

Town of New Hope Regular Board Meeting
 Wednesday, October 24, 2023 7:00 pm
 North New Hope Church, 845 County Rd. T N

Members Present: Chairman Knepfel, Supervisor Raddatz, Supervisor Reser, Treasurer Stolpa, Clerk Zellmer
 Also Present: Mary and Paul Dallin, Helen and George Klimowicz

Call to order:

Chairman Knepfel called the regular board meeting to order at 7:00 pm, leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes from the last regular board meeting were emailed prior to the meeting, with paper copies distributed to the Board members at the start of this meeting. Supervisor Reser moved to approve minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried.

Persons who wish to address the Board:

Mary and Paul Dallin, and Helen and George Klimowicz appeared before the Board to express concern about large farm equipment using Taylor Road to access rented fields. That road is narrow with sharp curves; the machinery is wide, heavy, and can be fast-moving. They questioned whether there was any recourse for other property owners on the road.

Cemetery:

A survey of Our Savior Cemetery has been completed; fence lines running perpendicular to Trout Creek Road are accurate boundaries, and the cemetery is land-locked. Chair Knepfel recommended that Lawyer Bruce Meagher be contacted about a legal easement into the cemetery or a quit claim deed for the property that forms the ditch between Trout Creek Road and the cemetery (a parcel, including a cemetery, cannot be land-locked) prior to handing the cemetery over to New Hope.

Ordinances:

After discussion with Lanark Town Chair Mike Pagel, Supervisor Reser requested that two ordinances and a memorandum of understanding be considered for Town of New Hope.

- A. Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance – similar to an ordinance adopted by Village of Iola, which may prohibit or restrict gravel and frac sand mining. A municipal town can adopt stronger regulations than state or county. New Hope shares geology similar to Iola and Scandinavia, and this ordinance could provide some legal protection against mining. This ordinance is timely, and will be the first one discussed in November.
- B. Livestock Siting Ordinance – similar to an ordinance adopted by Town of Grant (Portage and Wood County), this ordinance would attempt to limit farm size below 1000 cows (farms with 26-1000 cows are currently unregulated; the State regulates farms with 1001 cows or more.) The State allows manure spreading based on the number of acres farmed (Right to Farm Act). The wellhead protection zone controls the recharge zone, which in turn protects groundwater.
- C. Solar Installation Memorandum of Understanding – similar to one adopted by the Town of Grant, this memorandum would protect the Town of New Hope by requiring a buffer zone, control of herbicides used, and monitoring wells.

Supervisor Reser will provide an example of the Mining Ordinance at the November 6 budget workshop to allow time for the Board to read and consider this request, with discussion and possible action scheduled for the regular November meeting. Discussion of the other two will follow in later meetings.

2024 Assessor's Contract:

The contract with B.A. Pauls and Associates is from January 1, 2023 through December 2024. No action required.

Road Improvement Report: Chairman Knepfel reported that wedging and blacktop work is completed, and graveling is in progress on the designated roads for repair. Noah Swenson will work on brushing Kozelek Road.

Portage County Highway Report:

Town of New Hope will be considered in next year's round of TRIP funding.

Second set of Badger Books:

Per recommendation by the Portage County Clerk to purchase a second set of Badger Books, Supervisor Raddatz motioned that the purchase be approved, seconded by Supervisor Reser; motion carried.

To purchase the second set, it is necessary to amend the 2023 budget to include that purchase using ARPA funding (which was distributed in 2021-2022, but not allocated for specific expenditures until 2023). Supervisor Reser motioned that the 2023 budget be amended to adjust ARPA funds to cover this purchase, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz; motion carried.

Clerk Zellmer has attended the mandatory Badger Books training, and will train poll workers.

Conversion to .gov email Addresses, and the requirement for Microsoft Business Package:

Clerk Zellmer reported that Chad Wolding is making progress on the conversion to a .gov address for board members, treasurer, and clerk, but that conversion will require the subscription to a Microsoft Package (with options starting at \$6.99/month). The State grant (for up to \$600, expiring Jan. 31, 2024) should cover the cost of the address conversion and may also be used to cover most of the first year of the Microsoft software. Wolding reported that the conversion should be done in December, well ahead of the grant deadline.

WI Towns Unit Report:

Clerk Zellmer reported that while an emergency shelters grant is available, and there is some success in obtaining grant funding, it is not a good fit for Town of New Hope. TRIP funding may be available through Portage County Highways Dept.

Town of New Hope will host the November WI Towns Unit Meeting on Monday November 13, 2023 at 6:15. New Hope will provide a meal and space for the meeting; discussion of the meal ensued, with an agreement that local catering will be sought. WI Towns Association provides a stipend to cover the cost of the food.

Special Recycling Event:

Scheduled for Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 – 1:00, will be staffed by Supervisor Raddatz. Weller's Salvage will provide bins and removal/purchase of recycling materials collected.

2024 Town Budget Workshop

The Board agreed to begin work on the 2024 budget at North New Hope Church, 6:00 pm on November 6. Clerk Zellmer will post notices for the workshop, and for a general public budget meeting.

Payment of Bills:

Supervisor Reser moved that the October bills totaling \$44,811.81 be paid; seconded by Supervisor Raddatz; motion carried.

Next Meeting: The following meetings are scheduled as follows:

- 2024 Budget Workshop: Monday Nov. 6 at 6:00 pm;
- November Regular Town Meeting: Tuesday Nov. 21 at 7:00 pm;
- Emergency Plan Workshop is postponed until December.

Adjournment: Supervisor Raddatz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Reser; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Zellmer. Minutes will be set to the Board via email, with paper copies provided at the regular town meeting Nov. 21.