

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF NEW HOPE PUBLIC HEARING**  
**AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

**North New Hope Church, 845 County Road T North**

Members present: Todd Knepfel, Supervisor Timm Raddatz, Supervisor Ray Reser

Also present: Treasurer Dorene Stolpa, Clerk Pat Zellmer

Guests: Bob Weinert, Tony Kostuck, Stormy Poeschel, Andrew Poeschel, Al Suehring, Betsy Suehring, Judah Haas, Norman Groshek, Jim McKnight, Daniel Bembenek, Debbie Falkavage, Lee Falkavage, Dawn Cisewski, Paul Yenter, Jay Cisewski, Jeremy Cisewski, Michelle Raddatz, Paul Klein, Glenn Coenen, David Peterson, Drake Pearson, others

1. **The Public Hearing to amend the Comprehensive Plan** for Parcel 026-24-1016-09, located at 1380 County Hwy. A, Amherst Junction was called to order at 7:03 by Chair Todd Knepfel. Chair Knepfel led the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting. Owner Tony Kostuck and prospective landowners Andrew and Stormy Poeschel were present. The amendment changes the future land use designation on the Future Land Use Map from L2 General Ag to L3 Limited Ag/Mixed use on 10 acres. A resolution recommending the adoption of the proposed amendment was passed at the July regular meeting. Supervisor Reser made a motion to accept the drafted ordinance amendment as written, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried.  
Ordinance No. 2024-01 to Amend the Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan was signed by the board and clerk. A copy will be sent to the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department, along with minutes of this meeting. **The August Regular Board meeting** was called to order at 7:08 pm by Chair Knepfel.
2. **The August Regular Board meeting** was called to order at 7:08 pm by Chair Knepfel.
3. **Regular Meeting (July 24) minutes** were sent by email to Board members and posted on the Town Website (<https://tn.newhope.wi.gov>). Supervisor Raddatz made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.
4. **Persons who wish to address the Board.**  
LIVESTOCK SITING ORDINANCE:  
A group of citizens (listed above) appeared before the Board to continue discussion about an Ordinance for Licensing Livestock Facilities. Several examples of existing ordinances (Town of Lakeland, Polk County; Town of Gardner, Door County; and Burnett County) were distributed to the Board, and discussion ensued. Those examples will be posted on the Town Website.  
Supervisor Reser brought the possible ordinance to Portage County Planning and Zoning for advisement on Tuesday, and reported his findings to the group.  
In response to a query regarding facts and goals about the ordinance, Supervisor Reser reviewed the details. He requested that Lynn Markham, Land Use Specialist with University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension at the Center for Land Use Education, be invited to next month's meeting, which met approval from the crowd.  
Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.
5. **Road Report.** Chair Knepfel reported that seal coating will be completed by end of September, and black top repairs will be done by end of August. A Culvert Survey was completed earlier this year (costs covered by the State); no culverts in New Hope qualify for funding. The Town is waiting for an official Culvert Survey Report from the County or the surveying team.

6. **An Open Records Notice** was presented to the Board by Clerk Zellmer for approval, per recommendation by County Clerk Maria Davis. Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve the Notice as written, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion passed. The Notice will be posted on the town website, as well as at Sunset Lake and the Town Hall, effective upon posting.
7. **The Annual Fall Recycling Event** is scheduled for 9:00-1:00, Saturday, September 21. Supervisor Raddatz reported that acceptable items and costs remain the same as 2023. A postcard will be sent to Town Residents as a reminder, and will include Town Website information. Dulce Printing will be contacted.
8. **The August Primary Election** went off without a hitch, with participation of 271 voters. The Public Test, completed at 9:00, August 10, was successful. An Open Records Notice was developed, modeled after the Notice used by the Portage County Clerk's Office.
  - Residents should **check the Town Website** ([tn.newhope.wi.gov](http://tn.newhope.wi.gov)) for upcoming election events and information.
  - **MyVote Wisconsin** ([myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)) can be used to register, request and track absentee ballots, get information about what's on the ballot, and more.
  - New Hope voters are encouraged to consider voting **Absentee-In Person** at the Clerk's office (starting 14 days before the election, hours posted on the website and on MyVoteWI) to avoid postal delays and to cut mailing costs for the town (currently ~\$3.00 per ballot). It's safe, secure, fast, and eliminates late ballot returns by the Post Office.
  - The **next Public Test** is scheduled for 9:00 am, **Wednesday, October 30**, at North New Hope Church.
  - The **Fall Presidential Election** will be held at North New Hope Church on **Tuesday, November 5**, from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.
9. **New Business.**
  - Chair Knepfel reported that a **preliminary land survey** has been done to clean up property lines on the Helen Firkus property. A final copy of that survey will be presented at the September meeting. Supervisor Reser motioned to certify the preliminary survey, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion passed.
  - The **2024 Wisconsin Town & Village Fall Workshop** will be held in September. Board members interested in attending will contact Clerk Zellmer by August 22.
  - A **new printer (ET-4850)** was purchased for town business.
10. **Bob Weinert (re: Portage County Emergency Mitigation Plan)** met with the Board to address questions on the New Hope Mitigation Plan, and discussion ensued. Funding of any disaster relief for listed projects is dependent on completing an accepted plan. A draft is due at the County Emergency Management Department no later than November 2024. A final town plan will be made available to the Public for comment, then presented to the County, with final town and county plans due at the state level by August 2025.
11. **Payment of Bills.** Supervisor Raddatz motioned to pay bills in the amount of \$11,582.26, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.
12. The **next Board meeting** is scheduled for 7:00 pm on **Wednesday, September 18**. An agenda will be posted on the town website, Sunset Lake, and Town Hall when finalized. Supervisor Raddatz made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 pm, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Zellmer, Town Clerk.