

Wacouta Township
January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Following is a written text of business transacted by the Wacouta Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting held on January 11, 2021. Board members present were: Chairperson John Plehal and Supervisors Kirk Stensrud and William Wells. Also, Laan Dommer, Clerk/Treasurer was present. The meeting was held at by a video conference, in keeping with pandemic restrictions.

- 1) Chairperson John Plehal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of the minutes for the December 14, 2020 meeting. Stensrud made a motion to approve the minutes, Wells seconded. The motion carried.
- 3) Old Business
 - a) Planning Commission update: John Plehal indicated that Tracy Gadiant agreed to the appointed position of Planning Commissioner; the term will expire December 31, 2023.
 - b) Cemetery update: William Wells discussed the software contract with Cemtrax, for digitizing the cemetery information, as per the previous discussion at past meetings. After general discussion, and input from Greg Sotebeer, it was decided to ask for a revision of this contract to take Wells off the contract, and to reflect full cost to the township. Further discussion was tabled for a future meeting, until we are able to view these contract modifications with inclusions of pertinent maintenance fees.
- 4) New Business
 - a) Supervisor election - John Plehal reviewed the March 9, 2021 election. No candidates have filed at this time for the open Supervisor position. Filing an Affidavit of Candidacy is due tomorrow afternoon. The discussion of options for the filling of this position was tabled until we see if there is no candidate.
 - b) Board of Appeal and Equalization resolution: John Plehal opened the discussion on whether or not the township would take over the appeal process or defer that responsibility to the Goodhue County He asked the Board to consider a resolution whether or not we want to review appeals of property. Plehal took the requisite course, through the State, to do the review within the township. A motion was made by Wells to defer to Goodhue County the responsibility for Appeal & Equalization; seconded by Stensrud. The motion carried. The township will try to publish notices for these meetings (dates and times) to inform residents.
 - c) Town Hall:
 - i. Stensrud reviewed the equipment needs for our town hall. He indicated that he is waiting for one more bid for the furnace replacement.

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January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

c) Town Hall (continued)

pg.2

ii. A complaint was made by a resident regarding the dog excrement on Rattlesnake Trail, suggesting the purchase of a dispenser of doggie bags. A discussion was made regarding the need for this purchase. Stensrud volunteered to pursue estimated costs for the purchase of said dispenser.

- d) Local Roads Improvement Program – LRIP: Plehal and John Schueller reviewed the criteria for awards through this road project program. The conclusions of this review are that the township does not meet the criteria and will not be able to participate in LRIP.
- e) March annual meeting – John Plehal opened a discussion regarding the options for holding the annual meeting, March 9, 2021, in this pandemic year. These options include in-person versus video conference meetings. Also reviewed was the option to start the meeting via video conference, after the election on March 9, and then recess the meeting to an appropriate date when residents may attend in-person but outdoors, as was done for monthly meetings. These meetings were organized and attended successfully in this last autumn season, at the Round Barn banquet facility on Wildwood Lane, until cold weather. The Round Barn is not available the second week in March and the weather may be precarious. A motion was made by John Plehal to open the annual meeting, as scheduled, March 9, 2021, at 8:15 PM, by video conference, and then recess, subject to voter approval, until Tuesday, April 13, 2021, for an outdoor setting at the Round Barn on Wildwood Lane. The motion was seconded by Stensrud. The motion carried. It was suggested to publish early the Board decision so residents are informed.
- f) Pollution Agency Control – The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is conducting a hearing to discuss changing some of the water rules and standards. A public hearing in St. Paul and by video conference will be held February 4, 2021. Necessary publication will be included in our newsletter to residents.
- g) Audit – five year & annual: Laan Dommer reviewed the question as to the need for an annual Board of Audit. He stated the requisite for the meeting by the Board of Supervisors, before the annual meeting. A tentative date for the Board of Audit was set for Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 7 PM. The work for five-year audit will start in the next few weeks after the year-end reports.
- 5) Treasurer’s report – Laan Dommer presented bills in the amount of \$ 10,029.90 from December and a check for \$2,333.50, previously withheld for approval from November, totaling \$12,363.40. Wells made a motion to approve bills for \$12,363.40 and Stensrud seconded it. The motions carried.
- 6) Wells made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stensrud. Motion carried at 8:06 p.m.
-Submitted by Laan Dommer