

The Town of Lake Tomahawk held their regular Town board meeting on October 11, 2017 in the Raymond F. Sloan Community Center. All notices were posted according to the Open Meeting law and the media was notified.

Present: Chairman George DeMet, Supervisors Sowatzka and Hoffman, Treasurer Mike Lynch and Clerk Nancy Schneider.

Chairman DeMet read the Agenda of the Regular Town Board Meeting of October 11, 2017 and called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM. Chairman DeMet led the people in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve the Agenda of 10/11/17 with the order at the discretion of the Chair: Sowatzka made a motion to approve the Agenda of 10/11/17, seconded by Hoffman. Motion carried, all Ayes.

Approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting of 9/13/17 and the Special Board meeting of 9/19/17: Sowatzka made a motion to accept the minutes as written for September 13 and 19, 2017; seconded by Hoffman. Motion carried, all Ayes.

Approve the payment of bills and vouchers: The Clerk asked the Board to approve the ACH, EFT & EFTPS payments, check #'s 17026 to 17057 and payroll checks 4116 to 4134 for a Total of \$56,072.01. DeMet made a motion, seconded by Sowatzka, to approve the payment of bills and vouchers as read by the clerk. Motion carried, all Ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the Month of September totaled \$1,700.00; the majority of which came from Boat Launch Fee collections of \$1,060. Expenses for the Month totaled \$40,304. Road Department expenses were \$28,723 including \$14,133 in wages and benefits. The only non-ordinary expense was \$8,000 paid to Oneida County for installing a new culvert on Rainbow Rd. Motion by DeMet to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Sowatzka; Motion carried, all Ayes.

County Representative: Bob Metropolis said that about two years ago they brought in a separate entity to social services; the Veterans Offices, which is working out very well. Recently Tamie Walters was appointed President of the County Veterans Service Office of Wisconsin which includes all the counties of the state. As far as Social Services; there was a grant applied for in the amount of \$100,000 for the children's benefit and Oneida County worked together with Vilas County to get this done. Tomorrow's meeting, they will be working on their budget.

Public Comment: DeMet said this pertained to items not currently on the Agenda. There were none.

Tomahawk Lake Association Budget Request: Ned Greedy: Ned passed out a handout, "2018 On-Going Initiatives", which included AIS Control, Shoreland-Storm Water Initiatives, Water Quality Monitoring, clean boars clean water and Other Initiatives. WDNR said no chemical treatments would be made in 2017 in our area lakes. Only heavy infestation lakes. 2018 Lake Tomahawk support will be used to fund 1018 Hydraulic Conveyor system, 2018 Clean boats clean water; 2018 Shoreland Stewardship and 2018 Purple Loose Strife Harvesting Program.

Once again, Greedy asked for the support of Lake Tomahawk. DeMet said that we would be putting out budget together and would take into consideration Ned's request.

Set date for Special Board meeting to finalize 2018 Budget and date for Budget Hearing: DeMet asked, how does October 24<sup>th</sup> sound for a special board meeting to finalize the budget? DeMet said he was looking at November 15<sup>th</sup> for the Budget Hearing which would be a week after our regular Board Meeting in November. The time of the meeting would be 8:00 AM.

Lake Tomahawk ATV/UTV Club request for a trailhead: DeMet asked if there was a spokesperson. Barb Spears-Ehlers indicated she was the spokesperson. Barb said that recently they have put together an ATV/UTV Club; the name has yet to be determined and they are working on that. As a Club and as a business owner, they would like to request a trail head located down town in the public parking area near the ice cream stand. DeMet asked why? Barb said that they are looking to bring ATVs & UTVs in town. Barb said they have had some meetings during the past weeks and month and they have found that the Town of Woodruff has established their trails through the Town to be opened and used. The club is also aware that they are still in the works with the DNR and DOT. As Lake Tomahawk, they are looking to establish some connectivity. The Club is aware that trails coming into Lake Tomahawk is also something that has to come before and be approved by the Town Board and then go before the DNR and DOT.

DeMet referred back to the meeting that they had last week with the DNR; as part of the Northern Highland's State Forestry master plan, they are talking about allowing the use of some woods road between Woodruff and Lake Tomahawk that would be east of Highway 47 and North of Gritzmachen Rd. DeMet said he didn't have any issues with ATVs coming into town if they are supported and if the routes that come into town are supported by those who live along those routes. Barb said that initially when they begin talking about this, they did talk about bringing railroad grade into town and they did go and talk to some of the residents that live on Kelly Drive that butt up to the railroad grade. They did have success in talking with some of the people, however, did not get to talk to all of the people. They also are aware there could be some alternatives, such as the roadway from Gritzmachen to Kelly Dr. to Rainbow which would be all pavement. Again, they still have to go to the residents on Kelly Dr. and get those things in place before they can get it approved. Barb said right now the trailhead is the leading stone for the connectivity point, connecting to Woodruff. Barb said they don't know if that will pass or if the trail will pass, but they are working in baby steps; looking at all that is going on all around us and the time they are putting in; this is their first initiative. DeMet ask the audience if anyone else had anything to say on the subject.

Doris Vyvyan had several articles about ATVs and accidents and going off the trails, people getting hurt, not wearing helmets and things like that. Doris said about 2 or 3 years ago, the residents of Lake Tomahawk had a survey, and in the Planning Commission's survey, 68% did not want ATV in Lake Tomahawk, restricting commercialization along Highway 47. The people said No to ATVs and every year they want to bring it up again and discuss it. Doris said we have hiking, biking, walking Trails and a lot of things that bring people into our town, we don't need ATVs.

DeMet reminded everyone, that the question is whether or not the Town wants to put a trailhead in behind the corner drive-in. The town owns all of that property. They are not talking about allowing ATVs on all the Town roads, they are talking only about having a trailhead in Lake Tomahawk.

Rick Mazurczak said he was Town Chairman when the survey was taken in 2009 and the survey was talking about town roads only and not a trailhead. Barb Vetterman asked what happens when a person is walking their dog and an ATV comes down the trail. Next ensued lengthy discussions; for and against, with everyone talking at once, whereby DeMet regained control but allowing only one person to talk at a time. DeMet said that in the meeting with the ATV Club and the DNR; the DNR does not want the ATVs coming down the railroad right of way because as you say, there is already a hiking and biking trail. What they are proposing is coming down through the logging roads that exist east of Highway 47 and North of Gritzmachen, and when they get to Gritzmachen Rd., they would travel Woodruff Roads to the Town line, which is on Kelly Dr. Barb then asked if they would come down Kelly Dr. and DeMet, said yes.

Barb then asked what about the people on Kelly Dr. DeMet said that is what we are talking about. The Board is not going to approve anything unless all of those residents are in agreement with that. The suggestion from the DNR was that the ATV trail would be in the forest and not on the railway bed. DeMet emphasized again that the board is trying to decide whether or not they want to designate the land behind the drive-in as a trailhead.

Kevin Krueger said, so getting a trailhead in town; there are also some alternatives that need to be looked at with concerns for parking. Krueger questioned that at this time, it is the DNR's idea is to provide a route into Lake Tomahawk and connect Lake Tomahawk to the surrounding communities. If you look at the surrounding area ATVs usage, we are somewhat of an island on to ourselves. Most of the surrounding areas have approved ATV trails to different extents. Lake Tomahawk could be considered the central hub which connects to the different counties and having a trailhead would be very helpful in establishing this connection. DeMet mentioned that the DNR's feeling is that the ATV club be proactive in keeping up their trails. Krueger said that part of the DNR's Master Plan is that they open the forest to multiple uses. They manage the forest to be used by everyone and not just select groups. Multiple uses do work and there are rules and regulations that are encumbered upon the rider of an ATV or UTV. DeMet reminded Krueger that the DNR wants to keep the trails separate.

It was DeMet's conclusion that the Board could not come up with a decision tonight. DeMet suggested that they ask the Planning Commission to get involved with this and see what kind of recommendations they come up with. There is a lot of work and planning for the ATV/UTV Club to do before we can go forward.

A member of the audience question the usage of the boat landing in the winter for ATVs. DeMet said no one ever came forward to request renewal of the ordinance for the winter. DeMet said the snowmobile has continued use of it; the ATV group never came back and requested renewal. It was written in 2009, and renewed once and no one came back and renewed it again.

Additional parking needs for Town Boat Launch and Community Center: DeMet said we could also add the railroad bed in this area as well. Rodney said that as a member of the Park Commission it was brought to their attention at the last meeting, that this past summer on at least 6 or 7 weekends, there was no parking at the launch as it was filled up. They were parking on the roads, they were parking everywhere and obviously people were not happy. The Park commission has a fund and they would like to use that money to get a survey on the old church lot, for additional parking, not only for the boat launch, but also for the community center, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Harvest fest, etc. and anything else we have going on. We have the money in our budget to hire an engineering firm to see what they can come up with to provide additional parking for our town. After further discussion, DeMet asked the Board if they would consider looking into an engineering study of the parking area which would include the old church property, Community Center and the parking area behind the drive-in and see what they would come up with. The Park Commission has \$4,000 to spend. DeMet made a motion we consider and look into the cost of hiring an engineer to look into the study on these parking situations. Hoffman seconded the Motion. Motion carried, all ayes. Krueger brought up the point, that the lots behind the Sloan Center was purchased for parking and to alleviate the water problem. DeMet said that was correct. However, to fix the water problem, they would have had to put in a retaining pond at an estimated cost of \$10,000.

Krueger also brought up the problem with handicapped parking; the town does not control that, it would have to come from DOT. DeMet said the Board will forward the ideas to the Plan Commission to see what they come up with regarding all of the points that were brought up tonight. DeMet said at this time, there is nothing further to do, as there is no designated route or plan coming into town. Barb said but it starts with the ATV Club and DeMet agreed. It also starts with the Town as to whether they want to designate a portion of land to be a trailhead. The Plan commission will look at it and they will decide how to resolve the questions. DeMet said maybe we need to put a questionnaire out with our tax bills, maybe we need to have a referendum; we will ask for their advice, that's why they are there. Barb said, last time in 2015, they cancelled the meeting and it never went any further. DeMet said the Plan Commission didn't cancel the meeting, the Board did, and the subject was brought before the Board. Barb asked why it was cancelled again and DeMet said that it was because the ATV Club did not have a Plan. Now they are bringing a plan. It's the first time in the last two years that they are bringing a plan. Krueger asked the Chair that when the Board discusses the ATV matters, that they communicate with the ATV Club and discuss with them future plans and meetings regarding ATVs. DeMet said, absolutely. He further asked that notice be given to the Club in a timely manner so they can attend meetings by the Plan Commission and the Board. Barb asked how they will do this when they don't have regular planned meetings. DeMet said that he would talk to the Plan Commission Chair and ask that the ATV club be notified when there is discussion concern them.

Correspondence: Nothing.

Motion to Adjourn: Sowatzka made a motion to adjourn, seconded by DeMet. Motion carried, All Ayes.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy J. Schneider, Town Clerk