MINUTES REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, February 9th, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Dale Mayo, Supervisors: Jennrich, Hogenmiller, Muehlbach, Champeny (via phone) were present. Rob Martinson, Fire Chief, John Barnekow, Public Works Foreman, Kendra Lederer, Clerk / Ambulance Director, Jennifer Steiner - Absent.

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to order. 2. Pledge of Allegiance. 3. Approval of Agenda in the order of the Chairman’s discretion. Jennrich made a motion to approve the agenda, Champeny seconded. All voted aye, motion passed. 4. Approval of minutes from Regular Town Board meeting held on January 12th, 2023. Champeny made a motion to approve the minutes, Jennrich seconded. All voted aye, motion passed.

Chairman Adjusts Agenda to open road bids at this time due to contractors sitting in the room. Reports on Standings will resume after Opening of Road Bids.

2 bid packets were submitted: Chairman Mayo Opens a bid packet from Pitlik and Wick, Supervisor Jennrich opens a bid packet from Northeast Asphalt.

 **Northeast Asphalt Pitlik and Wick**

East Hunter Lk. Rd: 3 miles + 5 Intersections $876,553.75 $829,738.05

Bay Rd: 0.27 miles $62,852.50 $44,785.40

Hi Banks Rd: 0.85 miles $111,707.50 $81,588.00

Lakota Rd., NOT Including the Boat Landing: 0.37 miles $84,717.50 $61,293.60

 **TOTAL FOR ALL $1,135,831.25 $1,017,405.05**

Motion made by Muehlbach to award Pitlik and Wick the bids for all 4 roads pending a technical review by the Public Works Director, John Barnekow, also pending a review with Treasurer, Jen Steiner for financing. Jennrich seconded, all voted aye, motion passed.

5. Reports on Standing and Special Committees: (a) **Ambulance Dept.** Still waiting on stretcher, Ambulance will need to be taken out of service one day to get new rear springs, they are shot and due to the ambulance hanging low it is burning off the mud flaps. Will start looking into some fundraising options to try and get some funding to put towards a new ambulance. We’ve been digging into why the FD retirement does not have a state funding match, in 2005 it was decided not to go with that option, I’m assuming it was because it plays with the market and what they’re in now is a set interest rate which is more of a guarantee but they would have a better retirement if it was in the market. Asking for approval of the board to move forward with getting numbers on what it would cost to switch, board all said yes bring some numbers back to us. Also, all EMT’s were removed back in 2017 and they’re years of service were removed because if you got an hourly rate regardless of how much you are not considered a volunteer and this program is only for volunteers, EMT’s were not informed of this, they were just removed. (b) **Vol. Fire Dept.** Did not do training last month, they have been busy going through equipment and gear to make sure everyone is up to date, which not everyone is so they putting together a list of things they need to order, FEMA grant has been submitted. Muehlbach asked Rob if he thought putting in a higher capacity well by the equestrian campground off of River Road to be utilized by campground and FD could be a good idea, Rob was in favor and said that could help a great deal. Rob stated he would love to eventually get one on the north side of town also. Muehlbach stated he would like the FD to move forward and look at options for a well, bring it back to the town, we will discuss at next meeting. Place the update as an agenda item. Jennrich suggested looking at possible grants. (c) **Highway Dept.** John has been working with Jennrich on the abandonment of Old Farms Rd., got the approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, now to get DNR approval which will probably take some time. Dale, Joe and I had a meeting with Vilas County Forestry and Highway Commissioner about the relocation of CTH S and the work on Tamarack Rd. Found that the cost for the Tailings which the county thought they would get, the DOT did not agree and said it should be the property of the contractor that’s awarded the bid. Price on the tailings is $34,450.00 that would be for the contractor to deliver the tailings to the road and then our Town Crew would take over from there with spreading and compacting it. With some talking they are going to try and split this 3 ways with the Forestry and Highway Dept., Town of Conover’s portion would be $11,500. Motion made by Muehlbach and seconded by Champeny for Dale to go back and tell them the town has approved to split the cost at $11,500 per party, all vote aye, motion passed. (d) Library (e) Parks-Recreation: Muehlbach asked Bill to bring to the committee questions of whether there should be a small fee to non-profits that come from outside of Conover. Right now they use the building for free, we do have a lot of schools and non-profits from outside Conover that utilize the Rec Center. Bill will put it on the Park Committee Agenda and report back to the board. (f) Conover Outdoor Rec Cmte.(g) Sanitation Dept. (h) Town Facilities. Need to reach out to the company to get the fire alarm system installed (i) Conover Chamber of Commerce: Would like to get a park bench in memory of Lorrayne Maki which would go under the covered walkway outside the building, possibly 3 ways with family, town, and Chamber. Joe suggested the town and chamber split the cost and not have the family pay, both sides agreed. A lease was found for the Conover sign south of town which comes up in June. Joe will work with the chamber on drafting a letter to the new homeowners to get the process started. Its unknown if the lease is with the town or chamber. Thank you to all parties helping with Blizzard Blast. (j) Finance Committee. (k) Broadband Committee: is meeting in a couple weeks, contract has been sent out. Next thing is figuring out what to do with the void on that stretch of USH 45 that is not covered, they are in communication to try and rectify this. (l) Lakes Committee; Joe will be attending a Local Regulation of Hazardous Wakes Workshop being sponsored by the County’s Land and Water Department.  It will have numerous speakers from the DNR.  The purpose of attending is to just gain more knowledge on what the DNR’s position is on this issue.” (m) Property Committee; Still waiting on a response from DNR on lifting the deed restriction. Muehlbach has spoken with Dan Young and they will work together on going through the building and coming up with a list of repairs needed to get the building back in shape just in case we need to keep the building.

Add letter (n)Planning Commission for next agenda

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open Road Bids – taken care of earlier
2. Sign Ordinance 139-23 Public Hearing held earlier, no public attendance. Jennrich read the ordinance, Muehlbach made a motion to approve Ordinance 139-23, Jennrich seconded, all voted aye, Ordinance approved.
3. Landfill Venture Group – found that all parties involved own a piece, Town owns 6.5% of landfill. Joe asked them a lot of questions, most were answered. The questions and answers are in the clerk’s office. The Landfill Venture Group is doing good with funding but has a few housekeeping issues that need to be worked on. Concerns as to whether towns that are not on this contract are still able to use it and they didn’t know. It seems they have strayed from the initial intent which is somewhat concerning.
4. Park Committee/Park Commission – WTA suggests not to go with a commission, most towns that have a commission are trying to get back to a committee
5. Letters and Communications – At a meeting the Vilas County Forestry was discussing possibly purchasing 400 acres of land, 72 acres of that is in Conover, it is good, buildable land. The Forestry committee tabled it based on 3 Supervisors expressing concern about the acquisition.
6. Financial Reports: Claims, Budget vs. Actuals
7. Bartender, Picnic Licenses
8. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by: Kendra Lederer, Town Clerk

Minutes to be approved at the next Regular Town Board Meeting on March 9h, 2023