

Town of Mercer Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2020

Unapproved

Order of Business

Call to order

Chairman John Sendra called the meeting to order at 5:30pm in the Haines Building

Roll call

Present were Chairman John Sendra; Supervisors Chuck Schroepfer, Eric Snow, Opal Roberts, Mike Lambert; Duty Clerk Beth Wetzler; Treasurer Lin Miller; and Attorney Fritz Schellgell.

Approval of prior meetings minutes

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6th as corrected, seconded by Chuck. Carried.

Items for Discussion/Possible Action

Discuss lawn mowing

Opal presented a plan for the Town to purchase a mower and hire an employee for 6 months to take care of mowing Town of Mercer properties. The proposed cost would be \$19,984.72. In 2019 the Town paid a contractor \$21,000.00 for mowing services. After discussion involving Jake Saarnio, Road Foreman and Mike Guild, MTG Services, John asked to meet with Opal, Jerry Huffmaster, and Mike Guild next week to define the services and time needed.

Approval of financing for a new plow truck

Chuck made a motion to approve the purchase of a new plow truck for \$161,787.00 and to apply for a loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, seconded by Mike. Roll Call Vote: Chuck AYE, Eric AYE, John AYE, Opal AYE, Mike AYE. Carried 5-0.

Discuss and decide the end result of Frank Schroeder property in the Mercer Industrial Park

There is some interest by a new business to acquire property and build in the Industrial Park. There was a discussion of some of the options available in the Park. When the snow melts John will take a look at the property markers.

A number of the lots have wetland issues. Frank Schroeder, owner of Lot 12, has not yet responded to a letter of non-compliance sent in January. Fritz will follow up with a certified letter to Frank.

Legal

Fritz reviewed correspondence from Attorney Daniel Snyder, representing Russell Sleight, acknowledging that a claim will be forthcoming.

Approvals

Vouchers (issue of checks)

Opal made a motion to approve the vouchers and issue checks, seconded Eric. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Town Treasurer reported that the General Account has a balance of \$270,564.95 and total funds are \$2,171,382.03. Eric made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Chuck. Carried.

Bartenders Licenses - none

Liquor Licenses - none

Cemetery Deeds - none

Operations Reports

Chairman Sendra

Road limits go on at Noon on Monday, March 9, 2020.

There will be a public meeting regarding the 3 DNR positions being moved out of the Mercer Station to Ashland. It will be on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 6pm at the Mercer Community Center. Representatives from Iron County, DNR, and the State have been invited to meeting.

Shay Dam Grant Update: We must stipulate that we own Dam to apply for the application; we have \$5000 in the Dam Fund, which was a requirement; we have the required emergency action and maintenance plans as well. We have met all the requirements for the grant application.

Supervisor Lambert

Mike asked Jake about summer hours for the Road Crew. Jake reported that he expected to go to a 4/10 work schedule for the Crew only during the summer.

Supervisor Roberts

Opal reported the Mercer Senior Center will be remodeling their bathrooms. One of them will be completed before the end of May.

Supervisor Snow - none

Supervisor Schroepfer

The MLS grant we applied for was not approved.

Chuck and Jake submitted an application for \$70,000.00 for road assistance from the Northern Highlands American Legion Road State Forest. They will review the application on March 25, 2020.

Thanks to Jake, Craig Dalton, Beth Feind, and Debbie for their help with the application. A copy is available in the Town Office.

Chuck addressed the Lake of the Falls Association's concern about the boat landing brought up by Jim Hannemann at the last board meeting. He studied the issue and determined that public access is required in the property abuts a lake or a stream, and the Town has provided public access. There is no requirement to maintain or improve the public boat landing. Fritz concurred. Chuck and Jake will take a look at the landing and see if the Town can help out with some gravel.

Jerry obtained a quote on metal for the Town Shop #2/Recycle Center. The Clerk will place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Clerk's Correspondence - none

Set the next meeting's date to March 19th, 2020 at 5:30pm in the Haines Building

Public Comment

Tom Schlueter wondered if the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area could help Mercer with road repair around Popko Circle and Fisherman's Landing; bumpy roads are bad for tourism.

Bill Brundage asked if the grant for the Lakeshore Drive project was approved, and if not, will it still go forward? Jake responded that it was planned for 2021 if the MLS grant was approved, but it was not. The project will be revisited. John added that the Town also applied for a grant from the Gogebic Range Health Foundation, but it was not approved. The Foundation said we could apply again next year.

Heather Jordens asked about the status of the complaint about snow and ice on the sidewalks. Letters went out to businesses and some of the snow had been removed. Jake stated that according the ordinance, the Town Crew may clear the snow and invoice the property owners. John suggested another letter go out with a 24-hour time limit to take care of the issue, before sending out the Town Crew.

Heather also asked about the status of the complaint about unoccupied businesses downtown. This issue will be taken up by the Planning Commission on March 17, 2020 at 10:00am.

Adjournment

Eric made a motion at 6:19pm to adjourn, seconded by Opal. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Duty Clerk, Beth Wetzler

Unapproved