

Town of Grant  
9031 County Road WW  
Annual Town Meeting  
April 20, 2021

Present: Luecht and Zimmerman.

Absent: Kruger, Winkler, and Yetter

In the absence of Chairperson Kruger, the meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Town Clerk Zimmerman.

**Statement of Public Notice:** The Annual Town Meeting was posted at the Transfer Station, Town Hall, and on the Town website on March 20, 2021. It was posted 30 days in advance because of the alternative site of Double Down Banquet Hall, 9031 County Road WW. Clerk Zimmerman provided affidavit.

The attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Zimmerman announced that according to state statute, "If present, the town board chairperson shall chair the town meeting. If the town board chairperson is absent, another town board supervisor shall chair the town meeting. If no town board supervisor is present, the town electors shall elect the chairperson of the meeting."

**Nomination: (Denise Provost, Bob Rosicky) I nominate Sharon Schwab to run the meeting.**

**Unanimous Ayes. Nomination Carried.**

Schwab summarized what occurs at an Annual Meeting. All electors present can vote. The meeting can be run without an agenda. Anything can be brought forward from the floor. Direct powers (decisions on things like town supervisor salary or land purchase) and indirect powers (advisory to the board) were differentiated. 2020 Annual Meeting was postponed until July 21, 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Motion: (Kathleen Lee, Scott Provost) Move to dispense with the reading of the July 21, 2020 minutes. Unanimous Ayes. Motion Carried**

No additions or corrections to the meeting minutes were offered.

**Motion: (Dave Luecht, Tom Provost) Move to approve Annual Town Meeting minutes from July 21, 2020 as written. Unanimous Ayes. Motion Carried.**

**Annual Report:** The first page shows a total of \$129,183.48 wages paid in 2020, \$10,928.05 Social Security/Medicare taxes paid, and \$3049.67 paid to the Wisconsin Retirement System for full time employee Marty Rutz. The retirement fund level is set by the State. In 2020, it was 6.75%. The cash balance on hand on 01/01/2020 was \$420,980.01. The cash balance on hand on 12/31/2020 was \$633,123.45. The breakdown of the checking, tax account, equipment savings, and Park Fund were explained. A question of clarification was asked by Dave Luecht regarding the difference between Equipment/Building Account in January and Equipment Savings Account in December. It was explained that a Certificate of Deposit for building matured and was not renewed. At one time there were two accounts. Now, all of the funds are designated for equipment. Each year \$10,000 is budgeted to be

added to the equipment account. The report continued with a discussion of the independent accountant's review report. A \$47,541 net change is shown in the fund balance resulting in an actual fund balance of \$125,442. The detailed comparison of budgeted and actual revenues shows total revenues of \$1,214,300. The actual expenditure amount is \$1,862,601. The remaining pages are a transaction list by date. Comments and questions can be asked of the Clerk at any time in the future (715-423-9193). V. Zimmerman was thanked for her comprehensive report.

#### Guest Reports:

- Grand Rapids VFD:** Robert Piatt, Fire Chief, reported they had 99 calls for fire service and 293 Medical First Responder (MFR) calls in 2020. This was a 17% decrease in fire and 11% increase in MFR from 2019. Staffing has been stable, but they continue to lose young members to fulltime departments and a few experienced firefighters to retirement and relocation. Throughout 2020, staffing averaged 48 members for both Fire and EMS. COVID-19 resulted in changes to their operations. Fire and EMS training was cancelled from March through May and when resumed, training was either virtual or in groups of no more than 6. They continued to expand water rescue efforts by training more personnel to the NFPA Ice/Cold Water Rescue Technician. They continue to partner with the Wood County Sheriff's Department with the Project Lifesaver program for cognitively challenged residents. A training house was used in the Town of Grant for four months including search and rescue, mayday drills, ground ladder ops, aerial ops, drafting and water shuttle ops and live smoke and interior fire attack operations. They purchased a Mercury inflatable boat, Mercury 25HP engine with no taxpayer funds. Because of the pandemic, public relations efforts took a hit. They put on hold the smoke detector program, station tours, parades, Easter Egg Hunt and canceled their annual Celebration. In parking lots they were able to hold some fire prevention sessions for preschools and grade schools. Copies of the Chief's report were available. Chief Piatt can be reached at 715-424-1815 for non-emergency calls or [Fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org](mailto:Fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org). Chief Piatt "Thank You for allowing Grand Rapids Volunteer Fire Dept. to serve you!"
- United Emergency Medical Response (UEMR):** Gary Johnson, Co-owner gave the report for UEMR. There were 44 ambulance calls in the Town of Grant in 2020 and 12 thus far this year. This is down from previous years. There were 13 traumas, 2 respiratory, 4 cardiac, 12 neuro, 2 drug overdose, 7 metabolic, no standbys, and 4 others. This year there have be 5 traumas, 1 respiratory, 4 cardiac, 2 neuro, no drug overdose, no metabolic, no standbys. In 2020 ages ranged from 1 year old to 91 years old with an average of 62. This year ages have ranged from 19 to 92 years of age with an average of 58. Drug overdoses are down. COVID-19 virus had an impact. At the peak they were running 2-3 serious COVID positive runs per day. They are decontaminating the ambulance in 20-30 minutes by wiping them down, using ultraviolet lights, and spraying with disinfectant using a car paint sprayer at 50 psi. This process continues to be used. Five of 26 employees tested positive for COVID. UEMR began purchasing personal protective equipment in November of 2019 and they had enough to share with other ambulance services. They purchased a new ambulance at a cost of \$220,000 empty. It has a dual, multi-tone 200 amp siren. Most fire trucks and ambulances have a 100 amp. There are recording cameras in the patient compartment. It has a raising and lowering hydraulic system. Several other state-of-the-art features were described. A twelve-month paramedic refresher started last month. They are recertifying in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), CPR, Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS), Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). They remain in the top 10 of paramedic services in Wisconsin based on certifications. They have 25 employees, but would like to have 29 or 30. There has been a decreased interest in emergency care as a profession. The Wood County Health

Department has asked him to address a misconception that vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask. While vaccinated individuals are protected from getting sick from the virus, those individuals can still be carriers and spread the virus. COVID precautions, including wearing a mask, should be used by the entire community until the state reaches 70% of the population being vaccinated. "Thank You for allowing to serve you!" Gary Johnson can be reached at 715-423-7777.

- **Plainfield Fire Department** – No report.
- **Claude Riglemon, Town Assessor** - Open Book will take place on June 1, 2021 2:00 – 4:00 pm and Board of Review on June 8, 2021 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The time of Open book needs to be verified. Time updated and listed for Open Book.

#### **Resident Reports:**

- Charles Gussel, County Board Supervisor was in attendance. He had no report, but can be reached at 715-572-1877.
- Adams Columbia Cooperative – No report.
- First Responders – No report.
- Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee – Cécile Stelzer-Johnson reported on the recent free nitrate water testing. Water samples were collected on 4-6-2021 at the Town Hall during voting hours. Fifty-two individuals participated. Of those 52 tests, five were at or above 10 mg/L, exceeding the state and federal drinking water standard. Those individuals will be contacted by Jen McNelly Portage County Water Resource Specialist. Additionally Stelzer-Johnson would like to see an email distribution list be formulated for the Town for easier, less costly information sharing. Cécile can be contacted at [frenchieonspyder@gmail.com](mailto:frenchieonspyder@gmail.com). Schwab added that the Board hopes to work with Stelzer-Johnson to offer a more comprehensive homeowner program for water testing. With the program, testing would be available at a reduced cost.
- Historical Committee – Kathleen Lee had nothing to report. Historical Town records are archived at UW-Stevens Point in the James H. Albertson Center for Learning Resources, Room 520.
- Plan Commission – Tom Reitter, Plan Commission Chairperson provided the report. The Plan Commission is working on revising the Zoning Ordinance, taking into consideration Act 67. Because of COVID, limited work took place in 2020. Conditional use permits have been reviewed and recommended for approval to the Town Board. Two of those have yet to be approved. Reitter can be reached at 715-572-6879.
- Zoning Report – Not available.

#### **Directives to the Board**

- Choose to Reuse – In the past we have held Choose to Reuse days on the same dates as the Town of Grand Rapids. They will not be holding a spring event, but have one planned for September 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. There was consensus to have a Choose to Reuse on the same date.
- Tire Day – It can take place in spring or fall as either time of year works. The cost to bring in tires is based on Liberty Tires in Auburndale as they pick up the tires. There is not a cost to the Town. May 15 or 22 were suggested as possible dates. The tires currently collecting at the transfer station are one that have been found along Town roads. Reitter asked if tires could be dropped off on other dates if a citizen is not able to attend on the selected date. Schwab said in the past, citizens have requested an exception and it was permitted after TS employees were informed regarding who to expect. Recently the transfer station workers were asked if they thought year round collection would be a problem. They did not have a problem. Reitter

envisioned a potential mosquito problem however. Schwab suggested it could be difficult for one attendant on a Wednesday to monitor tires being dropped off and collecting money for a variety of size of tires. Some farm operators bring upwards of 10-30 tires at a time and it would be difficult to accommodate. Others may simply place them in the back without knowledge of attendants, adding to the collection problem..

- **Motion: (Charles Rickman, Bob Rosicky) Move to have a Spring Tire Day and a Fall Tire Day.** Schwab asked Rickman if he was agreeable to May 22 and September 18. He was. **There was one “no” vote. All others voted “yes”. The motion passed.** S. Provost would like tire days to occur more frequently than twice per year.

#### **Upcoming Board Activities**

- Wednesday, April 21 at 7:00 am – Board will meet with public works employees. They will tour the garage, grounds, and equipment.
- Friday, April 23 – Closed session to meet with employees individually.
- Spring road inspections – Possibly the morning of Saturday, April 24 and the afternoon of Sunday, April 25. This will not be a bus tour, but will be individual vehicles. A spreadsheet will be used listing roads. Their condition would be determined and needed work identified.
- Monday, April 26 – On that evening the Board will review a conditional use permit application. Additional items will be on the agenda including technology and phone needs. Technology/electronic needs related to zoom meetings will be included. Thank you to Heather Grys-Luecht and Rob Luecht organizing the technology for the Town’s recent Zoom meetings.

#### **Floor Opened to the Citizens**

- C. Rickman requested to send a post card that includes contact information for Town officers along with the Tire Day information. Schwab stated the timing of that request coincides with planned Board discussions regarding dedicated phones and email addresses for town business. For individuals with internet access, phone numbers are listed on the Town website.
- Dave Salewski suggested adding antifreeze recycling. Schwab talked with Rock Oil in the past and they did not have a container for collecting antifreeze and were not able to make that service available. In the past, Stenzel said he might be willing to collect antifreeze. The Board can investigate who would be willing to provide a collection container with catchment basin to take antifreeze.

#### **Thanks to Town Officers Leaving Office**

Thank you to Chris Kruger for serving as Town Chairperson for the past 2 years. Thank you to Dale Winkler and Jim Yetter for many years of service as Town Supervisors. Thank you to Diana Luecht for her service as Town Treasurer. A standing ovation followed. D. Luecht expressed her enjoyment in working as Treasurer over the past 10 years. She found meeting the town people rewarding. She particularly enjoyed meeting dog owners when licenses were issued. She has been responsible for the transfer station for the past two years. The Town of Grant is one of the top recycling towns. She would like to thank the transfer station workers. She welcomes Greg Hakala into the position of Town Treasurer.

#### **New Board Introduced and Sworn In**

The new Board members include Town Chairperson – Sharon Schwab, Town Supervisors – Heather Grys-Luecht and Scott Provost, Treasurer – Greg Hakala, and continuing as Town Clerk – Vicky Zimmerman. All were sworn in. The signing of new officers’ papers took place at an earlier date with the exception of V. Zimmerman whose papers were signed after being sworn in by Schwab.

**Next Annual Meeting:**

Third Tuesday in April, 2022.

**Floor Opened to New Board:**

Brief comments were made by:

- S. Provost - DNR Water Specialist, open anytime if you have questions, longtime resident.
- G. Hakala - Retired Accountant – Comptroller, call anytime, looking forward to being Treasurer.
- H. Grys-Luecht – Good next couple of years, interested in what you want. Hear and Service as best that we can.

**Motion: (D. Luecht, T. Provost) Move to adjourn @ 8:40 pm. Unanimous Ayes. Carried**

Respectfully submitted by,

*Vicky Zimmerman*

Vicky Zimmerman, Clerk Town of Grant

Approved:

Posted Draft Minutes: April 27, 2021

Town Hall, Transfer Station, Website

DRAFT