

TOWN OF NEW HOPE, Portage County
Thursday, January 18, 2024
7:00 p.m. Regular Town Board Meeting
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, Guests Sue and Chris Piotrowski

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

Chair Knepfel called the regular town board meeting to order at 7:00, opening the meeting by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the Regular Town Meeting (December 19, 2023) were emailed to board members prior to the meeting; hard copies were distributed at the meeting. Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

2. Persons who wish to address the Board

Chris and Sue Piotrowski met with the New Hope Town Board to address wording on the Town Website regarding garbage pick-up. Chair Knepfel clarified the Town's policy and charges. Clerk Zellmer will revise wording.

3. Update on Our Savior Cemetery

None.

4. Road Improvement report

Glodowski Construction submitted a bill for \$6045 for sanding and snowplowing in January, which will be paid in full. The balance owed to Noah Swenson (\$12,950) from 2023 will also be paid. Chair Knepfel will meet with Swenson on January 19 to discuss additional work needed along Town roads.

5. Change to .gov addresses

An annual purchase of Microsoft 365 Business Basic (\$6.00/user/month, \$360.00 annual cost) was made to provide Outlook for the board emails. This product is a web and mobile app that also includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, without interfering with programs installed on town laptops and PCs. A DNS request to assign email addresses by the State is pending, but all other work is completed. Chad Wolding submitted a bill for \$500.00 for his IT work involved in the Town email and website .gov conversion. He will provide a demonstration for the Board at the February meeting (included in that charge); laptops are recommended for that meeting. New emails will be chair@tn.newhope.wi.gov, supervisor1@tn.newhope.wi.gov, supervisor2@tn.newhope.wi.gov, treasurer@tn.newhope.wi.gov, and clerk@tn.newhope.wi.gov. Those addresses will remain with the Town.

A mini-grant application totaling \$600 (maximum limit) for the conversion to .gov and a portion of the Microsoft software will be submitted before the January 31 deadline by Clerk Zellmer.

6. Election Equipment and Training:

Clerk Zellmer reported successful testing the DS200 Tabulator transmission to the Portage Co. Clerk from North New Hope, followed by a discussion for a permanent secure site to store voter equipment. Poll workers will be trained on Badger Books, ExpressVote, and the DS200 Tabulator in February or early March. A noticed public demonstration of the new equipment will be held subsequent to that training.

7. New Business:

Supervisor Reser reported on County discussion of a new jail and/or courthouse; financial impact on New Hope was discussed.

Clerk Zellmer reported that Chair Knepfel, Supervisor Reser, and Clerk Zellmer are scheduled to attend the February 17 Towns Workshop that includes BOR training. One member must attend BOR training each year.

Clerk Zellmer reported finalizing the Special Assessment list for garbage/recycling. An updated list will be shared with Chair Knepfel.

George Guyant will be paid \$600 for his work on voter registration in spring 2023. The balance of that 2023 budget line item will be applied toward the cost of Badger Books.

8. Payment of Bills

Supervisor Raddatz moved to pay bills in the amount of \$561,621.04, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

9. Set date for next regular Board meeting

The next regular town board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 at North New Hope Church.

The annual budget review will be conducted at 6:00 Tuesday, January 23 at North New Hope Church.

10. Adjournment

Supervisor Raddatz moved that the Regular January meeting be adjourned, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted to the Board by Clerk Pat Zellmer.