

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.

Chairman Jeff Gerike called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Board members Present: Chairman, Jeff Gerike; Supervisors: Ricky Strauch, Lynn Norheim, Dean Solie & Steve Weiss; Treasurer, Tamy Moss; Clerk, Patti Warner

Pledge of Allegiance

Also Present: Tom Peterson, Bernice Strauch, Vaughn Nagahashi, Fred Poss, Bruce Logterman, Dan Marcheske, Vicki Larson, Steve Strey, Debra Dickinsen, Brent Dickinsen, & Dale Kirchoff

Approve agenda: Motion to approve agenda was made by Steve Weiss. Seconded by Lynn Norheim. Motion carried: Supervisors: Steve Weiss (aye) Dean Solie (aye) Lynn Norheim (aye) Ricky Strauch (aye) Chairman, Jeff Gerike (aye)

Public Comment:

Fred Poss – President of Lake Association would like to be on next month's agenda to give a through summary and update on progress on Lake Eau Claire & speak on behalf of the Lake District –the did have a public hearing and 33 attended – would also like to see support for new next 2 year plan.

Vaughn Nagahashi – stated he spoke with Steve Weiss and they were discussing Jim Drost – Steve Weiss asked if Jim Drost was available to look at Attorney Schaumberg's response to the mining ordinance changes and he is willing too. He did say he would do it and he emailed an idea of cost what it would be - he's also available to do mine inspections. Vaughn Nagahashi asked if this could be discussed under old business.

The minutes were read and approved on a motion by Supervisor Dean Solie. Seconded by Supervisor Ricky Strauch. Motion carried: Supervisors: Steve Weiss (aye) Dean Solie (aye) Lynn Norheim (aye) Ricky Strauch (aye) Chairman, Jeff Gerike (aye)

The financial report was presented. Motion to approve was made by Supervisor Steve Weiss. Seconded by Supervisor Dean Solie. Motion carried: Supervisors: Steve Weiss (aye) Dean Solie (aye) Lynn Norheim (aye) Ricky Strauch (aye) Chairman, Jeff Gerike (aye)

Old Business:

Ricky Strauch: Brought up James Drost – he felt he should review our ordinance and suggested changes and use him as a mine inspector. Felt his hourly rate is reasonable.

Steve Weiss stated he spoke with Scott McCurdy and Scott told him he doesn't deal with

this. Steve Weiss stated he feels James Drost is a good outside source for us and we should consider hiring him and also sending all information to him to look at. Ricky Strauch stated he felt Jim Drost was a better fit for what we need.

Supervisor Dean Solie said before we change our ordinance - he feels we should have a special meeting with the committee, the whole town board, Attorney Schaumberg and Scott McCurdy. He stated he doesn't have any problem if Mr. Drost looks over it and it is free – but either way he feels Attorney Schaumberg, Scott McCurdy and the board should have final say. Also stated that while Mr. Drost may look at revision's he's not an attorney.

Steve Weiss stated Vaughn Nagahashi shared a handout with him and he passed it out to the board. It's discussing property ranges that should be covered close to mines and he said it is good information when we are looking at radiuses and effects.

Steve Weiss said he'd like to make a motion that we have James Drost look at the ordinance revisions and get him involved with mining inspections. Chairman Jeff Gerike stated we cannot vote on anything as it was not an agenda item. Steve Weiss stated he would like to have it on next months agenda and if approved would like to send all information to James Drost to look over and start communication with him.

Dean Solie asked since the Lake Association got its approval to clean out the traps can we continue to help hauling out sand with our trucks. Chairman Jeff Gerike & Dale Kirchoff stated they should still be able to help.

Ricky asked about the school budget forecast and Ryan is gong to be at next meeting.

Erika & Elisse Bauer from Eau Claire County Humane Society spoke to the board. Erika discussed her role with the County Humane Association. She also spoke about the statutes and requirements for having our own facility here to impound dogs. There has to be an appointed Humane Office ad the Chairman could serve as one if we want to continue doing it ourselves. They pick up animals 24 hrs/day if it is livestock they wait until the next day. If there's an emergency people can call the com center. Supervisor Dean Solie asked if they handled barking dogs. She stated that they do and that they go out and will talk to the person. They will log it and if it continues to be a nuisance they will investigate further to see if it is indeed a nuisance – or possibly neighbors having a disagreement. If they need too they will try to find resources to keep dogs from barking. Most of what they do is complaint driven but they are huge on education. We do not have to have an ordinance but she recommends it as it is something for people to look at. She passed out a couple samples of ordinances a simple one where they just adopted all the state statutes and another one where it is more involved. Also if requested by the board Erika would go around house to house and verify that owners have their dogs licensed. Also if the board signs on with full service with the Humane Association she asks that she receives a report of licensed dogs when the treasurer settles with the County. That way they also will have a way to track dogs if picked up. Question was asked about feral cats or cats turned in. She said if there is a pattern with someone dropping off cats

they will investigate and make sure it is not someone just bringing in cats that are theirs. After discussion Supervisor Dean Solie made a motion to sign a full contract with the Eau Claire County Humane Society. Seconded by Supervisor Lynn Norheim. Motion carried: Supervisors: Steve Weiss (aye) Dean Solie (aye) Lynn Norheim (aye) Ricky Strauch (aye) Chairman, Jeff Gerike (aye)

Chairman Jeff Gerike asked Supervisor Lynn Norheim & Ricky Strauch to look over the ordinance's Erika passed out and to come back at next months meeting with a suggested dog ordinance.

Steve Strey spoke to the board about an Ag Enterprise Area. Ricky Strauch asked him to attend the meeting and explain it to the board. It was started in Otter Creek and falls under farmland preservation - you have to live in a zoned township to start it. If zoned you can get an income tax credit 7.50 per acre that you own as Ag land but you have to comply with the State's conservation plan. The working land initiative actually came up with a new set of rules for an Ag Enterprise Area. The reason for it is past farmland was too easy to get out of. He stated it is not a government down program it's a farmer up program. They as a committee have to create an area and have the state approve. Under the new AEA zoned townships would get 10.00 per Ag land but being unzoned you would only get 5.00. Central Eau Claire County is where it is getting started. You have to draw a continuous boundary line. Basically once you draw boundaries if you're inside you can opt to collect for 15 yrs but you don't have to sign a contract - if someone doesn't want to be in it they can say they don't want their land in boundary - they have to have 5 farmers petition to request to get in the program. Ricky is on the committee now. The land has to be in a continuous line. In order to qualify you have to have a gross revenue at least 6K/yr. They are having at meeting at Lincoln town hall on January 21<sup>st</sup> - it is going to be an informational meeting. There is a way an unzoned township can get the 10.00 income tax credit per acre and that is if they have a continuous corridor that joins up to a zoned township. Ricky Strauch stated that if Amish don't want to sign up for it - as long as they say they are not opposed to having the line run past their property you could have your continuous boundary. It is more of a handshake - anyone not wanting to participate does not have to sign anything - but if they allow the boundary line to go past their property at some point if they wanted to they could choose to opt into it. They are hoping to get the petition to the state by April. This is not county involved - it is a state run program. Chairman Jeff Gerike asked where the money is generated. Steve stated it is a state credit. By signing up your are merely stating I'm a farmer and I want to stay a farmer for the next 15 years. Supervisor Lynn Norheim asked if the contract stays with the land or the owner. Steve Strey stated he doesn't know he's going to ask that question next time. Ricky Strauch stated basically you get paid for what you're already doing. Chairman Jeff Gerike asked what if a farmer wants to get out of it. Steve Strey stated he was sure you would have to payback what you already received in tax credits as well as a penalty. Steve Strey stated they are also looking for town boards to say yes it's a good thing to sign up with and that they are in favor of doing it. It would be done as a resolution and if no one signed up for the program it doesn't matter. The contract is between the landowner and the state.

Chairman Jeff Gerike brought up about the ordinance revisions and if the board wanted to vote on it. Tom Peterson asked to speak on behalf of the committee. He stated that he appreciated receiving Attorney Schaumberg's response but was quite disappointed with him using the word punitive. He stated it was not the intent of the committee to have a punitive ordinance. He recommended that we ask another attorney to get a comparison on their opinion. Vaughn Nagahashi spoke and stated that we could still go to an outside source and get their opinion on it. Vaughn stated that since the township is against zoning he feels we need to get another opinion on the mining ordinance. He feels we really need to get it right due to not zoning. He asked if there could be a special meeting with another source – rather than wait he'd like to expedite it. He stated they have contacts and that they would look the mining ordinance and revision over pro bono. Vaughn feels there are benefits to getting more than one opinion. Supervisor Steve Weiss stated that he felt it was a very good idea and wondered who Vaughn had in mind. Vaughn stated he had three attorneys in mind. Glenn Stoddard, Bill Mavety? And John Wegman who is the Attorney for Garfield. Supervisor Steve Weiss stated he would really like to see the attorney for Pepin to look at it. Chairman Jeff Gerike stated this was not on the agenda to approve. Supervisor Steve Weiss asked that it be placed on next months agenda for a vote. He'd like to see another attorney look at proposed changes and then afterwards have a meeting with Attorney Schaumberg and everyone else. Any decision will be tabled until next meeting.

Ricky Strauch wanted to know if we wanted another lawyer to look at it with an environmental background. Supervisor Lynn Norheim said he doesn't like the word challenged with our attorney. Supervisor Dean Solie read through all comments and stated there are things we can't enforce – like having them divulge their income – and stating that we can only have 2 mines in township – that goes for any businessmen in the township. Vaughn stated they could have an attorney look at it and come back with his opinion in February. Steve stated that would be a good idea. Chairman Jeff Gerike stated it is not something the town board has approved to do. If it is done they are doing it on their own not as part of the township.

Dog ordinance discussion is tabled until next month.

Dale was asked about the crushing. He stated that they are still crushing down at Willy Olsen's pit but that they are quitting after tomorrow. They have a large amount crushed.

All bills were audited and paid.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Supervisor Steve Weiss. Seconded by Supervisor Dean Solie. Motion carried meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.

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Patti Warner, Clerk

ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW

Motion carried: Supervisors: Steve Weiss (aye) Dean Solie (aye) Lynn Norheim (aye)  
Ricky Strauch (aye) Chairman, Jeff Gerike (aye)