

# Wacouta Township

## January 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Following is the written text of business transacted by the Wacouta Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting held on January 10, 2022. Board members present were: Chairperson John Plehal and Supervisors William Wells and George Thoma. Also, Laan Dommer, Clerk/Treasurer was present. The meeting was held at the town hall.

- 1) Chairperson John Plehal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of the minutes for the December 13, 2021 monthly meeting. Thoma made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Wells. The motion carried.  
Approval of the November 23, 2021 Board of Adjustment Minutes. Thoma made a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Adjustment; seconded by Wells. The motion carried.
- 3) Old Business
  - a) Review Knudsen variance: Plehal opened a discussion regarding the 2021 variance that was not approved. No changes have occurred in the last month. Plehal stated that approximately thirteen hundred dollars were spent on the issue. The Board recommended that the Zoning Administrator check with the landowners to see what their plans are for the incomplete structure on the property. Thoma stated that the Planning Commission has the intention to meet in this next month regarding permits, variances, and other responsibilities that should be reviewed.
  - b) Volunteers and appreciation: Wells stated that he plans to send notes of appreciation to some of the volunteers that have helped around the Town Hall and township property in this last year.
  - c) Redistricting update: Plehal talked with Paul Drotos, County Commissioner. There is some discussion to redraw some district lines. However, Drotos suggested that this should not affect Wacouta. If it does impact the township, he intends to let us know.
  - d) Expanding the Board of Supervisors: Plehal has reached out to the Minnesota Association of Township regarding Boards that would have five Supervisors instead of our current number of three. The MAT was very familiar with the subject and it was stated that very few Boards have a structure with five Supervisors, and those that do are usually around the Twin Cities. There are statutes that apply and any changes would have to go to the residents and it would have to be voted on as a ballot initiative. No comments or changes were suggested
- 4) New Business
  - a) Roads, plowing status: The communication with the plowing company (*Bruce's Backhoe Service*) has been good in these last couple of months. The general comments by the residents in attendance and on the video conference were very favorable.  
In addition, if contractors or residents push their snow across from their property and into the road ditch, a letter may be placed in their mailboxes.
  - b) Planning and Zoning: Thoma stated that there are plans for the Planning Commission to get together for a review of charges.
  - c) Town Hall, Cemetery and adjacent areas
    - i) Trail review: Fred Plaas asked if there were comments regarding the trail snow removal and sweeping. Only favorable feedback, so far this winter, was given.

## Wacouta Township January 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- ii) Town Hall: Wells stated that he and Dommer placed a new motion-activated spotlight in front of the new awning, focused on the entrances to the Town Hall.
  - iii) CEMTRAX review: Wells stated that he is planning to work this winter to digitize the cemetery plotting information, even after his term has expired. It was stated that this is a large commitment that is appreciated, but if help is needed it should be considered. Wells also suggested that it may be considered to expand and survey the cleared areas to allow new plots in those sections of the cemetery, currently not mapped for sale.
  - iv) Use of the town hall by residents: Further solutions to charges for use of the town hall, or chairs & tables from the hall, were tabled.
- d) Set date for the Board of Audit (BOA): Plehal opened discussion to determine a date to meet for the BOA and levy discussion. The date agreed to was Friday, February 11, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Wacouta Town Hall, 27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota. Public Notice will be sent for this meeting and date.
- e) Elections:
- i) Resolution establishing Slate of Judges: Dommer read a resolution to accept Jennifer Beck, Mike Carlson, Noreen Carlson, Laan Dommer, Dan Mueller, Laura Lutjen, Crystal Olson, Time Sletten, Greg Sotebeer, Margie Thoma, and William Wells as election judges. Thoma made a motion to approve the resolution as stated; Wells seconded. The motion carried.
  - ii) Resolution establishing Polling Site, alternate site, and alternate election date: Dommer read a resolution; Thoma made a motion to establish Election standards for the year 2022, with the Polling Site as the Wacouta Town Hall, 27700 Grace Trail. The Alternate Site is the Hiawatha Valley Baptist Church, 27675 271<sup>st</sup> Street, Red Wing, MN. The Polling dates are March 8, 2022, with alternate polling dates, in case of inclement weather are March 15, 2022, and then March 22, 2022. The other election dates are August 9, 2022, and November 8, 2022. Wells seconded this motion and the motion carried.
  - iii) Candidate filing: Dommer stated that one candidate has filed for Supervisor and one candidate has filed for the position of Clerk/Treasurer.
- 5) Treasurer's report as of December 31, 2021:  
Dommer presented bills in the amount of \$ 11,932.00 to be paid for the December 2021 checks. Wells made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report and bills for \$ 11,932.00; Thoma seconded it. The motion carried. Dommer briefly fielded questions regarding the Year-End Financial Statements that went out to the Supervisors.
- 6) The next scheduled monthly meeting is Monday, February 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Thoma made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wells. Motion carried at 7:52 p.m.  
-Submitted by Laan Dommer