

Approved 2/27/2023
TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
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, Supervisor Kevin Schuh, Supervisor Jason Vandenberg, Supervisor Brandon Conrad and Supervisor Margo Fox.
Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Laha, Attorney Steve Frassetto, Diane Wessel Interim Administrator and Shawn Geiger Interim Public Works Director.
Silent Invocation.
Supervisor Margo Fox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. VERIFICATION OF POSTING/ADOPT AGENDA
Posted on the 2 Boards at the Freedom Town Hall and on the Town website on the 24th of January 2023 at 4:00 p.m. by the Clerk's Office. Also posted at: Dairyland Depot, Freedom Mini Mart and Shop & Save Mart/ Halesi, LLC.
Motion made by Supervisor Brandon Conrad with a second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to approve the agenda as posted removing consideration of minutes for 11/16/2022, 12/21/2022 & special Town Board Meeting on 12/7/2022
Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON 10/10/2022, 10/24/2022
Motion made by Supervisor Brandon Conrad with a second by Supervisor Jason Vandenberg to approve the minutes of 10/10/2022 and 10/24/2022..
Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION (maximum 15 minutes total)
Pat Vosberg commented that Elk Lane/Bell Ct was not restored to its original width.
Public Works director Shawn Geiger will check on this and respond back to Pat Vosberg.
Amy Plamann discussed why and how residents were unable to discuss issues. It was explained that by state statues if it is not on the agenda, it cannot be discussed. Also, according to Rules of Robert, which Town of Freedom Meetings does not allow for discussions between the board and public. The board can make a motion to allow public comments on an agenda item.
Jon Bradle stated that he did not cut the gas line at the VFW Park.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR TOWN HALL AUDIO AND VIDEO SYSTEM QUOTES
Administrator Diane Wessel is working on a purchasing policy that would clarify which acquisitions need board approval..
Supervisor Jason Vandenberg presented the Town Hall Audio and Video System quotes he requested from Suess Electronics. The Audio & Video System quote was \$18,226.65 and the Video Conferencing & Control System Quote was \$19,864.69 for a total of \$38,091.34. Supervisor Vandenberg would like to use some of the

ARPA Funds to carry out this project to promote transparency, so anyone could take part in the meetings without being present.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO EXTEND INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR PERIOD OF TIME AND CLARIFY HOURS
Supervisor Margo Fox asked the Town Board to lock in the contract with Administrator Diane Wessel for a minimum of six month, 20 hours per week presently, backing off on the hours as the year progresses to promote continuity. Administrator Diane Wessel with bring a new contract for the next meeting.
7. OPERATOR LICENSES – Hanna Brems, James Van Thiel, Lok Giri, Brooke Ellingson and Valerie Caelwaerts
Motion by Supervisor Brandon Conrad with second by Supervisor Jason Vandenberg to approve the operator licenses for Hanna Brems, James Van Thiel, Lok Giri, Brooke Ellingson and Valerie Caelwaerts.
Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes
8. ST. NICHOLAS TEMPORARY CLASS B LIQUOR LICENSE FOR FEBRUARY 25-26TH, WINTERFEST
Motion by Supervisor Jason Vandenberg with second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to approve the St. Nicholas Temporary Class B Liquor License for February 25-26 with James Thiel as the agent.
Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes
9. BILL KOHRT - DISCUSSING DRAINAGE ISSUE
In January of 2020 the letter itemized what the common law rules and what the statutory rules of surface water drainage general are. Then there is a second letter from July of 2020 we worked through this where if we want to try to do something what are the mechanisms were and three were identified. Money is the issue.
Supervisor Jason Vandenberg would like to create a stormwater utility district. It was explained that if you start the process by adopting a resolution to proceed then you need to hire engineers to calculate what would be the equivalent run off units for residential, agricultural, industrial. So basically, they would have to do that work, present it and then the board would need to decide if it's rational and if there is a reasonable basis for it. Then once that is done and actually create it, then that is what would get charged to the property owners as a separate line item on the property tax bills similar to garbage.
Administrator Diane Wessel said the inflation reduction act focusses very much on grants toward climate resiliency which includes flooding, stormwater, things like that so there is a lot of grant programs in there like that. She will look a little deeper into the grants but doubts that she will know much about them until the grant applications are open.
She will reach out to MSA's stormwater group for additional information for the next meeting.
10. PLAN COMMISSION REFERRALS:
 - a. App #2022-CSM-6; Linda Borneman on behalf of Patricia Murphy Survivors Trust; 2-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0205-07; Martys Court
Motion by Chairman Charles Kramer with second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to recommend approval of certified survey map application App #2022-CSM-6; Linda Borneman on behalf of Patricia Murphy Survivors Trust; 2-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0205-07; Martys Court with no conditions.
Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes
 - b. App #2022-CSM-7; Linda Borneman on behalf of Patricia Murphy Survivors Trust; 4-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0205-00 & 090-0206-00; Martys Court
Motion by Chairman Charles Kramer with second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to recommend approval of certified survey map application App #2022-CSM-7; Linda Borneman on behalf of Patricia Murphy

Survivors Trust; 4-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0205-00 & 090-0206-00; Martys Court with no conditions.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

- c. App #2022-CSM-8; Linda Borneman on behalf of Patricia Murphy Survivors Trust; 2-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0188-02; County Road C / County Rd S

Motion by Chairman Charles Kramer with second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to recommend approval of certified survey map App #2022-CSM-8; Linda Borneman on behalf of Patricia Murphy Survivors Trust; 2-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0188-02; County Road C / County Rd S with no conditions.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

- d. App #2022-CSM-9; Carow Land Surveying on behalf of Jean A Fox (LE)/Michael J Fox et al.; 2-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0674-00; W1514 COUNTY RD UU

Motion by Chairman Charles Kramer with second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to recommend approval of certified survey map App #2022-CSM-9; Carow Land Surveying on behalf of Jean A Fox (LE)/Michael J Fox et al.; 2-Lot Certified Survey Map; PIN 090-0674-00; W1514 COUNTY RD UU with no conditions.

Vote: 5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS –

- a. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Administrator Diane Wessel gave a written report – see attached. Lot staking ordinance – what it takes to put together- board wants Diane to get an MSA engineer to put together. Board would like her to contact a MSA engineer or TID specialist proceed with TID 3 phase one, phase two and phase three. Supervisor Brandon Conrad will reach out to Cedar for background information. Diane will create an Administrator position and a Public Works Director position.
- b. PARK REPORT –There was no Park Committee Meeting in January because there is a question as to what the capital improvement bond money can be used for. Diane had a co-worker that is very versed in the stewardship grants to look at it to see if there was anything that could be improved upon to make it more competitive. He suggested including the intergovernmental agreements. Supervisor Vandenberg said we need to get that funding done sooner than later because that money was bonded last year and it is sitting there losing value every day. He thinks we need to take action. Supervisor Fox said not until with legal and competent direction from an administrator, not until she looks a little bit further into the board’s definition of capital improvements projects.
- c. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Fire Chief Mark Green advised that Fiber Optic Service is needed at the Fire/EMS Building. During the storm this past summer they had no service. Green will be providing the Administrator with details. The Chief also requested that a street light be installed at the intersection of County Road E and Schmidt Road. The intersection is extremely dark and difficult to locate. Chief Green reported that they are in the process of working on the purchase of new radios and continuing to work on the brush truck. Chief Green explained the Firefighting Foam Bank Agreement that Attorney Frassetto is reviewing.

- d. **FIRST RESPONDER REPORT** –Chief Jodi Roskowski said they are up to eleven first responders. She has one in training to hopefully be added in May. So, they are growing there squad which is needed. Chief Roskowski will be attending an underserved population preparedness planning for rural responders and volunteers training on Tuesday. She is hoping to get more knowledge on emergency planning in rural areas and knowledge about that. She is in the process of using the grant money, purchasing the equipment that they are going to buy with the grant. It is tricky because they need to purchase it. Then submit receipts to the state and then they reimburse them. The big thing is how do they purchase it because they still don't have a credit card. The Chief did try to apply for a business credit card at Capital Credit Union through the First Responder group but were denied because they don't have annual sales. There recommendation was that it should go through the Town. Supervisor Vandenberg pointed out that the issue is that someone needs to put their personal social security number on the town's card and no one is willing to do that. Administrator Diane Wessel will get in contact and figure it out. Chief Roskowski said they can't function this way anymore. The issue is that some of the stuff is online, and we need a credit card.
- e. **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT** –Public Works Director Shawn Geiger has been working with Administrator Diane Wessel. She created the public works foreman and the public works laborer position ads. They have had a good response, six applications. They interviewed one person yesterday. Very favorable. They will probably do the rest next week, so it's looking up. It is a hard market to find public works employees. The applicants seem qualified so he was happy with that. The East Central Wisconsin Planning Commission helped Geiger create some snowplow maps at no charge because we are a member. He is now working on sidewalk maps now that anyone who starts with the Town can take a map and do it. Supervisor Vandenberg would like the map and route put on the website so people will know if they are last on the route. Administrator Wessel agreed but said she the website is on her list. It is very cumbersome from the outward facing and from the inward facing. It is very hard to put things on the website. Geiger also agreed that is a nice tool to have. Public Works Director Shawn Geiger said the bad news is the John Deere lawn mower that is used at the parks and the estimate is \$5,000.00 to fix it. Public Works Director Geiger will have some options at the next board meeting. Geiger is working with an electrical contractor about the lights at Citizen Park. He will look into it and get a cost. Geiger has been trying to work at the Town Hall more often. A lot of people come in to talk to him. Like Diane I've been trying to watch my hours. Public Works Director Geiger has assisted with two major snow storms and a lot of salting events. The Town dump truck was recalled and that has been fixed.
- f. **ATTORNEY REPORT** – He plans to meet with Administrator Diane Wessel at some point.
1. Update on Chairperson Charles Kramer Censure – There were time periods in the censure. All the time periods have passed. It is a moot point though because Charlie had asked that we bypass that and go right to circuit court. Attorney Steve Frassetto reported that everything he had would be discussed in closed session including the censure.

12. CONSIDERATION OF VOUCHERS/DIRECT DEPOSITS

Motion by Supervisor Brandon Conrad with second by Supervisor Kevin Schuh to approve vouchers #32947-33004, direct deposits #10744-10761 , 14 EFT and TID #1 check 164.

5 Yea / 0 Nay Motioned Carried: Yes Supervisor Jason Vandenberg abstained from approving TID #1 checks.

13. MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (f) of the Wisconsin Statutes, considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. (Fox Investigation, Vandenberg Investigation, Kramer Complaint)

MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (g) of the Wisconsin Statutes, conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (Van Lanen Appeal)

Motion by Supervisor Kevin Schuh with second by Supervisor Margo Fox to move to close session at 7:47 p.m.

4 Yea / 1 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

Charles Kramer – Nay, Brandon Conrad – Yea, Kevin Schuh – Yea, Jason Vandenberg – Yea, Margo Fox - Yea

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion by Chairman Charles Kramer with second by Supervisor Margo Fox to return to open session at 8:32 p.m.

5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

15. ANY ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSED SESSION

The Town Board will be setting up a public meeting to discuss the Van Lanen appeal and working with Van Lanen to resolve.

16. IDENTIFY FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. MSA Administrator contract amendment
2. TID #3 Development
3. Some Policies
4. Listening Session for Van Lanen
5. Engineering Ordinance
6. Staffing Ordinance
7. Lawn Mower.

17. ADJOURN

Motion made by Chairman Charles Kramer and a second by Supervisor Brandon Conrad to adjourn at 8:42 P.M.

5 Yea / 0 Nay Motion Carried: Yes

**Respectfully submitted,
Colleen M. Laha, Clerk/Treasurer**