

**Town of Grant
9011 County Road WW**

**Annual Town Meeting
April 13, 2010**

Present: Schwab, Kertis, Goska, Raasch and Zimmerman.
Chairperson Schwab called meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Powers of Annual Meeting: Schwab explained that this is a special meeting of Electors where the electors have a say of what they would like done by the following three powers: Direct powers, Directive or grant authority to town board and Authorization to town board to appropriate money. At this meeting everyone has equal rights.

Schwab started reading Annual Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2009, while more copies were made to make available to residents.

Motion: (Darcy Held, Dave Luecht) Accept Annual Town Meeting minutes as corrected from April 14, 2009. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.

Gussel asked when meeting minutes would be available, and Schwab indicated per State Statutes draft copy of minutes need to be available within five days and posted within thirty days. The following readers were selected to review draft copy of Annual Town Minutes from April 13, 2010: Diana Luecht, Mary Kiedrowski and Darcy Held.

Audit, Budget, & Financial Reports: Gussel asked about Annual Reports being available on April 6th, Election Day. The report was available on Election Day, apparently none were on the table when he came in and didn't ask for a copy. A number of others didn't get them either, but less copies were made at a time in order to save on paper. The clerk was in the office the entire day and made copies throughout the day, but no one came in to the office requesting a copy. Zimmerman indicated that copies were also available on Wed. April 7th at the Monthly Board Meeting. Zimmerman went through the 2009 Annual Report and pointed out that all postings that were split, she had typed in all accounts that were posted, except for payroll checks and in memo column indicated dollar amount posted to each account also.

Motion: (Mary Kiedrowski, Trudy Knipple) Accept 2009 Annual Report as reported. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.

Schwab indicated that a Box Audit was done for 2009 instead of a Formal Audit and saved the town \$1,000.00. The difference was that the clerk boxed up information and took to Accountant office instead of having auditors come to town hall for a couple of days. Jon Trautman was at March Monthly Meeting to present Audit Report to the board and indicated that the Town has a healthy reserve of approximately 16%. He also said that since the Town has a Clerk and a Treasurer that a Review could be done instead of an Audit, a review is very limited and doesn't test transactions or doesn't access internal control. Darcy Held, and Kitty Gross both indicated that maybe a review should be done for a few years than do an audit, Mary Kiedrowski suggested that we alternate between review and audit; Gussel suggested we do a review, then if something is in question go back to audit.

Motion: (Darcy Held, Mary Kiedrowski) Move to have a Review for 2010 and bring back to 2011 Annual Town Meeting. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.

United Emergency Medical Response (formerly Higgins Ambulance): 2009 Annual EMS Report turned in to the Town Board. United Emergency Medical Response currently serves 1,800 residents in the Town of Grant, with 999 ambulance calls in 2009. United Emergency Medical Response new facility is located at 3530 Bohn Drive, in which one ambulance goes home with driver on call and another ambulance is manned at ambulance station. Ambulance services are being paid for by Portage County for 2010. Goska would like to see United Emergency Medical Response coverage to mirror the Grand Rapids Fire Dept area. Gross indicated that would have to be an agenda item at a Monthly Board Meeting.

Resident Reports: County Board-Schwab reported that the Justice Center referendum didn't pass at the April Election and that Patti Drier will be new Portage County Executive.

Adams Columbia Electric Cooperative: Darcy Held reported that 90 wind generator units will be installed in Columbia County by WE Energies. Each unit will use half acre of land, provide electricity for 35,000 homes, 1.8 mega watts of power, property owners within one third of a mile from units will also receive \$750.00 a year. He also talked about Job Bill-Energy Bill and to check out Coop news letter for electronic payment options.

Aging & Disability: Kiwanis Lodge in Kellner will host a noon lunch for Seniors on Wednesday April 28, 2010, for a donation of \$3.00. If you are interested in attending please call Verna Yetter or Mary Ann Sankey @ 715-347-0365 by Monday April 26th. Two other dates will be planned later.

Fire Protection Committee members include Jay Goska, Darcy Held and Ron Patterson. Goska reported that they had gone through the information on fire run charges. The recommendation from the Fire Protection Committee was to use a sliding scale charges, where if no fire extinguishers or water was suppressed for example: < 1 hour - \$250.00; > 1 hour-\$500.00 which would be maximum amount. Gussel said they were in the right direction, and would like insurance companies billed, but eliminate charges to an individual. Schwab read memo from Wis. Towns Association and a Towns cannot just charge individuals that have insurance. A number of residents would like to see that no additional charges are charged for fire runs, that we are paying on our real estate taxes for fire protection and shouldn't be double taxed. Goska pointed out that we pay out around \$90,000.00 a year for fire protection and should be able to recoup some of that cost. After a lengthy discussion the following motion was made. A ballot vote was taken of the 20 eligible residents and counted by Jim Wendels' and Trudy Knipple, with a YES vote meaning no fire run charges.

Motion: (Charles Gussel, Charles Rickman) Motion to eliminate any individual charges to residents or property owners for fire runs, that is covered by fire protection on real estate taxes. Carried. Ballot Count: Yes-17; No-3.

First Responders: Lisa Ross reported in 2009 66 calls were responded to, recently 3 new recruits were signed on with a total of 8 members and 4 are EMT status. They are still looking for more volunteers and EMS Week is May 16th-22nd. First Responders are looking at offering Friend/Family CPR Class with no cost to participants. Anyone

interested can contact Lisa Ross @715-459-2493 or email: lross@wctc.net. The First Responders will also be offering blood pressure screening and 1st Aid at the Kiwanis Club on June 5th, 2010.

Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC): Mary Kiedrowski reported about the use of water supply by Farmers and Growers. A report is being corrected by County water specialist on high capacity wells and amount of water being used. The Portage County Well Abandonment Ordinance has past and will be enforced. Wendels' commented that he noticed lately on Certified Surveyor Maps that water test are being done for nitrates and Rutz mentioned that if an out lot is on the CSM water testing isn't required. Mary will check into this to see if it's a new requirement.

Historical/Sesquicentennial Committee: Raasch reported that we are looking for information and items for the Town of Grant 150th Anniversary in 2014. There isn't a lot of information recorded about Town of Grant-as if doesn't exist in Portage County. Looking for pictures to be scanned right away and give back to owner, will need any information about the picture as to who is in the picture, any info about the picture. Need participants to help with research, writing articles, proof readers, layout, recording information, ideas, anyone interested in helping out. Raasch has been reading a number of books looking for information and checking out State Historical Society Website, Portage County Historical Society, etc. Early settlers, people who have lived in the area all their lives. Kertis asked if anyone knew anything about Rainbow Gardens Dance Hall? Start thinking how you can participate and attend next meeting this month, date will be determined.

Plan Commission: Wendels' reported that the Plan Commission meets once a month, \$40.00 per diem per meeting, members are: Chair-Jim Wendels', Secretary -Julie Kramer, Darcy Held, Scott Provost, Nathan Wolosek and Sharon Schwab. Some of the ordinances redone include: Municipal Solid Waste Ordinance, Recycling Ordinance, Uniform Dwelling Code Ordinance, (local inspector), Tri-fold Brochure for Recycling Information, included limited amount of demolition and flooring materials. They are finishing up on Dog Ordinance, including standard of care: water, food, shelter, sanitation. CUP was done for Kellner Auto-Junkyard went to Board of Adjustments for setbacks. The next ordinance that will be looked at is Outdoor Wood Burners, Town Board has had complaints in this area, particular to high density areas. After some discussion from residents on this matter it was suggested that Town have some kind of control of outdoor wood burners, say with setbacks and not to eliminate them, just set some controls. Another area of complaints included Nuisance or Junk on peoples yards. Also, Wind Tower Ordinance might be another one to look at. The next meeting will be Wed. April 21st @ 7:00pm.

Zoning: Rutz reported 51 permits were sold in 2009 for a total of \$6,920.00, which included 7 new residents. There were 7 Certified Surveyor Maps signed which was 25% of Portage County total CSMs.

Officer Reports:

- **Tire Day and Choose to Reuse program:** Tire Day May 8th; charge for tires; Choose to ReUse second Saturday of the month: May-Sept. (will also be held at Grand Rapids on those dates). **Motion(Schwab, Wendels) To set Tire Days May 8th, and Sept 11th. Choose to Re-Use program on May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 14th and Sept. 11th, 2010. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.** Cash & Carry Bin & Pail Sale May 1st and May 15th.

- **Revaluation of Town in 2011:** Notification from State that Undev, Ag Forest, Forest and Other class of property has been under 90% of assessed value for the last four years, so we will need to do a revaluation of the Town in 2011.
- **Roads-Construction/Maintenance Projects:** Schwab read Road Bid Ads that will be published in paper on April 13th and 20th. Bid opening will be April 28th at 7:00pm. A grant for \$29,000.00 was awarded for 90th St. (Griffith -Cty WW). Discussion was held on gravel in ditches and suggested that Dale Winkler be hired to recapture gravel from ditches and Gussel suggested that roads should be done where a lot of gravel is in ditches to recapture and put back on road.
Motion: (Charles Rickman, Charles Gussel) Move to spend an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 for shouldering roads with All American Disk to recover gravel in the ditches. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.
- **Roads-Signs Retro Reflectivity-Assessment/Replacement:** The following unfunded Federal Mandate is: 1st- January 1, 2012 - Plan in place
2nd- January 1, 2015 - Warning and regulatory signs replaced (STOP, Yield, etc)
3rd- January 1, 2018 - Street name signs replaced
The Town has 218 signs to replace. Each Board member has a different approach to this mandate. Schwab- Have a company do an Assessment-replace worst first-\$3,500.00
Kertis- Blanket replacement of all STOP signs for \$2,500.00
Goska-Town dragging feet, Blanket replacement would be management night mare,
Set up some kind of block system, to replace all signs in that area including street signs
Darcy Held suggested making a multi- year plan for replacement. Schwab indicated we need to inventory all signs, have identifier on signs, create an excel file with information on each sign. Kertis mentioned that some signs need to be relocated, post replaced. The final suggestion is to move forward, but no real plan was indicated
- **Officers Wage increase (effective April 2011):** It was indicated that Elected Officials haven't had an increase in wages for a number of years. The current wages are as follow:
Chairperson-\$6,200; Supervisors-\$3,500; Treasurer-\$6,400; Clerk-\$14,400. Raasch, Treasurer indicated that her position wouldn't need an increase, since some duties no longer exist for that position. Residents suggested checking to see what is being paid for Towns with similar population and bring back at Budget Hearing.
- **Town Website:** Look at cost of high speed internet, move forward with Town Website to be able to post ordinances, meeting notices, minutes. More people would be aware of what is going on in Town.

Other Directives to Town Board: Kitty Gross- Mileage Policy, has to what should be reimbursed, will get list to Board. Also, having ballot information at Transfer Station to better inform residents of elections. **Goska** would like to look at Ambulance Territory and mirror area to Grand Rapids Fire Protection area.

Dave Luecht -concern on stones in road from chip sealing; can't even ride a bike along roads and amount of stones in ditches. **Kertis** suggested and looking into slurry seal instead of chip sealing, more expensive but will outlast chip sealing. Slurry seal has been

used on Whitrock Road, at the airport. **Wendels'** indicated that MSTC parking lot has slurry seal on it. **Garry Saeger** mentioned that the frost not out on Griffith and Deer Roads. **Diana Luecht**-would like clerk to set some hours either once a week, once a month. **Schwab** said it would be up to the clerk that elected positions don't have to set hours, but an appointed position could be required to set hours.

Motion: (Trudy Knipple, Marty Rutz) Move to set next Annual Town Meeting, the second Tuesday of April 2011 on the 12th of April 2011. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.

Motion: (Trudy Knipple, Darcy Held) Move to adjourn meeting at 10:15pm. Carried. Unanimous Ayes.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicky Zimmerman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vicky Zimmerman, Clerk