

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
April 26, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Onalaska was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Rolly Bogert. Board members present were: Frank Fogel, Sandy Thompson, Marc Schultz and Steve Michaels.

The audience joined the Board Members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Steve Michaels and seconded by Sandy Thompson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

On a roll call vote, the minutes of the March 29, 2011 meeting passed unanimously. The motion was made by Marc Schultz and seconded by Frank Fogel.

The bills were presented to the Board for approval. For the purpose of discussion, Sandy Thompson made a motion to approve with the second being made by Marc Schultz. There were a few questions on items being presented for payment. 1. Holmen Fire Dept for \$42,000 2. Murphy Desmond for \$3,100 (It was noted that this could have something to do with the new sub division and should be charged back to the developer) 3. Peg Hanson for \$3,140.31 4. Sue Schultz for \$314.30. Sandy Thompson noted that she would be doing some checking on the amounts that have been questioned and will let the Board know what each was about. Following the discussion a roll call vote was cast. Fogel, Bogert, Schultz and Michaels all voted aye with Sandy Thompson casting a no vote. The motion passed.

Citizens Concerns: Mr. Terry Pederson, N7082 Ct. RD W. Holmen, WI asked about the fire permitting. It was noted that the Holmen Fire Dept. would issue the fire permits for the Holmen Fire Dept. district in the Town of Onalaska. The City of Onalaska would not issue permits to the residents in the Onalaska Fire District. It was noted however, that both fire departments would help each other in case of a serious situation.

Mr. Pederson also suggested that the new clerk should be a contracted position, not just appointed.

Mr. Roger Summers, W7907 CR ZB, noted that for the last election, he and his wife had requested an absentee ballot. Mr. Summers received his ballot but as of this date his wife had not received hers. It was noted that this should not have happened and the Town would check and see if they could determine what happened in this instance.

Old Business: Sandy Thompson noted that she had done further research on the requirements for the Town Clerk position. She further noted that she had contacted the La Crosse Tribune for rates on the posting of the ad. She read the ad as it will appear in the paper. (See attached copy of this ad.) The State Statutes note that the Clerk position is a 3 year term with renewal an option. The range of pay would be determined by the qualifications of the applicant. Marc Schultz made a motion to place the square ad in the

Tribune. Steve Michaels seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all members voted aye.

Ms. Rose Fredrickson addressed the Board regarding concerns she has with her property on Winona Street. The Town hired Mr. Dick Berg to do a survey of the property lines and his findings are in a letter he presented to the Town Board. The Board is also in receipt of a letter that was sent my Ms. Fredrickson's attorney noting her concerns. Following the discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Sandy Thompson to ask the Recycling Committee to make the concerns expressed a priority. The second to the motion was made by Steve Michaels. On a roll call vote all members voted aye.

Rolly Bogert noted that the Town residents south of CT OT are in the Onalaska Fire District and the rest of the Town is in the Holmen Fire District. The issuance of burning permits must be addressed as the City of Onalaska will not issue permits. The DNR has a burning permit that has restrictions and requirements on them. Since there is not a consistent rule regarding the Town burning permits, it was suggested that the Holmen Fire Dept., Onalaska Fire Dept., and Town of Onalaska hold a joint meeting to try to come to an agreement on how the permitting process should be handled.

New Business: Rolly Bogert reported on the La Crosse County Assessment Reform Study Committee's final report. He noted that new rules and training will be effect for all assessors. The new system must be in place by 2013. He further noted that the County is encouraging local Towns, etc. to share assessors. This will cut down costs and you could also set requirements for building inspector regulations, etc.

The tax compilation report and financial report from Tostrud and Temp was approved by a motion made by Steve Michaels and seconded by Fogel. On a roll call vote, all members voted aye.

It was further noted that the Town had received a letter from Mr. Temp noting that his company would be discontinuing service for the Town effective immediately.

A discussion was held in regard to the upgrading of the Town computer system. Mike, from MCS, presented the Town with options and costs of updating the Town. (His complete report is attached to these minutes.) Sandy Thompson made a motion to accept the bid from MCS in the amount of \$3558 so that the Town records will be safe and secure. The motion was seconded by Frank Fogel. After further discussion, Sandy Thompson amended her motion so that the contract would be for 12 months and that implementation of this plan begin immediately. The cost would be \$382.50 per month with the contract at \$3,558.37. Steve Michaels asked if the Town had the money for this change and he was told that if the Town did not spend money on new carpeting and paint it would be fine. They thought the computer upgrade was more important than cosmetic things. MCS will also return to the Board every few months to give updates on the program and its success. Frank Fogel seconded the motion with the amendment and the motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

The contract with ES&S service had been cancelled in 2006. This is the service that maintains our voting machines. The cost of the renewal contract is \$800.00. The Town will pay \$400.00 now and the other \$400.00 will be paid next year. Steve Michaels made a motion to approve the contract with ES&S with Frank Fogel seconding the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting aye.

Committee Reports: Plan Commission – The Plan Commission unanimously approved the request of Ed Rohmeyer, W7218 Remus Road, for a conditional use permit to operate a business (computer repair) in his home. It was noted that the County has already approved this request. Steve Michaels made a motion to approve the conditional use permit with Frank Fogel seconding the motion. On a roll call vote all board members voted aye.

Citizen Requests for Future Agenda Items: Mr. Roger Summers, W7907 CR ZB, asked that the Board make sure that we are using the correct soft ware for the computer system.

Joe Schaller, N5946 CTH ZZ, asked that the Board take a look at the Towns Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that our current contract with a computer company said that they would have the records in “off sight” storage. As this has not happened, he felt we should seek a refund of the money paid for this service.

Jake Speed, W6779 Kramer Road, noted that many Microsoft programs are available at a low cost instead of more expensive programs. He felt the Town should look into this.

Board Member Concerns: Steve Michaels wanted to be sure that as the computer towers die, that the older software be booted off.

Steve Michaels wanted to be sure that the Town Crew was getting the roof repaired at the Town Shop. Grant money had been received and he wanted to see this completed.

Sandy Thompson noted that a letter had been received from Jean Shefelbine regarding the road opening. Rolly Bogert noted that he had been in contact with Murphy Desmond on this and asked about what other actions are not completed. So far, he has not had a response from them. Frank Fogel asked who the Town Attorney is locally He was told that Sheryl Gill is the attorney locally from Murphy Desmond.

Mr. Joe Dorava is no longer employed with Veirbacher and Associates. He noted that several projects need to be completed and he would like to help the Town with them. Marc Schultz noted that the Town would have to check with Veirbacher and make sure if there were any stipulation in the contract with the Town regarding this request. He noted that the Town would need proof of insurance and bonding.

A thank you was expressed to Howard Erickson who donated a new American flag to the Town.

A thank you was given to the Town Crew for cleaning the tree debris at the boat landing. The crew chipped everything but there are still large pieces that would be free for the taking. Also, the black top "ridge" has been repaired. The shanties left after ice fishing season are gradually being removed.

At 9:27 P.M. the meeting was adjourned with the motion made by Sandy Thompson and seconded by Steve Michaels. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Carlson
Recorder
April 26, 2011