

# MINUTES

## SPRINGDALE TOWN BOARD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

1. **Call to order and certification of compliance with open meetings law** by Rosenbaum at 7:00 p.m. a quorum of Rosenbaum, Hefty and Schwenn present at Town Hall along with Admin/Clerk Arthur and Treasurer Boelhower-Santi. Patrolman Dahlk via Zoom. Arthur confirmed posting in accordance with the open meeting law on 1/13 at springdalewi.gov and on 1/6 at Town Hall. Mt. Horeb Mail notified 1/13.
2. **Approval of the agenda.** No changes
3. **Minutes of previous Town Board meetings**
  - 12/20 TB meeting – no changes. **MOTION** (Schwenn/Hefty) to approve with no changes. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.
4. **Public comment.** A rousing rendition of Happy Birthday was led by Sup. Schwenn in celebration of Chair Rosenbaum's birthday. No other public comment was raised.
5. **Treasurer report and bills.**

### *December recap*

Boelhower-Santi received first transportation aid payment for \$32,678. Also submitted \$10,000 in unclaimed funds (uncashed checks, mostly property tax overpayments) to Dane County to go on state's unclaimed property list so we can write it off. Checking account as of 12/31 was \$143,000 which included the ATC overweight trips check and the Payne + Dolan invoice for Witte Rd. We accepted \$2.6 M in taxes in December, exported to County on January 2. Took checks to Mt. Horeb and Verona school districts.

### *Interest Income Discussion*

Between 2021 and 2022 new accounts were created – ARPA, ATC environmental fund and a capital improvement account (Lust Rd. is separate issue, interest stays in that account for Kahls). Because earned interest was so small, it was just left in the account. However, interest at the end of last year is significant; should we leave it in the account, or pull it out? Discussion: it was generally agreed that the interest from the ARPA and ATC accounts should be pulled into the tax account to ensure the balances stay true to what we received/spent so far from those accounts, and that the interest for the capital account should remain earning interest in that account.

### *Bills*

**MOTION** (Hefty/Schwenn) to approve the bills. Discussion: Rosenbaum question on Stafford Rosenbaum bill for Lust Rd. Arthur will confirm with Chris Hughes that it is the Town's responsibility for purposes of the Lust. Rd. expense tracking. Blanchardville invoices three this month, seems like a lot of fuel in a short period of time. Is there a lock on the tank? Dahlk – with the snow around Christmas, plows were out for extended periods. Every route is almost a tank of fuel. Two trucks are 70 gallons each. No lock on the tank, but breaker to the power is off in the shop. Fuel can't be stolen unless its siphoned. No further discussion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

### 6. **Liberty Street (Mt. Vernon) updates**

- **1668 Liberty St.** – Admin/Clerk Arthur summarized the history of Dane Co. Zoning ordinance violations (inoperable vehicles/junk) at this property, going back to at least July 2004, again in 2010 and most recently October 2022. In October, Mr. Lester was notified via mail that he must arrange a follow-up after-inspection meeting within 10 days with DC Zoning in order to avoid a citation. Mr. Lester requested an extension to Spring; Dane Co. denied extension request due to prior history with the violations. As the junk still remains in violation of DC ordinances, the matter was referred to counsel. As of 1/17, Mr. Lester was unable to be found for service of

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documents to set a court hearing. Once served, Mr. Lester will have 20 days to file an answer with the court and a court schedule/hearing set. Clerk Arthur will remain in touch with Shawn Widish, Dane Co. Zoning Inspector.

- **8668 Liberty St.** – multiple large holes exist, and have existed for years, in the foundation of the Sherven feed mill. Rosenbaum believes it is an attractive nuisance and dangerous should anyone attempt to enter through the holes. General agreement of danger of this property and discussion of whether water could enter the foundation through the holes. Patrolman Dahlk confirmed that the grass/weeds between the road and the foundation is 2-3" higher ensuring water doesn't flow there. Clerk Arthur has been in contact with Town building inspector Tracy Johnson, who agreed to inspect and assist in following the abatement process laid out in Town Ordinance Title 8, Chapter 5, section 6 dealing with public nuisances when he returns from vacation.
- **Mailboxes** – in December a complaint from neighbor, J. Haack, 1598 Liberty St., was sent to the Town that mail was not able to be delivered due to overgrowth of the trees located in the ROW at 1668 Liberty Street. Patrolman Dahlk trimmed back the trees near the mailbox after the December 20 meeting. Another communication was received today, 1/17 from the Haacks and was printed for the board, relevant excerpts below:

*"...we were opposed to the addition of those trees and did so publicly over 15 years ago. We were told by the town that they would be maintained (by Mr. Lester) and trimmed back from the roadway. This has not been the case. Not only have the cedars grown up and out into the road path, the overall neglect of the trees on both sides of the road frequently makes travel difficult..."*

*"...It is frustrating since we are not residents of Springdale, but rely on our neighbors and the Town to provide access to our homes and business...we feel like we have tried to address these issues in the past, but they remain unresolved."*

**MOTION** (Hefty/Schwenn) to notify Mr. Lester, by letter, that the trees will be removed 30 days from date of letter unless the clerk finds this is not the correct process to follow. No further discussion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

7. **County bridge aid discussion** – Since the Town Hall Rd. bridge is less than a 20' span and is therefore ineligible for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law aid (80% reimbursement), Dane County aid is the only option at 50% reimbursement. County aid applications require a hydraulic sizing study (\$8,000-10,000) to accompany the application. Board agreed that we should start to get our ducks in a row for a June application. Supervisor Hefty obtained two quotes for hydraulic sizing, one from Jewell and the other from KL Engineering. Since KL Engineering did not meet expectations for last year's application process, Jewell was selected.

**MOTION** (Hefty/Schwenn) to sign agreement with Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc. to do hydraulic sizing study for TH Rd bridge at a cost of \$9,500. No further discussion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

8. **Discussion/possible action on sale or disposition of unused lawn tractor and boom mower.**

Discussion: Supervisor Hefty purchased and fixed up the lawn tractor for use at Town Hall nearly 10 years ago – Dahlk says transmission is slipping and not worth putting more money into. Patrolman uses his personal mower to mow the Town Hall grass. The boom mower also purchased for \$2500 ~10 years ago, Patrolman was going to try to retrofit on tractor, but it didn't fit. It is an outdated setup and would take a lot of time/money to get it working. Rosenbaum suggested offering each to Town residents for

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\$100 via the email blast on a first come, first served basis. General consensus was that it would be easier/more efficient to have Patrolman just take both items to Wisconsin Surplus.

**MOTION** (Hefty/Schwenn) to put both items on Wisconsin Surplus Auction site. No further discussion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

- 9. Salt shed/old town hall discussion.** Rosenbaum expressed concern that any salt spilled or not otherwise contained on the concrete pad near the salt shed may be running off into the creek. The Town has monies from the ATC line to be used for conservation purposes – we could look into having someone from the DNR or other agency take a look and recommend solutions for preventing runoff into the creek. Dahlk – suggested that we extend the concrete pad and install a curb/French drain to prevent runoff into the creek, as it is easier to scrape salt from concrete than from gravel. Hefty and Rosenbaum agreed that we should have Patrolman come up with a plan and get some estimates on improvements to prevent the runoff. Dahlk noted that a private firm inspects the area yearly and we have not been warned of any issues in the past.

- 10. Hourly wage for seasonal Town snowplow help discussion/possible action.** Currently pay \$23/hour; budgeted for a 5% increase on that line item but never officially decided on a rate.

**MOTION** (Schwenn/Hefty) to raise the hourly rate for part-time plow drivers to \$24/hour effective next payroll. No further discussion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

- 11. Town Hall insulation & ventilation project update/discussion.** To date, two contractors have visited town hall to estimate the project, Rainbow Insulation and Zander Solutions. Rockweiler Insulation is scheduled for 1/20. Citywide Insulation sent in a bid based on building measurements without a site visit. All contractors so far do not deal with ventilation. They suggest a roofing contractor to install vents and possibly a powered attic fan. Admin/Clerk Arthur has published bid advertisements in the Mt. Horeb Mail for 1/19 and 1/26. Currently the shop has about 2-3 inches of blown cellulose in the ceiling and the office has 7-8 inches of blown fiberglass. All openings to and through the attic which are unused need to be closed off before insulation is added. Gable-end vents should be added in both the shop and office. On the north end of the shop the concrete-block wall goes all the way up to the roof, so the addition of a north gable-end vent will require cutting through the block wall. In the attic above the office, the roof has been leaking in at least three places. There are three buckets hanging from trusses to catch water leaking inside. Leaks should be fixed before insulating. Lots of mice have been active in the attic space above the office, tunneling through the fiberglass. A few dead mice were spotted. Best solution would be to vacuum all of the fiberglass from above the office, then air-seal the attic before adding new insulation. Cellulose advantages: does not absorb moisture and mice will not tunnel in it. Blown fiberglass: lighter than cellulose but also more expensive.

Additionally, the ceiling battens in the shop are not securely attached to the bottom of the trusses and need to be screwed into the trusses before any insulation is added. Two bids for installing screws received from Judd Construction (bid 2 people @ \$100/hr.) and Tim Forseth Construction (bid 1 person @ \$65/hr.). Town would pay for screws and lift.

**MOTION** (Rosenbaum/Hefty) to authorize Dahlk to work with Tim Forseth for reattachment of battens in the shop as soon as he can get that done at \$65/hour plus lift and screws. Will keep talking about roofing/ventilation. No further discussion. 3 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

- 12. US 18/151 project update.** Admin/Clerk Arthur provided update from DOT mailing concerning the resurfacing project starting at Town Hall Rd. and going to Fitchburg this spring. Aspects of the project include inside paved shoulder increasing from 3 to 6', updating existing guardrails, and median re-

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grading. Extended turn lanes at rural intersections are no longer included in the project. Learn more at <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/us18151/default.aspx>.

- 13. Discussion on implementing a neighbor notice procedure for demolitions and the creation of a demolition permit to match the Town ordinance** (Title 9, Chapter 1, 1-14, Razing and Demolition). Admin/clerk Arthur explained that our ordinance requires a demolition permit and application, and neither currently exist. Building Inspector Tracy Johnson currently uses the Uniform Dwelling Code Permit application which doesn't contain the required fields. Additionally, Arthur suggested implementation of a neighbor notice feature to the ordinance. Demolitions are messy and intrusive with potentially hazardous airborne contaminants and neighbors should be made aware. Board consensus that adjacent properties should be notified, and that Clerk should work on this as time permits.
- 14. In-person/hybrid meeting policy updates.** As discussed in December, Supervisor Hefty submitted language (shown in the meeting) that requires, among other minor edits, board and committee member in-person attendance at any meeting with an in-person component. This is substituted wherever the word "non-virtual" occurred in the submitted text. Also added justifiable cause to the request procedure for consideration to attend hybrid meetings remotely. Admin/Clerk will incorporate into new resolution for February adoption.
- 15. Mount Horeb Community Foundation grant award receipt and thank-you.** Letter was written to the Foundation to thank them for the grant for the old town hall steps.
- 16. Vacant Town deputy/elections clerk position update.** Update provided by Admin/Clerk Arthur. Hefty and Schwenn do not feel that the Board needs to interview the admin/clerk's chosen candidate.
- 17. Calendar of upcoming events**
- Monday, January 23 – joint PC/TB meeting
  - Tuesday, February 7 – in-person absentee voting at town hall, 2-4 PM
  - Tuesday, February 14 – in-person absentee voting at town hall, 2-4 PM
  - Thursday, February 16 – deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
  - **Tuesday, February 21 - Spring Primary**
  - **Tuesday, April 4 - Spring Election**
- 18. Adjournment**  
**MOTION** (Schwenn/Hefty) to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

*Minutes taken and submitted by Administrator/Clerk Jackie Arthur*