

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON-RUSK COUNTY

## TOWN BOARD MEETING

December 4, 2018

- 1.) Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM. 21 town residents/landowners were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present. All board members were present other than Supervisor, Richard Brand, who did not attend by phone as expected.
- 2.) Kurt Gorseigner made a motion to approve board minutes from the previous meeting. Betsy Patterson seconded. All approved and motion carried.
- 3.) There was no public comment.
- 4.) Treasurer's report was presented. Peggy shared she needed to take \$25,000.00 out of savings to pay bills. She also discussed letter to town resident regarding an unpaid bill that board member was told would be paid. After multiple tries to contact resident, and legal consult, decision was made to press for criminal prosecution as resident had stolen from the township. Sheriff will be contacted.
- 5.) Clerk's report. Discussion and decision on caucus date. It will be January 8, 2019 at 6:30 PM prior to monthly board meeting which needed to be changed due to the holiday. Discussion of road maintenance position for township and applicants. Interviews will be set up at the end of January, so far town has received two. Shared information received in the mail.
- 6.) Chairman's report. "Merry Christmas to all." Discussed fire meeting, and due to ambulance assists, town dues will increase. Jack shared that everything was fixed on the grader and backhoe but he continues to have issues with the truck. Discussion that it continues to burn oil and CCHD cannot find the problem. Discussion regarding checking elsewhere for a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion, Jack will do this. Betsy also shared that the beaver problems damning up culverts may be solved as the man hired to trap them has caught 18.
- 7.) Mark Schmitt, county supervisor for the town presented. Shared that the county had passed a new budget. Discussion of increase in levy and fees for ambulance, they would now like to have paramedics on board. Also shared: bridge in Ladysmith now open to ATV/UTV traffic; new blacktop plant; moving RCHD shop building; sale of hospital to Marshfield Clinic; jail being obsolete and now getting meals from senior meal program.
- 8.) Presentation by James Murray with petition to eliminate ordinance #6 referring to Pulaski Lake water traffic hours. He shared that people had come to him about this and he is asking to go back to what it was before: sunrise to sunset. He also stated he felt that the ordinance is unfair and unconstitutional, all have rights to use the lake as they feel fit, right now this is restricted as they cannot use it before 10 AM or after 7PM like they would want to. He says he brought over 30 names on a petition of landowners who agree. There was also a constituent of landowners present at the meeting who had heard of Mr. Murray's petition and opposed the change. Comments were made by several: Mary Gingras, Mike Loehnis, John Toutant, Burt Hagman. They shared that the fishing boats, swimmers, kayaks, canoes, and other residents there for the tranquility of the lake also need there time. They feel that giving the faster, motorized watercraft 9 hours to enjoy these activities should be enough. Comments were also made that this

lake is a smaller lake and people need to be aware of this. James shared again that all landowners had rights to use the lake how they want and they are tired of regulations. Their petition was presented as such:

State of WI laws on towing persons aquaplaning, waterskiing, or similar activities: "A person may not be towed behind a vessel between sunset and sunrise."

Please sign below to abolish ordinance #6 for Pulaski Lake restricting above mentioned water towing activities from 10 AM to 7 PM and resuming with the State of WI approved laws.

Multiple pages had signatures for the petition which will need to be verified. The opposition also had signatures to be checked. Letter's in support of the present ordinance written by Dick and Dorothy Kaiser and the Mittermans' were presented and read by Jo Aamodt. Bruce Burch also spoke in favor of abolishing the ordinance.

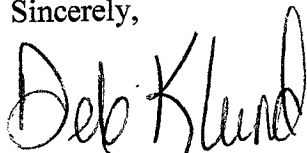
Betsy shared that ordinance # 6 was formed in 1989 and revisited by a different board in 2016. She received a list from the county of all landowners on Pulaski Lake and will compare signatures for legitimacy of land ownership: "Landowners on the lake should have their say as to what happens and be heard for what they would prefer, but ultimately it is the decision of the board." She tabled any action at this meeting. The board will make their decision after considering all factors. This will be put on the agenda for January 2019.

9.) Kurt Gorsegner made a motion to review and pay bills. This was seconded by Betsy Patterson. All approved and motion carried.

10.) Kurt Gorsegner made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM and was seconded by Betsy Patterson. All approved and motion carried.

Next meeting is January 8, 2019 after Town Caucus.

Sincerely,



Deb Klund, clerk