

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD  
ANNUAL MEETING  
April 20, 2021

Chairman Erwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also present were Supervisor Drewa, Treasurer Demko and Clerk De Clark. Supervisor LaFevre was absent.

Constituents present were, Dyamond Saak, Bob Walther, Jayson Walther, Rich Wenzelow, Janet Wenzelow, Al Robinson, Bill DeGroot, Patrick Wloszczynski, Joanne Wloszczynski and Ann Drewa.

Agenda

Moved by Bob Walther to approve the agenda as posted.

Motion seconded by Jayson Walther.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Minutes

Moved by Jayson Walther to approve the agenda from minutes from 2020's budget meeting with the amendment of the date for the annual meeting be changed from 04/19/20 to 04/20/20.

Motion seconded by seconded by Rich Wenzelow.

Motion carried with all voting "Aye" with a hand vote.

Receipts and Expenditures for 2020

The 2020 expenditures were read and reviewed in full by supervisor Erwin.

Motion to approve the receipts and expenditures for 2020 by Daymond Saak.

Motion was seconded by Joanne Wloszczynski

Motion carried with all voting "Aye" with a hand vote.

Constituent Bob Walther questions what the Financial Highway Insurance was on the expenditure sheet. Treasurer Demko stated that these charges were for insuring the county vehicles.

Donations

Chairman Erwin suggested a \$100 donation be made to the class of 2021 graduating class.

Motion was made to donate \$100 to the class of 2021 graduating class by Bob Walther.

Motion was seconded by Joanne Wloszczynski.

Motion carried with all voting "Aye" with a hand vote.

Chairman Erwin suggested a \$300 donation be made to the Economic Development. An inquiry was made as to what the economic development does for the Town of Fern. Chairman Erwin stated that they supply information about our area such as maps to the water falls and riverway in our area and include us in a link to their website. Motion was made to donate \$300 to the Economic Development by Jayson Walther. Motion was seconded by Ann Drewa. Motion carried with all voting "Aye" with a hand vote.

### Constituents Concerns

Bill DeGroot asked about the website and why the minutes from the last meeting had not been posted there.

Clerk De Clark stated that she had forwarded the information to Rich Wenzelow but that he had not had time to post the information. The information is posted before the next monthly meeting.

Constituent Wenzelow had volunteered to help with the website as he had computer experience.

Supervisor Drewa suggested that we hire a website manager to help manage the website. Clerk De Clark stated that she would check into hiring someone.

Constituent DeGroot expressed concern about the last meeting minutes which he thought stated that the Town was going to take over Madeleine Lane.

He stated that when the Town was considering taking over Norway Pine Road in 2007/2008 that the cost for the necessary repairs were \$187,000 so why is the Town taking over Madeleine Lane without requiring their residents to have the road in the same shape as Norway Pine when they take it over.

Chairman Erwin stated that Madeleine Lane has been being taken care of diligently. Norway Pine needed a tremendous amount of work and Madeleine Lane is as good as any current Town road. Chairman Erwin stated that Norway Pine had frost pockets and swampy areas.

Constituent DeGroot stated that Norway Pine did not have any swampy areas and no wetlands. Chairman Erwin apologized for the mis-comment.

Constituent DeGroot stated that Madeleine Road needed a turn around for the town truck and that people of the Town should not be required to make any improvements to Madeleine Lane.

Supervisor Drewa stated that the Town has turned down other roads in the past and would not be taking on any roads that were not discussed with the DOT, State, and a lawyer. Nothing would be done until it is done right.

Constituent Robinson stated that he thought any road turned over to the Town would have to be to DOT standards. He also stated that Norway Pine was better than many of the other Town roads.

Constituent DeGroot expressed concerns about the last meeting minutes where it was stated that the board would continue pursuing taking over Madeleine Lane. Clerk De Clark stated that this was just to pursue the idea and that no motion was made on the subject.

Chairman Erwin stated that it has been a tough year with trying to deal with Covid-19 and the lack of training available for clerk training. He also welcomed the new supervisor Daymond Saak to the board.

Chairman Erwin also stated that anytime the constituents have any concerns that they are very welcome to contact the board members with their concerns.

Supervisor Drewa stated that this year's annual road clean up is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. The Town will provide bags, vests, and lunch.

He also thanked all the Town employees for their hard efforts. Thanks to Pat W. for all his knowledge.

Supervisor Drewa stated that the constituents should think about increasing the annual refuse charge from \$30 to \$35. He said Bob and Daymond do an excellent job, but the budget is very tight. This increase would need to be done now or will not be able to be addressed until the next annual meeting in 2022.

Constituent Ann Drewa asked how we know the people dropping off garbage are from the Town of Fern. Supervisor Saak stated that both he and Bob know most of the town's people and those they do not they inquire if they are. The percentage of those who drop garbage off that are not residents is very minimal.

Constituent Bob Walther asked how many people pay the annual fee. It was stated that every parcel with a septic pays the fee.

Constituent Pat Wloszczynski suggested we make the increase to \$40 per year, a \$10 increase.

Constituent Joanne Wioszczynski made a motion to increase the fee from \$30 annual to \$40 annual.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried with all voting "Aye" with a hand vote.

### Emergency Medical Services

Supervisor Drewa stated that he and Chairman Erwin have been working on this concern since December. There will be a small increase in taxes to help support the EMS in Florence County. The EMS workers will now be paid for their services. It will no longer be a volunteer basis service.

Supervisor Drewa stated that Florence County was the last volunteer EMS in the state, also the cheapest. The goal is to have 25 to 30 EMS workers.

There will be more information coming on this subject in the future.

Chairman Erwin thanked Supervisor Drewa for his efforts and stated that Florence County is blazing the trail on this for the whole state.

### Adjourn

Moved by Constituent Pat Wloszczynski.

Motion seconded by Bill DeGroot.

Motion carried, adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Patti De Clark

Town Clerk