

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD
February 12, 2024

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

Constituents present were Pat Wloszczynski, Sylvester and Terry Vannieuvenhoven, Rich Wenzelow, Paul Batte and Patrick Wloszczynski.

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 January 8, 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 treasurer's report.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

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

Monthly Bills

Moved by Supervisor Saak to approve the monthly bills.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

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

Correspondence

Chairman Erwin stated that there will be a meeting at 3:00 on Thursday regarding culverts and bridges at or over 20 feet. The town of Fern has one that qualifies on Norway Pine Road.

Chairman Erwin stated that he received a letter from a consulting firm for filing the necessary reports for the culverts and bridges. He stated that Joe Witynski will assist the town with filing these reports.

Chairman Erwin stated that he received a report on the status of the Pine River Dam and other Wild River dams. The town receives these reports because of the dam on Loon Lake.

Deputy Clerk Batte stated that she received a letter from Project Graduation 2024 asking for a donation. It was brought up that this is something that will get reviewed at the Annual Meeting.

Deputy Clerk Batte had received a notice from the Census Bureau that needs to be completed. She will take care of filling this out.

Deputy Clerk Batte stated that she was notified by R&R Assessing that their website has changed. This needs to be updated on the Town's website. Clerk De Clark will contact Daniel, the website manager, to make the necessary changes.

Madeleine Lane

Chairman Erwin stated he spoke with Joe Schumaker and they will be going to Rhinelander to help with the acquisition of the road.

Cameras

Chairman Erwin stated that Nsight needs to be contacted regarding getting the internet at the town hall. Deputy Clerk Batte stated that she would contact Insight regarding this matter.

Supervisor Saak stated that last week another four bags of trash were left outside of the gate.

CD

Chairman Erwin inquired if the board wished to proceed with the purchase of another \$50,000 CD for the town.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to purchase another \$50,000 CD.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Garage Update Bids

Chairman Erwin stated that three bids were received for the required work. C&L Construction submitted a bid for \$35,500, Steve Moore for \$51,360 and Ivory Exteriors for \$36,000.

Chairman Erwin stated that the town has had experience with C&L Construction and their bid was the lowest.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to accept the bid from C&L Construction.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Clerk De Clark stated that before any down payment money is given to C&L Construction, they must produce a Certificate of Insurance. She stated that they refused to produce the certificate prior to the last work they performed for the Town. Deputy Clerk Batte stated that she would be sure to get the certificate before they get their down payment.

Budget Change for 2023

Deputy Clerk Batte stated that the funds that were originally allocated for the purchase of the voting machine must be reallocated to road repairs. The amount to reallocate is \$16,118.19. The budget will also need to be amended.

Town Dump Charges

Chairman Erwin stated that an ordinance for fining residents who leave items at the dump after hours should be installed.

Supervisor Saak suggested installing two dummy cameras at the dump as a deterrent.

Chairman Erwin tabled the issue until March's meeting.

New Signs for the Town Dump

Supervisor Drewa stated that Excel Graphics suggested a 4 foot by 8-foot sign for the town dump. This would cost approximately \$350 to \$400. Chairman Erwin suggested putting the signs on 4x4 by the gate. Supervisor Drewa stated that this would be fine.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to purchase the new signs for the town dump.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Saak suggested the town chip seal Patton Lake Road. Chairman Erwin agreed that this would be a good idea.

Constituent Pat stated that he will check with Forest County regarding black topping Patton Lake instead. Chairman Erwin stated that he would check with Joe from County too.

Supervisor Drewa suggested the purchase of tread protectors. Constituent Pat stated that he would get them ordered.

Supervisor Drewa suggested that the steps should be painted with paint with sand included in it.

Supervisor Drewa stated that the light by the door is out. Treasurer Demko stated that she would speak with her husband Mike regarding getting this fixed.

Supervisor Drewa stated that Chuck Beckett wants to black top the road he is on. Chairman Erwin and Constituent Pat stated that this would be fine. He also stated that the town would not be able plow the road.

Constituents Concerns

Constituent Terry V. stated that they are still being charged for two parcels on their one parcel of property. She was informed that she should go to the Florence County Treasurer with a birth certificate to get the name changed to reflect the name Terrie or Theresa. Once the name is the same on both pieces of property, then it can be rectified. Treasurer Demko stated that Florence County Abstract would also be able to help with this matter.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Saak.

Motion seconded Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti De Clark, Town Clerk