

MINUTES
TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
Regular Town Board Meeting
10/08/2013

Town Hall – Swiss Miss Center 1101 Hwy 69 New Glarus @ 6:30 pm

ATTENDING: Board Members: Keith Seward, Dean Streiff, Chris Narveson (6:38), Jim Hoesly, Robert Elkins, Dennis Nielson and Pattie Salter

ALSO ATTENDING: Dale Hustad, Town Attorney, Craig Galhouse, Town Assessor, Dean, Alice and Cortney Bertelrud, Robert Schiro, and Tim Schleeper, Vierbicher and Associates

K. Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Proof of Posting: P. Salter confirmed proper posting.
2. Approve Town Board Minutes:
 - a. 09/10/2013 Regular Town Board Meeting: D. Streiff moved to approve the minutes as presented. J. Hoesly 2nd. Motion carried.
3. Patrolman's Report:
 - a. Two Year Road Maintenance Plan: Without objection Tim Schleeper will work with D. Nielson to develop the 2-year plan as part of the TRID application, which will be submitted to Jeff Wunschel at Green County before the October 16th deadline.
 - b. 2014/2015 LRIP Biennial Program: Copies of the TRID application were included in the packets. The estimated cost to correct horizontal and vertical site distance issues on the stretch of Pioneer Road from Titus Lane to Klassy Road is \$846,500 the application is for roughly half the cost or \$420,750. Tim Schleeper of Vierbicher explained that they recommend surveying the entire project then decide if the Town would like to break the project into parts to spread over multiple years to accommodate our budget needs. Any project over \$100,000 requires prevailing wage reporting. K. Seward noted that Vierbicher should plan on holding at least one public hearing prior to beginning the project to notify residents of the scope of the project. The benefits of doing the project all at once are 1. You insulate yourself from fuel cost changes and 2. Bigger projects give you a competitive advantage due to cost breaks and a larger pool of contractors to draw from. We should know from the State by March of 2014 if we will be awarded any funds and how much. According to Tim, we have 5 years to complete the project.
 - c. Town Garage Gutter Quote: K. Seward reported that Seamless Gutters of New Glarus quoted the town garage gutter project as \$687.60 for the front and either \$925 with metal fascia on the back or \$725 with straps on the roof. To add gutter covers to each side would be an additional \$460. C. Narveson moved to approve \$687.60 for the front with the metal fascia option on the back for \$925 and gutter covers on each side for a total cost of \$2,523.60, R. Elkins 2nd. Motion Carried.
 - d. Bridge Work: D. Nielson reported that there are three drainage structures in need of repair or replacement. One structure on Argue Road needs repair. The expense of approximately \$4,800 would be shared with the Town of Exeter. Two structures on Hustad Valley Road were identified; the first is very narrow and would need engineering and replacement. The engineering study would cost \$2,000, would provide options, and estimated costs. The third structure is also located on Hustad Valley Road and is estimated to cost approximately \$7,000.

D. Nielson reported that he and Pete with Green County Highway did a speed test on Pioneer Road and the recommended speed is 35 MPH. We may need to do a speed and/or engineering study before lowering the speed limit on this road. Without objection, the issue will be discussed at the next meeting. Tim Schleeper of Vierbicher noted that advisory speed signs can be posted without the speed/engineering study.

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4. Public Comments: Robert Schiro of the Windmill Ridge subdivision was present to request the speed limit on Windmill Ridge be reduced to 35 MPH. Mr. Schiro reported that there are two highways that feed into Windmill Ridge in addition there are 42 homes currently in the development with approximately 3-5 new driveways going in. Mr. Schiro believes the homes are on an average are within 100 feet of each other. Mr. Schiro would also like watch for children sign posted in the neighborhood. Entry to The Bluebird Ridge Conservancy is also located within the subdivision which would meet one of the requirements for lowering the speed limit. K. Seward moved to authorize a speed study, R. Elkins 2nd. Motion carried. C. Narveson asked to have advisory signs posted in all our subdivisions.
5. Neighbor Dispute regarding Grading Work on Kempfer Lane and CTH NN: Board members were given copies of a police report filed by Jack Ramey of W5801 County NN against Dean Bertelrud of W5759 County NN regarding a complaint that Mr. Bertelrud was grading the Kempfer Road without permission from the Town of New Glarus.

D. Nielson reported that Green County has since graded the road. K. Seward moved that no motions will be filed in the issue of the civil dispute between the Town of New Glarus and Dean Bertelrud, C. Narveson 2nd. Motion carried.

K. Seward instructed Dean Bertelrud to contact the Town Board for future road maintenance. Dean Bertelrud also noted that there are some days in the winter that the plow does not get down their road and asked if it was all right to plow the road in order to get his vehicle out. In addition, Mr. Bertelrud noted that the neighbor snow blows their snow onto the road. Dale commented that he did not feel the Town should authorize residents to maintain public roads but they should also not obstruct residents from getting in and out of their property.

Without objection, a letter will be sent to both parties with the results of the meeting and to let them know that no private driveway plowing deposits of snow are allowed in the public right away.

6. Finance Committee Report:
- a. Accounts Receivable Aging List: D. Streiff reported that \$116 had been billed in September and \$24 has been billed in September. There is currently \$0 in outstanding receivables.
 - b. Accounting Reports w/Monthly Bank Reconciliation: D. Streiff reported that the September accounts balance.
 - c. Payment of Bills: D. Streiff moved to approve September checks 17269-17277 C. Narveson 2nd. D. Streiff noted that check number 17268 was a voided payroll check. Motion Carried.

D. Streiff moved to approve October checks 17278-17299 and ACH payments #12317, 28590, 30226, 30228, 30229, 30230, 82102, 87052, 93198, & 94981. C. Narveson 2nd. Motion Carried.
 - d. Preliminary Budget Review: K. Seward reported that he and P. Salter had met with Kevin Krynski and Tara Bast with Johnson Block and had prepared a preliminary budget. Currently the levy is up by approximately 5%.
 - i. Assessor Revaluation and 2014 Contract Proposal: Craig Galhouse reported on the status of the revaluation process. He explained that the Town of New Glarus did an interim market valuation and adjusted residential homes down by about 1% and the state came back and reduced the values by an additional 5%. The result is that we are well within compliance probably through 2015.

D. Streiff moved to discontinue the revaluation and notify the Assessor by November 1 that we would like a new contract. C. Narveson 2nd. Motion carried.

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K. Seward moved and J. Hoesly 2nd to schedule a closed session with the assessor, our attorney and our board. Motion carried

7. Clerk-Treasurer Report:

a. Correspondence:

i. Invitation to EMS Informational Budget Discussion: Kris Mueller of the New Glarus EMS invited the Town Board to a budget discussion on October 24th at 7:30. K. Seward and D. Streiff plan to attend.

b. Employee Handbook Updates: P. Salter submitted proposed changes to the employee handbook.

i. Employee Definition: J. Hoesly moved to approve the proposed changes to the definition of an employee. R. Elkins 2nd. Motion carried.

ii. Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Addition: P. Salter suggested language for the employee handbook. D. Hustud suggested changing the language to “all Town of New Glarus Employees AND Elected Officials” change “Employee” to “Participant” and change “Employer” to “Town of New Glarus.” J. Hoesly moved to approve the proposed changes as. R. Elkins 2nd. Motion carried.

c. Picnic License for Shakespeare on the Edge: Shakespeare on the Edge applied for a picnic license to serve beer and soda at their Rogues and Ruffian’s event October 11 & 12th at the Wilhelm Tell Grounds.

d. Municipal Treasurers Association of Wisconsin Conference: P. Salter reported on the classes offered at this years’ conference. K. Seward recognized that P. Salter received Certified Treasurer designation.

8. Chairman’s Report

a. Develop Town Growth Plan: K. Seward recommended that the Plan Commission get involved in developing a plan to encourage Town growth. Areas to incorporate and study within this plan could include:

- i. Cluster Septic Systems
- ii. Potential Industrial Parks Location
- iii. Costs of Municipal Waste Water vs. Cluster Septic Mound Systems
- iv. WI-FI, Fiber Optic and Natural Gas – Contacting Providers
- v. Transportation Improvement
- vi. Possible TIF District Outside ETZ
- vii. Financing Aspects and How they Would Reflect on Impact Fees

Without objection K. Seward will forward the issue onto the Plan Commission for review.

b. September 27, 2013 Library Director’s Report: K. Seward asked the Board to read the newsletter as it contains a good summary of what the library offers that some people may not be aware of.

c. Set 2014 Health Insurance Rates: K. Seward reminded the Board that last year they agreed to provide the employees in October what the board would agree to for insurance in the next year. Seward asked D. Nielson and P. Salter what their plans for coverage would be for 2014. Both D. Nielson and P. Salter reported that they did not foresee any changes in their plan choices for 2014. K. Seward reported that he had collected information from the Employee Trust Funds on their 2014 rates. The premiums for the single coverage plan that D. Nielson has selected will increase from \$6,192/year to \$6,878/year. This is an 11% increase for the Town. D. Nielson’s expected monthly premium will go from \$12.67/month to \$39.57/month, which is a 215% increase. The family coverage premium will go from \$15,066/year to

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\$16,790/year, which is an 11.4% increase. P. Salter's expected monthly premium will go from \$0 to \$0. These figures are based on the current 88% of the available plans in Green County. Seward noted that if an employee felt they could not afford to go with an employer's health plan, they could seek coverage in the Insurance Marketplace, however, if the employee goes with the marketplace, they would lose the employers share of the premium. In K. Seward's opinion, 11% increases to insurance are not sustainable over time. He noted that at this rate the premiums would double in seven years. K. Seward also noted that he had problems with the inequities of the current health insurance premiums.

C. Narveson felt we should stay with the 88%, D. Streiff agreed, J. Hoesly agreed with Seward that if Health insurance continues to increase by 11% each year it would be hard to sustain it. Seward concluded the discussion by stating that indications were that the board would stay with the 88%. The issue will be voted on in January.

9. Plan Commission Report: K. Seward reported that he would present the Plan Commission with the Growth Plan project at the next meeting. In addition, the Plan Commission has been working with Tower Ordinance people, but have not had much success in hearing back from them.
10. Parks Report: C. Narveson reported that the barn workshop was a success. He announced that Parks Commission will again be selling trees and encouraged early orders. Narveson reported that they would be having a joint Parks meeting with the Village. Topics for that meeting included using the ballpark next to the fire station as the location for the new library and discussing a joint dog park. He asked the Board for their opinion on using existing park space for a library. The overall impression was that the space was not a good idea since it would eliminate a baseball diamond.
11. Schedule Next Board Meeting: The next Regular Town Board meeting was scheduled for October 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Budget Hearing was scheduled for November 5 at 6:30 p.m.

7. Closed Session per §19.85(1)(g) 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: J. Hoesly moved to recess into closed session, D. Streiff 2nd. Motion carried, recessed at 9:05 p.m.
8. Return to Public Session: D. Streiff moved to return to Public Session at 9:15 p.m., C. Narveson 2nd. Motion Carried.
9. Action on Closed Session: No action was taken.
15. Adjourn: Discussion ended at 9:18 p.m. J. Hoesly moved to adjourn, 2nd by D. Streiff. Motion carried.