

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD
January 8, 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, Joe Schumacher, Sylvester and Terry Vannieuvenhoven, Rich and Janet Wenzelow, Paul Batte and Patrick Wloszczynski.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Saak to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

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

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the town minutes from November 13, 2023.

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 Drewa to approve the monthly bills.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

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

Correspondence

Chairman Erwin stated that the town had received a complaint about the prices for the disposal of refuse at the town dump. Chairman Erwin stated that the fees were in line for the services.

Madeleine Lane

Chairman Erwin stated he had called Madison and was referred to Bob Wannet from the Rhinelander Department of Transportation. Chairman Erwin stated that he will be bringing all the information on the project to Bob in Rhinelander. He also stated that once the Town of Fern takes over the road from the residents that it will remain a town road in the future.

Joe Schumacher asked if Pat had seen that he had cut the necessary trees on the lane. Pat said that he had. Joe stated that he still has to remove the stumps. Joe also stated that one of the telephone bases needs to be eliminated or relocated. He had called the telephone company regarding this matter but has yet to hear back from them. Joe said to let him know if there is any further work required.

Chairman Erwin stated that the town would be moving ahead for spring.

Election Workers

Deputy Clerk Batte stated that she had sent letters to the election workers, Fred Erwin, Kim Haevers and Sue Christensen, stating their intentions for working the 2024 elections. Subs for working the elections will be Janet Wolosyn and Joanne Wloszczynski.

Double Assessment

Deputy Clerk Batte and Treasurer Demko stated that Kenneth Robel, property #008-05033-0000, was assessed twice for his one piece of property. The GIS for the county is wrong. It shows the home on the property next to his lot but the home is not on this property. The Town needs to rescind the taxes with the Department of Revenue, pay the taxes and request a refund from the DOR.

Moved by Supervisor Saak rescind the person property tax for #008-05033-0000.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

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

CD

Treasurer Demko stated that interest rates for CDs are particularly good. The town's current CD comes up in February. She inquired if the town should renew the CD or change it. It will renew at 4.69%. It was determined that the CD should be allowed to renew.

Treasurer Demko asked if the town would be interested in purchasing another CD. It was determined that the town would purchase another \$50,000 CD.

Moved by Supervisor Saak to renew the old CD and purchase another \$50,000 CD.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

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

Garage Insulation Bids

Constituent Pat turned in a bid from CLS for the insulation of the town garage for \$35,500. Chairman Erwin stated that he believes because of the significant price the project should be put out for bids.

It was determined that the project would be run in the Florence Mining News for bids for two weeks with the end date for bids being February 1, 2024.

Town Dump Charges

Chairman Erwin stated that someone had left four bags of garbage outside of the dump gate and the crows tore open the bags. There was trash blown everywhere that needed to be cleaned up.

Supervisor Saak stated that there should be a \$250 fine for leaving items at the dump after hours. An ordinance needs to be set for the \$250 fine.

Supervisor Saak asked what the status of getting internet installed at the town dump was. Chairman Erwin said that he had personally delivered the paperwork to Nsight but they have yet to move forward on it. Supervisor Drewa stated that he does not believe the town needs another bill. Supervisor Saak inquired if the town could set up Blue Tooth instead.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Saak stated that he would like the town to purchase a battery operated Sawzall for cutting up plastic chairs and such. He inquired what type of Sawzall Pat had. Pat stated that he had a Porter-Cable Sawzall. It was determined that Supervisor Saak should purchase one from Florence Auto Parts.

Chairman Erwin stated that John Jewula had quit his position at the town dump. He stated that John is disgruntled because of Jack Pine Road and the Town's decision to keep working on the road as in the past.

Supervisor Saak stated that he had asked Shawn if he would like to come back to work. Shawn said he would get back to Supervisor Saak.

Supervisor Saak stated that new signs with the updated recycling prices are needed. Supervisor Saak Drewa stated that he would take care of getting the new signs for the entry way and the garage wall. The sign pricing should be the same as what was sent out with the tax bills. Supervisor Drewa stated that he will get some quotes.

Constituents Concerns

Constituent Sylvester stated that he used to be assessed on his property as one joint unit. The assessor had stated that he would combine the properties but found that it cannot be done because of a decision by the Florence County Courthouse. Chairman Erwin stated that he would make some inquiries for Sylvester. Deputy Clerk Batte suggested speaking with Donna Leibergan and Kelly Sleeter both at the Courthouse.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Drewa.

Motion seconded Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti De Clark, Town Clerk