

Approved 12/15/2021

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021
6:00 p.m.
FREEDOM TOWN HALL
W2004 COUNTY RD S**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE

Meeting called to order by Chairman Charles Kramer at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Charles Kramer, Supv. Tim Maass, Supv. Jason Vandenberg, Supv. Kevin Schuh, and Supv. Brandon Conrad.

Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Laha, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Billie Jo De Jong, Justin Keen, Jeff Kussow and Ken Jaworski from Cedar Corporation.

Invocation

Pledge recited.

2. VERIFICATION OF POSTING/ADOPT AGENDA

Posted on the 2 Boards at the Freedom Town Hall and on the Town website on the 16th day of November 2021 at 1:00 p.m. by the Clerk's Office. Also posted at: Dairyland Depot, Freedom Mini Mart, and Shop & Save Mart/ Halesi, LLC.

Amended Agenda posted on the 2 Boards at the Freedom Town Hall and on the Town website on the 16th day of November 2021 at 2:30 p.m. by the Clerk's Office. Also posted at: Dairyland Depot, Freedom Mini Mart, and Shop & Save Mart/ Halesi, LLC.

Motion by Supv. Brandon Conrad with second by Supv. Tim Maass to adopt the agenda.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF 10/27 MEETING

Motion by Supv. Tim Maass with second by Supv. Brandon Conrad to approve the minutes of the 10/27/2021 meeting.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Judge Mark Schroeder just introduced himself to say hello.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ANY ACTION AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN MEETING ON 11/15/2021

None

6. CONSIDERATION OF 2022 BUDGET

Motion by Supv. Brandon Conrad with a second by Supv. Kevin Schuh to approve the 2022 budget in the amount of \$2,580,066.92.

Vote: 3 Yea / 2 Nay Chairman Charles Kramer and Supv. Tim Maass opposed. Motion Carried: Yes

7. MOTION TO DIRECT CLERK TO SET TAX RATE AND SEND OUT TAX BILLS

Motion by Chairman Charles Kramer with a second by Supv. Kevin Schuh to direct clerk to set tax rate and send out tax bills.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

8. PLAN COMMISSION REFERRALS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON UPDATING THE TOWN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Supv. Brandon Conrad opened the conversation about updating the Town Open Space and Recreation Plan. The last time it has been updated was in 2003. The plan should be updated every five years to remain eligible for funding and grant applications. Supv. Brandon Conrad is looking for Town Board approval to allow Cedar Corporation to go ahead and start working on that update. He would propose that the Parks Committee and the Plan Committee schedule a joint meeting. Jeff from Cedar Corporation stated that the cost would be around \$5,000 - \$ 7,000. Supv. Jason Vandenberg stated that they should focus on parks and not spend too much time focusing on trails.

Motion by Supv. Brandon Conrad with a second by Supv. Jason Vandenberg to allow Cedar Corporation to begin updating the Town Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Vote: 4 Yea / 1 Nay Motion Carried: Yes Chairman Charles Kramer opposed.

B. SCHEDULE A JOINT MEETING WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION AND PARK COMMITTEE

A joint meeting was scheduled for December 8, 2021, with the Plan Commission and Park Committee.

9. OPERATORS LICENSES – SHIANNA M. GRACYALY, KIM M. SCHULLER

Motion by Supv. Tim Maass with second by Chairman Charles Kramer to approve the operator licenses for Shianna M. Gracyaly, Kim M. Schuller.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

10. DISCUSSION ON FIRE TRUCK

Supv. Brandon Conrad brought up that the Town Board needs to have a discussion on how to finance the new fire truck. Clerk Treasurer Colleen Laha contacted Baird to get the different options available. They discussed the different options and played out different scenarios. After a lengthy discussion, The Town Board decided to continue looking over the finance options and discuss it at a later meeting. Fire Chief Mark Green stated that he was hoping to walk away with a written approval to sign the purchase order on the fire truck. The Town Board gave Fire Chief Mark Green the go ahead to move forward and sign the Purchase Order for the new fire truck.

11. UPDATING CLERK OFFICE COMPUTER

Motion by Supv. Jason Vandenberg with a second by Supv. Tim Maass to update the Clerk office computer in the amount of \$ 1,181.60.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

12. KELLER PAY REQUEST

Motion by Supv. Brandon Conrad with a second by Chairman Charles Kramer to pay the current request to Keller Inc. for the final payment in the amount of \$ 34,738.55.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

13. ATTORNEY/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chairman Charles Kramer spoke with Fire Chief Mark Green about a redline draft of a revised Fire Protection Agreement to the fire company that was on Attorney Steve Frassetto's department report. Attorney Steve Frassetto was waiting on comments from the Fire Board on that agreement. A copy was provided, and once Attorney Steve Frassetto has the Fire Boards comments, he will bring it back to the Town Board for review. Fire Chief Mark Green had a meeting on November 10, 2021, with the Fire Board to discuss the redline draft and they agree with how the revised agreement reads. Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Laha will contact Attorney Steve Frassetto and carbon copy Fire Chief Mark Green and let him know that it is ok to proceed with finishing the

revisions on the agreement. Attorney Steve Frassetto will finish the revisions on the revised Fire Protection Agreement and come to the Town Board with the final draft at the December 15, 2021, Town Board meeting.

The Parks Department is assisting in finishing up on the Ballpark Lighting Project. Supv. Jason Vandenberg spoke with Cory Scheidler from Cedar Corporation on November 15, 2021. He stated the last thing to be completed on the lighting project is to put the poles up and it should be done in the next couple of weeks. Upon completion, owner training and testing will be completed, and the final restoration will be done in the spring. The parks public works employee has completed winterizing the parks and the Christmas decorations are being inspected as to the condition they are in. There has been furnace and light repairs completed at the Historical Society. The Parks Department employee would like to get a structure put in place for future employees on training as well as how to better communicate with Town Board members.

The Highway Department employee is in the process of obtaining his CDL and getting everything ready for the winter season. Plow stakes are being placed and the plow trucks are ready to go. The yard waste center will be closing November 19, 2021, so that will be ending for this year. The decision was made to close the gates at the yard waste center when town employees are loading and pushing back brush for safety reasons. The highway truck needs several mechanical repairs and new tires before the start of the winter season. The Town Board and public works employees discussed town uniforms that would help to identify them as "Town" employees. A couple Town Board members agreed that it would be a good idea. They will investigate shirt options for the employees.

The Engineering Report included project updates on the Local Road Improvement Program. The applications were submitted for Timm and Fritsch Road and the Wis DOT announces approved projects on 4/1/2022. The WISLR Certification documentation was submitted to Wisconsin DOT. The floor is completed, and the subcontractor has been paid for the VFW Park restroom renovation. The final pay request will be at the December meeting. All the underground work is completed, foundations are installed, and remaining poles will be placed in the next two weeks for the VFW Park ball field lighting project. Upon completion, owner training and testing will be completed, and the final restoration will happen in the spring.

Fire Chief Mark Green questioned whether the work has ever been completed on the warning siren. Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Laha believes it is all complete and will call Emergency Communications Systems to verify and communicate the findings to Fire Chief Mark Green. Fire Chief Mark Green will have a conversation with the Town's Public Works employees about snow plowing for the new Fire/EMS Building and make sure they are aware what needs to be done for the winter season. The Fire Department has a problem with the radios they are currently using. The proper batteries to keep them intrinsically safe are no longer going to be manufactured. When the batteries that they have die, the radios would not be intrinsically safe. There is a regional grant that the Fire Department is participating in alongside most Fire Departments in the county. Twenty-two radios are needed, and they are around \$8000.00 per piece. If they are awarded this grant, it is a 10% match resulting in a large savings. Fire Chief Mark Green also discussed Colleen Laha's request from Chairman Charles Kramer for a code on the New Fire/EMS Building. He stated that the Public Works employee will have their own individual codes. If the Town Board would like to delegate one of the elected officials to have access to the building, they need to decide collectively who will be responsible for Building and Grounds and he will get that person a code. He stated that there will no longer be a universal code.

14. CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS/DIRECT DEPOSITS

Motion by Supv. Tim Maass with second by Supv. Kevin Schuh to approve Vouchers 32349, and Vouchers 32353-32382, Direct Deposit E-pay 10372-10375, 10385, and Direct Deposit E-Pay 10387-10401, TID # 1 Voucher 139.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

15. MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION PER WI STATS 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Requested by Supv. Kevin Schuh)
Motion by Supv. Tim Maass with second by Chairman Charles Kramer to move to closed session per WI 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Requested by Supv. Kevin Schuh) at 7:25 p.m.
Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes
Roll Call Vote: Charles Kramer – Yea, Brandon Conrad – Yea, Tim Maass – Yea, Kevin Schuh – Yea, Jason Vandenberg - Yea.
16. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION
Motion by Supv. Tim Maass with second by Supv. Jason Vandenberg to return to open session at 8:25 p.m.
Vote: 5 Yes / 0 Nay Motion Carried.
Roll Call Vote: Charles Kramer – Yea, Brandon Conrad – Yea, Tim Maass – Yea, Kevin Schuh – Yea, Jason Vandenberg - Yea.
17. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PUBLIC WORK EMPLOYEES AS RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION
Motion by Supv. Jason Vandenberg with second by Supv. Brandon Conrad that all Town employees are getting a \$2.50/hour wage increase. Once the public works employees get their CDL's they will get another \$1.00/hour on top of that. The Public Works employees will report directly to Supv. Jason Vandenberg and will not have any interaction with a person that was spoke about.
Vote: 4 Yes / 0 Nay Motion Carried. Chairman Charles Kramer abstained.
18. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TIME CLOCK FOR PUBLIC WORK EMPLOYEES AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION
No action.
19. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A MOTION TO RESCIND THE ACTION FROM THE OCTOBER 27, 2021, TOWN BOARD MEETING TO RETAIN CEDAR CORPORATION FOR TOWN ENGINEERING AND PLANNING SERVICES IN 2022. IF A MOTION TO RESCIND IS APPROVED, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF AN ALTERNATE FIRM FOR ENGINEERING AND PLANNING SERVICES IN 2022.
Motion by Supv. Tim Maass to rescind the action from the October 27, 2021, town board meeting to retain Cedar Corporation for town engineering and planning services in 2022. Supv. Tim Maass withdraws his motion. No action was taken.
20. ANY ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSED SESSION – **NONE**
21. ADJOURN
Motion by Supv. Tim Maass with second by Supv. Brandon Conrad to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.
5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Billie Jo De Jong