

Wacouta Township

May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Following is the written text of business transacted by the Wacouta Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting held on May 10, 2021. 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 and by 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 April 12, 2021 meeting. Thoma made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Wells. The motion carried.
- 3) Old Business
 - a) Annual meeting recap and action:

John Plehal briefly reviewed some of the results of the annual meeting held last month. The annual meeting was moderated by Stephen Betcher. Besides the approval of the 2022 Levy, the first consideration approved was to allow the Board to pursue a separation of the current Clerk/Treasurer position into two positions, Clerk and Treasurer. The other discussion centered on the Wildwood Lane extension, which was tabled. Annual Meeting unapproved minutes are available.
 - b) Cemetery update
 - i) William Wells reviewed the current status of the digital updating of the cemetery records.
 - ii) Also, a note of appreciation was given to Daryl Franklin and George Thoma for placing flags and brass medallions in the cemetery.
- 4) New Business
 - a) Planning and Zoning: No considerations were reviewed. A vacancy is still open for a Planning Commissioner.
 - b) Mowing Ditches:

John Plehal started a thorough evaluation of the mowing process for the trails and ditches. The decision to evaluate the trail and ditches in separate segments was put forth and agreed upon.

 - i) The lower Lakeview Avenue had been agreed upon at the annual meeting but clarified tonight. Thoma made a motion to mow the whole ditch from Lakeview to the trail) and then continue one mower width, up to 60", on the park side of the trail, seconded by Wells. The motion carried.
 - ii) The upper Lakeview Avenue; approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long from the top of the hill to the Ause house: 'Friends of Wacouta' has advocated not mowing the ditch area from the road to the trail. Other options were reviewed as well, with discussion and reading of emails from residents. The abuse of speed limits and safety issues along Wacouta Road and Lakeview were also noted. A motion was made by Thoma to mow the upper Lakeview trail to approximately 8 inches on both sides of the trail (*crosswalks or three access paths excepting*). Also, the roadside of the ditch will not be mowed. In addition, if other new access points are preferred one is to contact Friends of Wacouta. This motion was seconded by Wells. The motion carried.
 - iii) Wacouta Road (from the Lakeview T to the cemetery): The differences in the mowing on the east and west side of Wacouta Road were reviewed. A motion was made by Plehal to do no mowing on the trail side of the road, and a mowers width on the off-trail (up-river) side, with the right to revisit this if it gets too high; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.
 - iv) Wacouta Road, from the cemetery to Highway 61: This will be mowed at in the past.
 - v) The corners and crosswalks were reviewed and suggestions were made not to increase the width more than what has been historically done.
 - vi) For the rest of the trail, not covered above, it was suggested to continue an approximate 8-inch

Wacouta Township

May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

width next to the trail. Thoma made a motion to mow the “back of the trail” (*the hairpin to the cemetery*) be mowed 8 inches on both sides, where feasible; seconded by Wells. The motion carried.

Regarding who would mow each segment. The preferences decided were to use Larry Holst on the upper Lakeview area, and Fred Plaas for the lower Lakeview Avenue and other ditches up to the highway. Also, if the township can ask for another mowing contractor to do the other areas, Sevastopol, Wildwood, Kaffitz, and cemetery road Plaas would appreciate that.

Diane Mueller also reported on the Emerald Ash Bore infestation around the trail. The costs would be about \$160/tree every two to three years, if treatments were started. The prevalence of the infestation may deem it as an uncontrollable issue. However, Plehal asked for updates if it seemed emergent or if there were changes.

- c) Public notice for annual contracts: No further discussions were necessary since the mowing contracts were reviewed earlier in this meeting.
- d) Road Tour continuation: John Plehal reviewed the road tour which was concluded last week. John Schueller had given some insight on the overall status of the roads. Based, in part, on advice from Schueller, Plehal suggested the township spend the budgeted amount of road funds, \$45,000, in this year. This would be on separate smaller projects: seal coating or pothole fixes, and/or other jobs, possibly including the downriver 25-foot Lakeview fix, the dip in Kaffitz Road, or placing gravel at the parking area at the town hall.

Plehal made a motion to proceed with the following projects: with the downriver 25-foot Lakeview asphalt, the dip in Kaffitz road, and the gravel parking area at the town hall. Any remaining funds, after completing the three projects, can possibly be applied to seal coating work. Bids or quotes will be solicited as needed. The motion was seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.

- e) Town Hall and adjacent areas:
William Wells reviewed the need to evaluate the security lights at the entrance. Also, we are overdue for the completion of the awning over the ramp. ‘Sentence to Serve’ had been contacted and further work is pending.

5) Treasurer’s report – (*presented earlier in the agenda, as per modified agenda approval*)

- a) Laan Dommer presented a brief review of the audit which was concluded for 2020. The cost for the audit was \$7250-, about three to four thousand dollars more than a normal five-year audit. This was due to the need for a more thorough audit, stipulated by the State Auditor’s office, caused by revenues exceeding the \$233,000 threshold.
- b) He discussed the impact of separating the Clerk/Treasurer. It was suggested to review, in this next month, the process of the change to Clerk and Treasurer, including possible salary suggestions and job descriptions, then return for Board discussion and final consideration.
- c) He reviewed the voiding of two checks for 2019, \$54.41 + 231.71, a sum of \$294.12. The reconciliation requires approval by the Board for an adjustment to the 2021 beginning bank balance. The advice for the procedures to rectify this was given by the State Auditor’s office and was reviewed. A motion was made by Thoma, seconded by Wells, to adjust the entries and adjust the Beginning Bank Balance for 2021, to balance accordingly the Cash Control Statement with the Bank Statement, in the amount of \$294.12. The motion carried.
- d) Dommer presented bills in the amount of \$ 20,019.52 from April. Thoma made a motion to approve bills for \$20,019.52 and Wells seconded it. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Thoma, seconded by Wells. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next monthly meeting is Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7 p.m. -Submitted by Laan Dommer