

Town of Presque Isle
Regular Town Board Meeting
November 2, 2023
(unapproved)

Interim Chairman Cathy Logan Weber called the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Presque Isle to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Carl Wolter attended. Tonight's agenda and minutes of the October 19 meeting were approved by two separate motions.

Public Comment to address agenda items or request comment during the agenda item. Information only, no discussion or action will occur.

Mr. Schmalzer commented on Nature Conservancy MOU: In the process of adopting the MOU he would like some clarity on the secondary trail that you are talking about half of it not the whole thing. EMS Countywide: Article in Lakeland times Oct. 24 about it. Talked about being about \$300 million in the state of Wisconsin to help counties with ambulance service. And a reference to grant money as well. Important to have a feel for potential money available. Look into 3-5 year costs. Needs to be a good understanding of the budget items.

Mr. Owens commented on Old business Board Reports and other Agenda Items: Would like to see a town audit that was already talked about and approved to be on the agenda until we find someone to do it and comes to its conclusion. New Business Broadband MOU: Mistake on link to review MOU fixed. SIFT: Someone trying to be nice did something that surprised him. He responded to the email about the agenda. Reply was made by Lorine and saw the issue and said she would let Billie Rae know. What bothered him is that Lorine still has a government email.

Mrs. Jukich commented on EMS District and Countywide EMS: Countywide EMS should be under old business. We have talked about this in the past. They had a meeting in Boulder Junction with some EMS and Fire Chiefs. Talked about how EMS works in different towns, how the county might help us, what we are doing actively to make the EMS work in our towns (incentives). Discovered a wide range of stipends 0-\$200 a call. Shows how diverse we are on how we manage to have responses to 911 calls for EMS. Decided that all would go back to their Town Board and ask them what they might request from the county, what do you think the county could do for us? As EMS director for many years she would like to ask from the Town Board some opportunity to sit and meet with them and Doug Wolter the Fire Chief. Also would like to be involved in deciding appointing/electing someone to the EMS district.

Old Business:

1. Approval of Wildcat Lake Buoy Agreement

A motion to approve the Wildcat Lake Buoy Resolution was made by Mr, Wolter, seconded by Ms. Weber, Weber, aye; Wolter, aye; motion carried, 2-0.

2. Approval of Wildcat Cabin Association Buoy Agreement

A motion to approve the MOU between Presque Isle and Wildcat Cabin Association was made by Mr, Wolter, seconded by Ms. Weber, Weber, aye; Wolter, aye; motion carried, 2-0.

3. SIFT Investigation

Mr. Wolter will wait until item number three under New Business

4. Cemetery Sign

Mr. Wolter had no luck on getting ahold of AILI for the concrete work. Will keep working on it.

5. Approval of Broadband Loan

Cathy Logan Weber, Town Interim Chairperson read the Preamble and Resolutions and reviewed the application pertaining to the Commissioners of Public Lands loaning the Town of Presque Isle \$328,000.00 for financing part of the Broadband Expansion Project out loud in full. A motion to adopt the foregoing

preamble and resolutions was made by Mr, Wolter, seconded by Ms. Weber, Weber, aye; Wolter, aye; motion carried, 2-0.

6. **EMS District**

Ms. Weber made some comments. May 2022 1st contact was made with Strategic Management & Consulting to learn about EMS systems. And the process that the towns can use to work together to insure sustainable EMS. August 3rd 2023 a resolution to develop an implementation plan to create an EMS District was done. April of 2023 the final version (found on the town website) is available for us to use. Why do we look at this? We experienced challenges in staffing. We have few volunteers that are entering the EMS service, the present volunteers are aging out, training time has expanded, increased need for service, population has grown. State and town have helped with some incentives but this has not been enough. The town is mandated to provide fire and ambulance service. Over 20% of our EMS calls are for neighboring towns. Looking at Countywide EMS. We have lakes and winding roads with a hospital that is 40 minutes away. The four towns make up 26% of the equalized value for the county. So we would be better off with our four town district compared to the countywide. If we have our district in order we could contract with the county to work with them. If we establish our district first the county can't come in and take over. But we could work with them and it would be our system. All four towns use the same billing service. We do need to look into Grants and other innovation money. Mrs. Jukich added that we share the same medical director in the four towns. He said he would be willing to stay in the beginning as our medical director. Mr. Wolter would like to wait until we have representatives to form this committee. He thinks once everything is turned over to them - this board has lost control over anything. In favor of the concept and thinks we need it. But there are too many questions at this point.

7. **Board Reports on Previous Agenda Items**

Mrs. Weber mentioned that there will be a Budget Hearing on the 16th of November. And town (electors)meeting will be where we talk about the Budget and raising the Levi if that's the direction the people want to go. Very important meeting. Mr. Wolter would like to give Ms. Weber the authority to pursue the sale of the Yukon and the red truck. May put it out for bids or Wisconsin Surplus. Mr. Wolter stated that contrary to some belief – the green truck did not break down, it had a rusty brake line.

New Business:

1. **“The town of Presque Isle, Wisc., on 2023 Veterans Day, honor all those who bravely served who sacrificed, as did their families and caregivers, on behalf of our town, state & nation.”** Ms. Weber just read this out loud. We have the beautiful memorial and some wooden plaques by the bathrooms of people from our town that were in different wars.

2. **Countywide EMS Discussion**

Ms. Weber agreed with Mrs. Jukich that a meeting take place with the following; Ms. Weber, Mr. Wolter, Mrs. Jukich and Mr. Doug Wolter to discuss.

3. **Vilas County Sheriff's Department**

Mr. Wolter was contacted by the Vilas County Sheriff's Department to get the computers to them. As soon as he can, the computers will be turned over to them. Ms. Weber wondered what this was about so she contacted Cody Remick (detective) . He said that the county actually works with a state investigation team and they are really good and if they can't get into the computers nobody can. Asked how much is this going to cost? No cost. Ms Weber is in favor of this action.

4. **Pipke Park Ponds-Beaver Control**

Ms. Weber commented that we have been having issues with beavers at Pipke Pond and Presque Isle River. Mr. Thoma said the concern with roads pertains to Hwy P/Crab Lake Rd and West Van Vliet could be affected. He will call Troy at the county and check with him on the beaver trapper.

5. Nutrition Site Planning

Ms. Weber and Mr. Logan have been working on this for quite some time. The Outpost contacted Ms. Weber after one of the meetings. Now the Outpost is talking with Vilas County and they may do a nutrition site at the Outpost. We do need a site manager overlooking everything.

6. Zoning- Greg Maines Surveyor

Mr. Reckard asked the board to approve a survey for a subdivision split lots in Fronier Lakes. A motion to approve the subdivision as presented was made by Mr, Wolter, seconded by Ms. Weber, Weber, aye; Wolter, aye; motion carried, 2-0.

7. Broadband/Charter MOU

Mr. Bogan presented the attached MOU to the board. Mr. Wolter asked if any part of the plan would be instituted before completion? Mr. Bogan - Yes. They have divided the town into various regions and may turn those on before other areas of the town are activated. Ms. Weber mentioned that someone said they have brought the pedestal up to the house and wondered when they would get hooked up. Mr. Bogan-What they are focused on right now is getting everything into the ground. Mr. Wolter commended Mr. Bogan on the hard work getting this going. Thanks to the committee. A motion to pass the MOU and the Contribution agreement for Spectrum was made by Mr, Wolter, seconded by Ms. Weber, Weber, aye; Wolter, aye; motion carried, 2-0.

8. Nature Conservancy MOU

Ms. Weber agrees to do it like last year, it was just one track on the trail (green) and occasionally. Yellow would be the usual grooming as it was. It is exactly the same MOU as last year. A motion to pass the MOU with the Nature Conservancy was made by Mr, Wolter, seconded by Ms. Weber, Weber, aye; Wolter, aye; motion carried, 2-0.

9. Board Correspondence and Future Agenda Items

Ms. Weber said the county is working on an ordinance with short term rentals through the shoreland ordinance. Mr. Logan (County Supervisor) stated that there was a public hearing at the courthouse, and the zoning committee moved forward on the tourist rooming house - in addition to the shoreland zoning that the county already has. They are looking at limiting occupancy based on septic system size, off street parking. This will not address noise. It is on the county zoning website. Would affect Presque Isle because we are under the Shoreland zoning.

Ms. Weber got a letter from our attorney that the Supreme Court denied the Meessmann petition for review. Therefore the case is over and no further avenue of appeal is available.
Special Town Meeting (Electors) November 16th.

10. General Public Comment, information only, no discussion or action will occur

Several comments were made. Getting technical support for Ms. Thoma, clarity on the equalized value between the countywide and four towns EMS, County board has a very strong approach on allowing the towns to act on their own. Pedestals to be installed for broadband along the road and brought to the house once customer requests service. Behavior during this election and need to do some soul searching, destruction of signs and falsely being accused. Need to form a committee to get answers for the EMS district soon, qualified person that could run this committee. If dam removal is needed when getting rid of the beaver issues please do in stages.

Vouchers 35314-35346 were approved for payment and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm

Town Board Action: _____

Approved: _____

Amended: _____