT Tax be used for?**

PRAT Tax can ONLY be used for Infrastructure-related projects.

Examples are: Road construction, maintenance, culverts, curbs, sidewalks, street lighting etc.

- The Regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 5:25 pm in the Haines Building.
- **Roll Call:** Chairman John Sendra, Supervisors Tom Thompson, Mike Lambert, Chuck Schroepfer, Jeff Stenberg, Treasurer Lin Miller, Clerk Christan Brandt, and Attorney Fritz Schellgell.
- **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as written made by Supervisor Tom Thompson, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Public Comment:** Kathy Tutt spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission regarding the potential public bathrooms that the Town is looking into. Bonnie Banaszak stated that the Safe Routes to School agreement does not have anything in writing as far as clearing snow, but it includes maintaining proper crosswalks. Tom Zeigler addressed concern of Cutoff Rd.
- **Safe Routes to School (Skid Steer):** The issue was brought up to make sure we were going to continue to clear the snow from the sidewalks south of Town. It was agreed that we would continue to remove snow.
- **Discuss street sweeper purchase/lease:** Supervisor Schroepfer stated that our sweeper is down and there are no parts to repair it due to how old it is. We have found one that is a 2004 that we can lease or purchase for around \$53,000.00 This will last us another 20 years. The lease agreement was not crystal clear as to lease to purchase but we will find out before we do anything. He wanted to just make the board aware and get their thoughts on which route they would prefer to go. They would like clarification first before a decision is made.
- **Update on Town Website:** The Clerk stated that Supervisor Schroepfer put her in touch with Scott from Web Work Life and they have been working on a new website for the Town. He does excellent work and also does the Chamber Webpage. It will be a few months before it will be up and running.
- **Garbage Bags for Transfer Station:** The Clerk stated that She and Jerry Huffmaster have been in contact with Joe from ISO Flex which makes garbage bags. They are basically the same cost as our current bags but we have different options, and they seem more durable. She has some in the office if the board would like to look at them. Motion to go with this new company and try the 30mil (33 gallon) bags made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried.

- **Discussion/possible action of filling vacancy of Clerk effective March 4, 2019:** Chairman Sendra stated that Christan, our long time Clerk, has submitted her resignation effective March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board is not happy to see her go as she has done a wonderful job. We need to get an individual to replace her. He met with Mary Vaughn, the Chief Election Inspector, and everything will run smoothly for the upcoming Election. He went on to state that he spoke to Opal Roberts, and she would be willing to step up to be Deputy Clerk. Vic Ouimette asked if we would put something in the paper to advertise. Attorney Schellgell stated that the vacancy is only filled for the remainder of the term as it is up in April. At this point you cannot alter the ballot. Someone can do an official write in if they follow proper procedures to be legally counted. If Christan wins, then she would have to resign again. Clerk Christan Brandt stated that she will be going back and forth for a while, so she will be around if anything is needed. Supervisor Schroepfer thanked her for her years of service and professionalism that she brought to the office. The Clerk stated that she has enjoyed her 14 years of service to the Town of Mercer.
- **Legal:** He stated that the Tribal Suit will probably be a 2-year process. They will not be going back for reimbursement except for what statutes allow. The issue is going forward, currently they only own that small area where the sign is. In the future, if they were to purchase 1000 acres and its lake frontage, it would be tax exempt.
- **Vouchers:** The Clerk presented checks 38922 to 38945, 1000460 totaling \$2,268,151.15 which has your February tax settlements included and the vouchers for checks 38946 to 38966 in the amount of \$25,691.64. 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 that the general account ending balance was \$171,105.62 and our total amount of funds was \$2,634,990.79. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer. Carried.
- **Chair Report:** None
- **Supervisor Mike Lambert:** He wanted to thank Jake and the Crew for working with the County to help move snow banks in Town. They did a great job!
- **Supervisor Jeff Stenberg:** Thanked the Crew for getting things done.
- **Supervisor Chuck Schroepfer:** He stated that Bill from the Lions and Mike from the MECCA thanked the crew for helping get snow cleaned up for the events that were held over the weekend. He also wanted to remind people to be a little patient with us as we do have two new younger guys learning the ropes.
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Tom Thompson. Carried. 6:25 pm.

**Approved: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Christan Brandt, Town Clerk**