

PROCEEDS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD
December 9, 2024

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

Constituents present were Joe Schumacher, Tom Tedford, Rich Wolosyn, Pat Woloczynski, Dave Lefebvre, Mike Lefebvre.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the town minutes from November 11, 2024.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Treasurer Demko presented the monthly Treasurer's Report which included account balances and interest rates.

Moved by Supervisor Saak to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

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

Monthly Bills

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Correspondence

Chairman Erwin stated that he had received information from Bay Lakes Comprehensive Outdoor Planning. He and Supervisor Drewa will be attending the 4:00 meeting at the Resource Center in Florence.

Wake Boat Ordinance

Chairman Erwin had provided some boards explaining the damage wake boarding does to be posted at the boat landings along with the ordinance. He suggested that the Lake Association take one of them.

Constituent Dave L needed to redo the ordinance and to send it to the WDNR. Constituent Mike L stated that the ordinance passed in October included the town of Florence. A new ordinance with only the town of Fern needs to be resubmitted. He had also sent the town the five steps needed to advance the ban on wake boarding. He supplied a self-addressed envelope and documentation for us to use on our town letterhead. The DNR then gets 20 days to make any adjustments before a public hearing is held.

Chairman Erwin suggested the town have Bonnie Scoggins the town's attorney review the ordinance, but Mike L. did not believe this was necessary.

Constituent Dave L. stated that the town's website needs to remove the town of Florence from the ordinance listed on the site.

Supervisor Drewa stated that many people believe the town is wasting its time because invasives are in all the town lakes. He also stated that it comes down to enforcement. He's for the ordinance but is not sure how it can be enforced.

Chairman Erwin stated that he will speak with attorney Skoggins. He and Supervisor Saak had gone to Townsend to find out how they handled the situation. They received flyers that explain the damage that is done to a lake by wake boarding.

Constituent Mike L. stated that signs need to say what the fines for breaking the ordinance will be, such as first offense is \$500, second offense is \$1,000. He is mostly worried about invasives. The town can figure out how to enforce the ordinance once it is in place. He is hoping the signs will be deterrent enough. The ordinance should include any lake entirely in the town of Fern.

Constituent Dave L. asked how the town handled other ordinance fines. Chairman Erwin stated that the logging ordinance if violated will be fined by the Sheriff's Department.

Constituent Tom stated that to be in violation the DNR would have to be on the lake. Mike L. believes that the state will eventually pass a statewide ordinance.

Constituent Dave L. stated the transmittal letter is the only form that needs to be signed by the clerk. He and Mike would like to be notified when the document goes to the DNR.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to advance with the town of Fern ordinance only.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Logging Ordinance

Constituent Tom inquired about the logging ordinance. Deputy Clerk Batte stated that she would send the ordinance to attorney Skoggins to be reviewed.

Chairman Erwin stated the town will be sure that a culvert is put in, he also stated that once the roads are frozen the loggers can go back to using Patton Lake Road to bring out their loads. They can only run from the evening until early am. He will bring the paperwork to Marinette for assistance.

Supervisor Drewa stated that the main concern is to be sure our roads stay in good condition.

Chairman Erwin tabled the issue until January's meeting.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Saak stated that Pat was doing a wonderful job. Chairman Erwin gave Pat a thank you card from the town and a ham to thank him for his dedication and excellent work.

Supervisor Drewa suggested giving a \$20/\$25 gift card to the recycling center workers. Supervisor Saak agreed with this sentiment. Chairman Erwin will take care of getting the gift cards for the workers.

Deputy Clerk Batte stated that our accountant resigned from working for the town effective immediately. She contacted Scott Sternhagen to see if he would resume being the town's accountant. He stated that yes, he would take the job. If the town gets him the necessary paperwork by 1-15-25, he should be able to complete the CT report for the town's annual meeting.

Deputy Clerk Batte asked if she could change the town's P.O. box from Florence to Fence as it is much closer to her residence. Chairman Erwin stated that this would be fine. The board agreed.

Constituent Concerns

There were no further constituent concerns.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patti De Clark
Town Clerk