The Springdale Town Board held a special meeting on June 13, 2024, for the purpose of beginning to explore which Town roads, if any, might be appropriate for use by ATVs/UTVs.

Board members in attendance were Supervisors Hefty and Schwenn, and Chair Rosenbaum

Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 7 pm. He confirmed that the meeting was properly posted in compliance with state open meeting regulations.

Rosenbaum opened the meeting by saying that the Board will make no decisions in this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to understand the preferences of ATV enthusiasts, as well as to hear from residents and their positions relative to ATVs being allowed on some or most Town roads.

Discussion points made during the meeting included:

* Rosenbaum summarized the ATV stance of all Towns surrounding Springdale:
* Middleton – no ordinance
* Verona – no ordinance
* Primrose - the subject was brought up at one time, but there was not enough interest from residents to place it on a meeting agenda.
* Perry – the topic has not come up in the Town of Perry
* Blue Mounds – Adopted an ordinance 4/16/24
* Vermont – Adopted an ordinance 4/8/24
* Cross Plains – Adopted an ordinance 11/20/23 – Ordinance expires unless renewed after two years
* Montrose – Have had several requests, but the Town Board has consistently said no. The Town is pretty much surrounded by county and state highways that prevents easy access to Town roads.  Permitted only on a 400 ft stretch which connects to another Town.
* Rosenbaum noted that, the further a Town lies from Madison, the more likely they are to allow ATVs, likely because Towns closer to Madison have more residents and more traffic on their roads.
* ATV travel on County highways P, PD S is currently prohibited
* Jackie Arthur had put together a list of 75 Town roads in advance of the meeting. Based on that list of roads, Hefty did some analysis showing:
  + US Highway 18/151 through Springdale has no portion where the speed limit is 35 MPH or less and therefore recreational ATV/UTV access/use is prohibited.
  + State Highway 92 does have an area in Mount Vernon where the speed limit is below the 35 MPH limit, otherwise recreational ATV/UTV access/use is prohibited. The Town does have the authority to designate that specific portion of State Road 92 within Mount Vernon as an ATV/UTV route.
  + Dane County has prohibited access to County Roads P, PD and S within Springdale.
  + These preceding conditions make 29 of the 77 Town roads un-accessible for recreational ATV/UTV use, other than within their specific road boundaries.
  + There are 21 through roads (roads that connect to another road at each end that is NOT a cul-de-sac) which may or may not allow any access beyond that connecting road. Most all of the through roads either begin or end with County Roads G or J, which would require the Town to support a request for these roads to be ATV/UTV routes.
  + Of the 27 cul-de-sac roads, 5 are only accessible via County Roads G or J which would pretty much eliminate them from being part of an ATV/UTV route.
  + The remaining 22 cul-de-sac roads are only accessed via Town roads, again pretty much eliminating them from part of an ATV/UTV route.
  + Only the 21 through roads seem to be potential candidates for ATV/UTV routes, but only within the Town boundaries.
* ATV club members would like to see highways G and J opened. They would like to have a way to travel from points south to Mount Vernon and Riley.
* Rosenbaum expressed concern about asking the county to open highways G or J to ATVs, based on the volume of traffic on those roads.
* An audience member expressed the opinion that ATV clubs in the area generally ride on the weekends, when commuter traffic is lower than on weekdays.
* Some audience members provided materials indicating that ATVs are generally designed, manufactured and sold for off-highway use. They are not as safe as regular vehicles when operated on blacktop or concrete roadways. Others opined that ATVs with the appropriate highway tires are safer than those with traditional ATV tires. However, there is no reasonable way to prevent ATVs with off-road tires from operating on paved roads once roads are opened to ATV use.
* Some residents expressed concerns about driving an auto or other regular vehicle, and rapidly coming up behind a group of ATVs traveling at 35 mph or less, and then, with the rolling topography and curves in Springdale roads, being unable to pass the ATV group, or perhaps taking unreasonable chances in passing one or more ATVs.
* Some residents expressed concern about the noise that typical ATVs generate, and the peace and quiet of Springdale residents being interrupted.
* A resident asked if a referendum could be conducted among Springdale residents, to gauge their opinions about ATVs on roads in the Town. Rosenbaum advised that, a couple of years ago, as a part of Act 12, the state now prohibits advisory referenda, except those concerning the following topics: capital projects funded via property taxes, local revenue sharing agreements, boundary agreements, and the establishment of municipal cable, broadband, or telecommunications utilities.

The Board asked the ATV enthusiasts to meet separately and come back with a proposal that allows them to travel where they might like, but minimize travel on Town roads, as well as on county highways G and J. This request does not obligate the Board to any particular future action.

No motions were made during the meeting.

Supervisor Schwenn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Hefty seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Minutes taken and submitted by Rosenbaum