

Town of Grant  
9011 County Road WW  
Annual Town Meeting  
April 16, 2019

Present: Schwab, Yetter, Winkler, Luecht and Zimmerman.  
Chairperson Schwab called meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Powers of Annual Meeting:** Chairperson Schwab explained that the Annual Town Meeting is a meeting of Electors, where all residents have a say by the following three powers: Direct powers – compensation of officers, designate supervisor, hourly wages; In-direct powers – advisory or directive to Town Board; and Authorization to town board to appropriate money. At this meeting all Town of Grant Electors have equal rights. Schwab indicated that copy of Powers of Annual Meeting were available.

**Motion: (Jim Yetter, Nathan Wolosek) Move to dispense of the reading of minutes from Annual Town Meeting on April 17, 2018. Unanimous Ayes. Motion Carried.**

**Motion: (Kathy Lee, Diana Luecht) Move to approve Annual Town Meeting minutes from April 17, 2018 as written. Unanimous Ayes. Motion Carried.**

Annual Meeting Minutes are to be available to review within five business days and posted within 30 days of meeting.

**Annual Report:** Clerk Zimmerman reported the net income for 2018 was \$49,703.00 with Fund Balance of \$169,757.00 January 1, 2018 for a total of \$219,460.00 Fund Balance December 31, 2018. The Annual Report followed the same format from previous years. Gary Getzloff asked about Cash On Hand for Equipment Fund-CD for \$11,607.63 and Equipment Savings Acct. for \$10,000.00. Clerk Zimmerman explained that when the Equipment Fund-CD comes due in October 2019 it will not be renewed and money will be transferred to Equipment Savings Account. Treasurer Luecht and Clerk Zimmerman decided to cancel the Equipment CD, since the Board decided to budget some money for equipment replacement and it was easier to deposit money in a savings account each year. Kitty Gross wanted to know why we didn't use the \$10,000.00 that was put in savings for 2018 toward the truck purchase instead of getting loan amount for total purchase price. Clerk Zimmerman replied hadn't really thought about it at the time. Treasurer Luecht called the bank with quote we received for the Western Star Truck.

**Guest Reports:**

- **Fire Protection: Plainfield VFD:** 2018 Annual Report was not available at Annual Meeting. Clerk Zimmerman has since received Plainfield Fire Department Annual Report, which is available upon request from the Clerk. Email [grantclerk@wctc.net](mailto:grantclerk@wctc.net), Town Hall 715-423-9193.
- **Grand Rapids VFD:** Robert Piatt, Fire Chief, reported they have 23 Firefighters and 6 EMS Responders. Fire calls were up 26% with 101 calls; EMS calls were up 12% with 273 calls. Town of Grant had 12 calls. Recruitment and retention are definitely a high priority in 2019 and beyond. Looking forward into 2019, his vision for the department will be a continuing focus on training and educational opportunities for staff to increase level of safety and service to the

communities served. Chief Piatt can be reached at 715-424-1815 for non-emergency calls or [Fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org](mailto:Fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org).

- **United Emergency Medical Response (UEMR):** Gary Johnson, Co-owner introduced Marissa Johnson who has been promoted to Shift Officer with United Ambulance. Gary presented his 2018 Annual Report. They responded to 58 ambulance calls in the Town of Grant and 14 calls thus far this year. Opioid and Meth are highly addictive and they are reaching out to local agencies and schools to educate anytime they have the opportunity. Unfortunately, saving an Opioid/Meth dependent patient does not guarantee they will live beyond that day as the addiction is so intense that chances are they will O.D. They average 25-40 heroin overdoses per year and last year had 5 deaths just in our response area. UEMR has started its bi-annual EMT/Paramedic Refresher course through MSTC that will take 12 months to complete. "Finally, and most important, we would like to thank Sharon for the many years of unconditional support and dedicated working relationship with United Ambulance. Thank you for trusting us with your family and your town residents. You have been a major asset for us and will be missed." Gary Johnson can be reached at 715-423-7777.
- **Riglemon Appraisal Service:** Claude Riglemon, Assessor was not available but did call and set dates for Open Book May 20, 2019 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and Board of Review on May 28, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Clerk Zimmerman indicated that Board Members will need to attend Board of Review training this year. Claude Riglemon can be reached at 1-888-345-2914.  
**NOTE: Open Book hours changed on 05-3-19 to: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**

#### Resident Reports:

- **County Board:** Charles Gussel, County Board Supervisor, County Hwy F (CTH W-STH 73) will be under construction July-October 2019. High Water Damage can be reported to 211 Emergency Management. County Supervisor, Charles Gussel can be reached at 715-424-2680 or 715-572-1877.
- **First Responders:** Jerry Reinwand provided a written report, which is available upon request from Clerk Zimmerman. 1<sup>st</sup> Responders are: Jerry Reinwand, Jim Yetter, Robin Mateer, Rob Mateer and Keith Kardash. They responded to 38 calls in 2018. They are always looking for new members. Meetings are held 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month @ 6:30pm. Contact Jerry Reinwand @ 715-570-8720, Jim Yetter @ 715-213-2000.
- **Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC):** Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month in Conference Room # 5 of the Portage County Annex. Questions contact Cecile Stelzer-Johnson @ 715-325-1930.
- **Historical/Sesquicentennial Committee:** Documents from the Town are now at UWSP Archives. Kathy Lee scanned over 900 pages of the Town Hwy Books and put on flash drives so they are available at the Town. Contact Kathy Lee 715-423-3891.
- **Website:** address is: [townofgrantportageco.com](http://townofgrantportageco.com) Contact Kathy Lee @ 715-423-3891
- **Plan Commission:** Jim Wendel's year- end report was available at the meeting. Chairperson Schwab reported that Comprehensive Plan was approved in November of 2018 by Town Board and is on docket with Portage County Planning & Zoning Committee on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and would move to Portage County Board in May. Plan Commission meets on monthly basis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Jim Wendel, PC Chairperson 715-323-0321
- **Zoning:** Marty Rutz , Zoning Administrator provided list of 39 permits issued in 2018 for a total of \$4,130.00, which included: 4 new residences, 19 accessory buildings, 13 driveway permits, 5 addition, 1 porch, 4 addresses, 4 ponds, 2 razes, 1 sign, 2 Class 2 Collocations, 1 moving mobile home, 5 CSM reviews and 12 UAP. Marty Rutz, Zoning Administrator @ 715-421-9200.

## Officers Reports:

- **Ambulance Services:** Town of Grant took Portage County to Court and lost, and then the Town moved to Appellate Court in Madison and lost. The result of court action by Town of Grant has opened up Ambulance Services for discussion at County Level. Town of Grant is dedicated to UEMR for **Saving Lives**. Schwab asked next Board Members to continue trying to get reimbursed from Portage County for UEMR Contract amount.
- **Choose to ReUse & Tire Day:** Hold Choose to ReUse and Tire Day on same days as T. Grand Rapids.
- **Motion: (Dave Luecht, Jim Yetter) Move to accept Choose to Reuse & Tire Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Unanimous Ayes, Carried.**  
**Motion: (Sharon Schwab, Jim Yetter) Move to have 2<sup>nd</sup> Choose to ReUse on Sept. 21, 2019. Unanimous Ayes. Carried.**
- **Outreach – Newsletter & Website:** No response if anyone would be taking over Town Newsletters. **Motion: (Heather-Grys Luecht, Rob Luecht) Move to implement Social Media for Town of Grant. Motion Failed.**
- **Website:** Kathy Lee reported that she adds information as she receives it. If any Businesses want to be included on website send her information about your business, minutes, agendas on website for Plan Commission and Town Board. There is a link on the website for the Comprehensive Plan. Town of Grant website address is: [www.townofgrantportageco.com](http://www.townofgrantportageco.com) . Contact Kathy Lee at [k.lee.rn@charter.net](mailto:k.lee.rn@charter.net) with information to put on website or call 715-423-3891.
- **Roads: 2019-2020 Road Plan** was available for residents listing recommendations for Road Construction Projects and Road Maintenance/Materials Projects. Supervisor Dale Winkler can be reached at 715-213-5438 regarding roads.
- Chairperson Schwab talked about TRID Grants that town received for Mill Road (100<sup>th</sup> St.-CTH F) to be completed in 2019 with start time as soon as road dries up. Engineering work is being done on 95<sup>th</sup> & 100th Streets at Buena Vista Crossings to be completed in 2020.
- Ron Patterson would like Town Board to look at 95<sup>th</sup> St. (Evergreen-termini) on 2019-20 Road Plan.
- Jake Bieldmier was wondering when Mertz Acres Subdivision is going to be reconstructed. Chairperson Schwab explained that in 2016 Jim Wendels, Chairperson of Plan Commission on his own time and without compensation applied for a TAP Grant for Mertz Subdivision. This Grant was for a complete reconstruction, 50/50 Cost share that would include bike and pedestrian trail and specifically for High Residential Zoning. Town of Grant was not awarded the Grant, but the TAP grant cycle comes around every four years and could be re-applied for in 2020.
- John Barton questioned the parking situation on South Park by the ball diamond when tournaments are held. Chairperson Schwab indicated that property is owned by school district, parking is only allowed on one side of street. Ron Becker suggested off street parking by removing trees and creating a parking area. Kitty Gross indicated that they have used up all land from school district by adding more ball diamonds. John Barton suggested creating parking for Ball Park.
- Surplus is outdated or non-functional town equipment. Currently 1<sup>st</sup> Responders outdated equipment is being placed on Wis. Surplus Online Auction site to be sold.

#### **Other Directive to Town Board:**

- Todd Von Loh would like to see speed limit reduced on 85<sup>th</sup> & 86<sup>th</sup> Streets. Town Roads are set at 55mph but can be reduced to 45 mph by Town Board. Anything lower than 45 mph requires State of Wisconsin approval and must fill out WisDOT Consultant Report form that can carry a high price and involves Sheriff Dept. and DNR Warden.
- **Motion: (Heather Grysluecht, Rob Luecht) Move to have Town implement Electronic Time Attendance on smartphone to track hours for employees. NO Majority. Motion Failed.**
- Dale Winkler accountability varies from year to year so would be hard to do comparison.
- Ron Patterson accountable hours can be spent writing reports.
- Dave Luecht would like to see accountability on mileage turned in on for checking roads (what are the supervisors checking for if they don't report back to board?).
- Charles Rickman keep on budgeting \$10,000.00 per year for equipment.
- Wayne Brody purchase ODC Trailer for E-Waste from Opportunity Development Centers, Inc.

**Next Annual Meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of April.**

#### **Chairperson Schwab recapped her 14 years of Dedicated Service to Town of Grant:**

- **Roads:** Secured WisDOT grants for Deer Rd (100<sup>th</sup>-110<sup>th</sup> Sts.), Lake Rd. (CTH U-85<sup>th</sup> St.), Mill Road (100<sup>th</sup> St. – CTH F), 95<sup>th</sup> & 100<sup>th</sup> Sts. Buena Vista Crossings, 90<sup>th</sup> St. and Evergreen Ave including culvert replacements. Received culvert cost-share with Portage Co., maintained two-year road plans, and fulfilled every WisDOT requirement to secure Grant's annual Road Aid over \$250,000/year, supported Reflective Emergency Fire Number installations Town-wide.
- **Plan Commission:** Worked on moratorium regarding coal-fired power plant proposed in Grant, added Conditional Use Permitting to Zoning Ordinance, helped to introduce or revise Ordinances including those for: outdoor wood burners, driveways, solid waste/recycling, recently updated required Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances. .
- **Transfer Station:** Expanded summer hours on Wednesday to accommodate working residents, held yearly fee to \$80.00 a year, upped recycling per capita to 339 lbs. per person (4xs annual requirement), maintained Tire Days and introduced Choose to Reuse;
- **Education/Outreach:** Compiled and edited regular newsletter, helped to implement Town website, wrote news articles about Grant for Wisc Rapids Daily Tribune for 8 years, drafted annual tax inserts.
- **Other Works:** Confronted unfair practices regarding Portage County Ambulance Service, made hall and voting booths more handicapped accessible, conducted public hearings on ATVs/UTVs, encouraged well-water testing through Homeowner programs, and proudly hosted a *grand* celebration for the T. Grant sesquicentennial (now being continued as Corn Fest)!

**Sharon thanked everyone for 14 GREAT YEARS.** In conclusion she stood by her NO votes regarding ATV/UTVs. Residents forget that she helped to draft the Town's ATV/UTV Ordinance with the Plan Commission. But, when it came to voting, she listened to residents on the selected routes where the majority of them were opposed. Unlike the other supervisors (who live on county roads) her votes represented those living there. Having ATVs/UTVs on all Town Roads will NOT be her legacy – the items above will be.

**Swearing in of Town of Grant Officers 2019-2021:**

- Chairperson Chris Kruger
- Supervisor Jim Yetter
- Supervisor Dale Winkler
- Treasurer Diana Luecht
- Clerk Vicky Zimmerman

**Motion: (Ron Patterson, Kitty Gross) Move to adjourn @ 8:50pm. Unanimous Ayes. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Vicky Zimmerman*

Vicky Zimmerman, Clerk Town of Grant

Approved:

Posted Draft Minutes: June 19, 2019

Town Hall, Transfer Station, Website