

MINUTES
TOWN OF NEW HOPE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
North New Hope Church
845 County Road T North

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

1. Call to Order

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.

2. Review/Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Town Meeting (January 18, 2024) were emailed to board members prior to the meeting; hard copies were distributed at the meeting. Supervisor Reser moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried.

3. Persons who wish to address the Board

No one appeared

4. Chad Wolding and .gov Demonstration

Chad Wolding set up the Town computer, personal laptops, and cell phones for the Board and Staff, and demonstrated Microsoft Office.com (Business Online), including Outlook and Teams. Because of the complexity of this product, he will come to the March Town Meeting to answer questions and provide IT support.

A state-funded mini-grant for \$600 to cover the .gov conversion and a portion of the first year's contract with Microsoft Office was successful.

5. Advertising the Town Website.

Supervisor Reser opened a discussion on ways to advertise the Town Website using postcards to residents. Supervisor Timm suggested placing an ad in the Rosholt Record and Amherst Spirit papers. Supervisor Reser will investigate that route. If not effective, the town will consider sending postcards.

A. Website update.

The Town Website has a .gov address (<https://tn.newhope.wi.gov>). Efforts have been made to make the site more user friendly, including new information about elections and voting equipment. It was suggested that this could be used for the Emergency Plan. Chad Wolding will be consulted about improving the site.

6. Animal Control Contract Renewal

The contract with the Portage County Humane Society expired 12/31/2023. Helen Bush (Portage Co. Corp. Counsel) was contacted about when a new contract would be available (second request); this is on hold until she responds.

7. Update on Our Savior Cemetery

Chair Knepfel reported that Greg Roe is waiting for access permission to the cemetery on the west side (private owner Ralph Kalies, Pickett WI). Supervisor Reser will contact South New Hope Church regarding access on the east side of the cemetery. No action can be taken until permissions are secured.

8. Fire Department report.

No report.

9. North New Hope Church Rental Negotiations

The Board will meet Tuesday, March 5, 6:00 pm to discuss options for renting space from North New Hope Church. Pat Ludeman (Chair of N. New Hope Church) will be invited to the April Regular Board Meeting.

10. Road Improvement report

Noah Swenson will finish work on Rolling Hills. Trees on Linden Road were reported as marked, but not by the Town. Glodowski submitted a bill for \$640.00; a lack of snowfall has kept the snowplow/sand expenses low to date.

A. ARIP Funding

Clerk Zellmer will look into the ARIP funding. Training on ARIP and BOR will be held at the WI Towns meeting on Saturday, Feb. 17. Chair Knepfel and Clerk Zellmer will attend.

11. Spring Elections.

Training by Portage Co Clerk Maria Davis on ExpressVote and DS200 Tabulator were completed on Feb. 7 by Treasurer Stolpa, Poll Workers Norm Groshek and Mary Patoka, and Clerk Zellmer. Additional training on Badger Books will be scheduled for late February or early March. Clerk Zellmer will attend a Public Test for DS200 this next week.

12. Emergency Plan.

Clerk Zellmer will contact Bob Weinert (Portage Co. Emergency Management Coordinator) regarding progress on the emergency plan for Town of New Hope.

13. New Business.

Supervisor Reser and Clerk Zellmer will update the Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance to be in compliance with a document sent by Portage County (Tracy Arnold). An amended ordinance will be presented to the Board for approval in March.

14. Payment of bills.

Supervisor Raddatz moved to pay bills in the amount of \$563,181.88, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried. Next meeting date.

15. Next Meeting

The Board will meet at 6:00 Tuesday, March 5 to discuss Town Hall rental space.
The regular March Board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 Tuesday, March 19.

16. Adjournment.

Supervisor Raddatz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted to the Board by Clerk Pat Zellmer.