

TOWN OF NEW HOPE, Portage County
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
7:00 p.m. Special Town Meeting of Electors
Regular Town Board Meeting to Follow
North New Hope Church, 845 County Road T N, Amherst Junction

Members present: Chair Todd Knepfel, Supervisors Timm Raddatz and Ray Reser
Also present: Treasurer Dorene Stolpa, Clerk Pat Zellmer

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS (pursuant to Sec. 60.12(1)(c) of WI Stat.)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Knepfel called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, opening the meeting by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Review Proposed 2024 Budget

Chair Knepfel noted that proper notice was given for the Special Budget Meeting; copies of the proposed budget were distributed to all in attendance. Chair Knepfel reviewed the budget and discussion ensued; there were no questions or comments.

3. Approval of Highway Expenditures for 2024 (pursuant to Sec. 81.01(3) of the WI Stat.)

Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the 2024 Total Highway Expenditures for \$172,000.00 as proposed, seconded by Supervisor Reser.

Carried by voice vote of all in attendance: 5 yea, 0 nay.

4. Adoption of the 2024 Town Tax Levy (pursuant to sec. 60.10(1)(a) of the WI Stat.)

Supervisor Reser moved to accept the Levy of \$122,600.00 for 2024 for the Town of New Hope, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz.

Carried by voice vote of all in attendance: 5 yea, 0 nay.

The budget meeting for 2024 was closed at 7:10 pm.

Regular Board Meeting

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

Chair Knepfel called the regular town board meeting to order at 7:10.

Copies of the Minutes of the October monthly meeting were emailed prior to the meeting; hard copies were distributed. Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

2. Persons who wish to address the Board

No one appeared.

3. 2024 Town of New Hope Budget

It was noted that the 2023 mill rate of 1.30 will not change in 2024.

Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the 2024 budget as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser.

Motion carried.

4. Update on Our Savior Cemetery

Currently Ralph Kalies (Pickett, WI) owns of the strip of land (and right of way) between Our Savior Cemetery and Trout Creek Road. To allow Town of New Hope access to the cemetery for care and maintenance (with no change in access location), Chair Knepfel sent a letter to Mr. Kalies suggesting that a quitclaim deed be used prior to transfer of property from Our Savior Lutheran Church to Town of New Hope. Greg Row (representing Our Savior Church) will be contacted for a turn-over date for the cemetery.

5. Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance

Supervisor Reser wrote a Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance draft for Town of New Hope. Hard copies were distributed during the 2024 Budget Workshop on November 6 for consideration. Supervisor Reser covered the importance and timeliness of this ordinance; discussion ensued.

Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the ordinance as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser.

Motion carried, and the ordinance was signed.

Supervisor Reser will draft a Livestock Siting Ordinance and a Solar Installation Memorandum of Understanding for discussion and possible action at the December regular board meeting. Drafts of both documents will be sent to Chair and Supervisors prior to the meeting for consideration, and hard copies will be supplied at the next meeting.

6. Road Improvement report

Chair Knepfel reported that a gravel turnaround and tree removal at the end of Miza Road will be completed by Nov. 24. In answer to a concern expressed by resident Randy Fischer, brushing along Kozelek Road and several other roads will be done by Noah Swenson in the next few weeks.

7. New Business

Hunting Ordinance: A question was raised by resident Brian Richards about hunting along the shoreline of Rinehart Lake. Supervisor Raddatz investigated and reported that per game warden Brian Lockman, the WI DNR prohibits gun fire within 100 yards of other residences without permission, with the hunter responsible for safety and any damages. Supervisor Reser volunteered to research property boundaries and contact Mr. Richards.

.gov Conversion: Clerk Zellmer reported that Chad Wolding should have the email and website conversion to .gov completed by end of December, allowing time to submit a state subgrant to cover those expenses; the grant due date is end of January 2024.

Emergency Plan: Bob Weinert, Portage County Emergency Management Coordinator, inquired about progress in creating an Emergency Plan for Town of New Hope. A draft of that plan must be completed by end of 2023 to be compliant to state requirements. Clerk Zellmer will post what is already completed on the town website. Additional work on the plan will be completed during the regular board meeting in January.

8. Payment of Bills

Supervisor Raddatz moved that bills in the amount of \$47,750.66 be paid, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

9. Set date for next Board meeting

The next regular town board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 at North New Hope Church.

10. Adjournment

Supervisor Raddatz moved that the November meeting be adjourned, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.