

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK
S9515 State Road 27
Augusta, WI 54722

MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2021 – 7:30 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call

Present – Supervisors Patrick Bethke, Gordie O’Brien, Brian Bertram; Chairman Ricky Strauch, Clerk Kathy Olson and Treasurer Dawn Werlein. Absent: Supervisor Bruce Logterman

3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Citizens Comment

Fred Poss presented an overview of the Lake Eau Claire Protection & Rehab on Lake Eau Claire. This group plus Friends of Lake Eau Claire have received several Wisconsin DNR grants – one a matching grant of \$199,000 to install sediment traps and a second of \$49,684.58 matching grant for the purpose of bank stabilization. These are necessary to protect and improve not only rookeries and bird sanctuaries – but critical to continue a healthy and productive fishery and recreational water resource for all to enjoy. Fred shared that if anyone is interested in donating to the cause, those could be sent to Friends of Lake Eau Claire, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722-0229.

5. Sean Morgan from Associated Appraisal will be present to answer questions and explain the process of the Reevaluation Process in our Town of Bridge Creek.

Sean shared that the field process is done and now the final analysis for re-evaluation purposes are being worked on and will be sent out to property owners in the Town of Bridge Creek. They found quite a few omitted properties. According to State Statutes, Townships can go back 2 yrs on real estate. About 64% of buildings were found that were not on the books. Sean shared that the Township can go back on those omitted properties/building and be assessed if for market value or a set amount can be assessed. Just be consistent. Ricky Strauch asked how other municipalities handled it. Gordie O’Brien suggested to set dollar amount. Sean also shared that Open Book will take several days which he will be in contact with Allen Sunstrom to set times and dates. This shows the importance of providing building notifications to the Township. Sean also added that there will be a shift in budget/property taxation (residential vs. commercial along with omitted properties). This could raise a budget by 2%. It is required and vital for property owners to not only complete application for building notifications for new buildings or additions to existing buildings, but also be accurate and forthcoming about use of buildings and size of buildings being built. New assessment letters will be mailed to each property owner. Property owners will then have the opportunity to discuss at the Open Book Meeting by making an appointment with assessor. The Open Book may take a couple of days, so Sean will check with Al Sunstrom for dates and times. A date will also be set for the Board of Review. This will be advertised in the Augusta Paper because of need to be a class A or B publication, but it will also be published in the Ad-Delete early on for opportunities to make appointments through Associated Appraisal. Gordie O’Brien suggested that perhaps board could have a special meeting to talk about this.

6. Approval of 7-15-21 Agenda and Proper Posting

Gordie O’Brien made a motion to approve the agenda and its proper posting. Patrick Bethke made a second to the motion. All “Yes”. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Minutes

6-17-2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Gordie O’Brien made a motion to approve the 6-17-21 Regular Meeting Minutes. Brian Bertram seconded the motion. All “Yes”. Motion carried.

8. Treasurer's Financial Report Ending 6-30-2021 (includes approval of checks #19684-19716 for general fund account 116 and check # 1006 and 1007 from the Recycling Account). Gordie O'Brien made a motion to approve the 6-30-21 Treasurer's Financial Report as presented. Patrick Bethke made a second to the motion. All "Yes". Motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. Roadworkers Handbook – Discuss/Amend/Possible Approval

Gordie O'Brien approved the Roadworkers Handbook with corrections discussed regarding the wording of vacation/sick days and how it is to be pro-rated the first year and then fall in place from start of year the second year. Brian Bertram made a second to the motion with corrections.

B. Comprehensive Plan – Discuss/Amend/Possible Approval

(1) Ronnie Williams and Fred Poss will also address Board

Chairman of the Comprehensive Commission Plan, Fred Poss, presented the final copy of the 20-year Comprehensive Plan to Town of Bridge Creek Board Members for adoption. Fred shared it had been a privilege to have been apart of this document. He also shared that if there were any possible edits/typo's, to please let them know to be edited. This document will be a living document and should be amended over time to keep it current. The document will be sent electronically, once adopted, to the State of Wisconsin, Township and will need to be put on the web so it is available to everyone. The document holds multiple statement-of-fact numbers (i.e., number of schools, etc.), along with statements of problems or conflicts that might be resolvable between the English and Amish agricultural zoning issues. Williams Engineering keeps this document indefinitely. There are two very important documents that need to be signed before submitting to the State. Gordie O'Brien took the opportunity to thank all who were involved for their hard work. Patrick Bethke also thanked committee and shared the important of having a living document to work off from on an annual basis. Gordie O'Brien made a motion to adopt the Comprehensive Plan as presented. Patrick Bethke made a second to the motion. All "yes". Motion carried.

C. Building Notification Update

Patrick Bethke shared that there is a new State Commercial Inspector for our area. The State of Wisconsin and DNR are involved in building applications before they can be approved.

10. New Business

A. Windmill Drive Speed Limit of 25 MPH Approval

Residents of Windmill Drive were requesting to have a 25 MPH speed limit placed there. Concern about speeding through the residential area – and with blacktop on roads, it will probably get work. County enforcement should be involved in that area also Gordie O'Brien made a motion to post a 25 MPH speed limit on Windmill Drive. Brian Bertram seconded the motion. All "yes". Motion carried.

11. A. Department Heads Reports

(1) Recycling Dept.

First Choice invoice – Town Board wants to make sure price we charge is sufficient to cover cost so we aren't losing money on those collections. Clerk will check on this.

(2) Transportation Dept.

All going good except the back hoe is in need of a new pin, which the old one has to bored out. Scott Kirchoff will do this and he stated he could put bigger pins in it. Gordie O'Brien asked when the new truck would be here. (Once truck is here, then it goes to Monroe for the remainder to be added.)

Ricky Strauch shared that Josie Francel-Pettis has asked if a cattle guard could be installed on her road as the Amish horses/cattle have gotten loose and ended up on her yard several times with damage to the yard. Permission is requested from the Board to have this installed.

(3) Town of Bridge Creek Board Report

Patrick Bethke shared that the new camera system is up and working. Also, on August 3 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm there is a Community Canine Fundraiser that will be held at the Augusta-Bridge Creek Fire Station. Patrick also shared that these big fires (Chicken Chasers and Tuggers) are tough on the budget. Brian Bertram also shared that the fire department's breathing apparatus (50 tanks) have to be tested every 5 yrs. In 2025 all will need to be replaced at a price of \$8,000 per unit for a total of \$400,000. It is suggested to spread out over several years instead of doing all in one year. Perhaps COVID relief monies could be spent towards this. Otherwise, the levy will need to be raised on fire protection to cover that amount.

12. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

A. 8-19, 2021

13. Adjournment

~ Kathy Olson, Clerk