

TOWN OF HOLLAND BOARD MEETING

January 13, 2021

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| MEMBERS PRESENT | Chair Steve Michaels, Supervisors Ben Filter, Jeff Herlitzke, Steve Mieden |
| EXCUSED | Jerome Pedretti |
| STAFF PRESENT | Clerk Marilyn Pedretti, Town Crew John Frauenkron |

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michaels called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Notices were posted.

MINUTES

Motion by Mieden/Herlitzke to approve the minutes of the 8th and 9th of December, 2020.

MOTION carried.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS: none given.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT

Matt Nikolay, County Board Supervisor, reported Pam Viner is the newly appointed supervisor representing the eastern portion of the Town. He provided and reviewed a hand-out listing some of the La Crosse County actions and achievements.

ROAD PROJECT: COUNTY ROAD XX

Ron Chamberlain, County Highway Commissioner, requested input from the Town concerning the County Road XX road project through New Amsterdam. He noted they will be receiving Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) money to assist with the project. Chamberlain provided cross-sections for the project and noted they will be installing curb and gutter in New Amsterdam while the whole project will have a 6' shoulder (both sides of the road) for bike accommodations. The following areas were discussed and input was received:

1. Sidewalks: He noted the County could install sidewalks but it would be the Town's responsibility to maintain. After discussion, it was the consensus not to install sidewalks.
2. Stormwater: Chamberlain explained the County would install the stormwater facility but it would be the Town's responsibility to maintain. He outlined the three options: (a) simple grading, (b) swale to provide ditching, or (c) drop inlets with laterals and sump pumps. After discussion, it was the consensus to use drop inlets.
3. Parking: He noted that providing space for parking could cut into front lawns. After discussion, it was the consensus not to provide parking.

Chamberlain thanked the board for their input and noted the timing for the project has several variables but could happen in 2022 or 2023.

PUBLIC WORKS

Flaten Road drainage issue: Michaels explained the drainage concerns along N8179 Flaten Road. John Frauenkron, Town Crew Supervisor, reported both sides of the road will need to be re-ditched and graded to alleviate drainage issues over the past few years. Motion by Mieden/Herlitzke to contract with La Crosse County (Highway) for the repair of drainage issues at N8179 Flaten Road in an amount not to exceed \$11,400. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Purchase chipper: Frauenkron reported the \$28,730 quote for the demo chipper from last fall still stands but this chipper is brand new. Discussion followed concerning paying for additional maintenance of \$3,247. It was the consensus to get additional information on

the maintenance option to bring back next month. Motion by Herlitzke/Mieden to authorize the purchase of the chipper from Vermeer Quote #00814ML for \$28,730.

MOTION carried unanimously.

Bid specs for plow truck: Frauenkron stated the bid specifications used in 2015 look good but suggested considering a brine tank at some point in the future. Discussion followed with the following edits made: battery box changed from aluminum to stainless steel, include LED lighting wherever possible, and upgrade the blade to rubber carbide. Michaels noted this is preliminary and item will return next month.

Radar reports: Filter reported on the radar speed sign data from Old NA east, Old NA west and Pedretti Street. Discussion followed. Frauenkron reported the sign on Pedretti was moved to Oak Street this week.

Town crew report: Frauenkron reviewed the written crew report. He noted the 250 gallon brine tank is working well.

PLAN COMMISSION

Hidden Prairie final plat: Michaels reported all is in order and the Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval. Motion by Herlitzke/Filter to approve the final plat for Hidden Prairie subdivision on the north side of Old NA. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

CSM Langlois: James Langlois o/b/o Joel Holte, W7783 A. Johnson Road, requested approval of a Certified Survey Map (CSM) to subdivide a 11.4 acre parcel to create two lots for residential use. Michaels reported the Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval. Motion by Mieden/Filter to approve the Certified Survey Map for James Langlois o/b/o Joel Holte, W7783 A. Johnson Road, to subdivide a 11.4 acre parcel to create two lots for residential use. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Arneson land donation: Michaels gave some background on the parcel to be donated and the attorney's suggestion for an environmental investigation. Clerk Pedretti reported the Town received one quote and has two more firms interested in quoting an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). Discussion followed. Motion by Mieden/Herlitzke to approve a Phase I ESA for an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for the provider to be determined by lowest quote. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Report on 1/6/20 meeting: Michaels reviewed the minutes from the Plan Commission's January 6th meeting. Discussion followed concerning the parking lot for the proposed Arneson land donation. The item will be placed on the January 27th Park Committee agenda.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Current fire protection: Herlitzke noted he asked this be an agenda item to allow input from the public concerning fire services. He read the County report on shared services and would like the Town to explore the options. Fire Chief Buck Manley reported the Village of Holmen and the Fire Board will have presentations on the report and suggested the Town could request one as well.

Report on 12/16/20 meeting: Michaels reviewed the minutes of the December 16th. Manley noted 1,052 emergency calls in 2020.

REFERENDUM: EMERGENCY SERVICES

Michaels noted the third fire call in the last six months happened this weekend and suggested the residents should be involved in the level of fire services. He noted the deadline of January 27th if the Town would like to add a referendum question to the April ballot. Discussion followed concerning the purpose, language, option of a postcard rather than referendum and possible special charge amount. Herlitzke suggested the following language:

Are you, as a resident of the Town of Holland, in favor of paying a special charge of \$75 a year with the possibility of yearly increases to improve our fire protection and emergency services?

Motion by Herlitzke/Filter to approve fire protection charge referendum question for the spring election 2021 based upon the wording as submitted to the Town Clerk. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION: BROADBAND

Clerk Pedretti read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION 2021-1 **BROADBAND RESOLUTION**

***WHEREAS**, closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity, educational growth and quality of life for residents of the Town of Holland; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Holland believes that, in order to compete in today's digital world, high-speed Internet access – referred to generically as “broadband” which includes both wireline and wireless technologies – is an essential 21st Century infrastructure that will enhance economic competitiveness, improve productivity and access to education, decrease impacts on the environment and increase economic opportunities for our residents; and*

***WHEREAS**, many Town of Holland residents and businesses currently are hampered by the lack of access to affordable and reliable broadband services that meet or exceed the Federal broadband standard of 25/3 Mbps; in fact, some of our more rural areas do not have any access to wireline and/or wireless and, in some cases, areas that are reported to have wireline internet do not; and*

***WHEREAS**, broadband access is a multi-faceted economic development engine; consumer access drives entrepreneurship, increases education and healthcare access, contributes to environmental conservation, and equalizes economic opportunities between urban and rural areas; institutional access to high-speed broadband attracts new business and capital investment, increases innovation and creates more jobs; and*

***WHEREAS**, broadband technologies can be used to update and increase effectiveness of emergency response, law enforcement, and other public security and safety services, to better meet the needs of our first responders and residents in times of crisis; and*

***WHEREAS**, by harnessing the increased productivity derived from expanding broadband throughout the Town of Holland we promote online access to government, its services and functions; enable distance learning and access to online textbooks; and provide increased quality of life for all residents; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Holland has determined that a plan for and to facilitate deployment of broadband across the Town, especially in rural parts of the Town without current access, as critical infrastructure, is comparable with other essential infrastructure such as electricity, telephone, and transportation, which are needed for economic development; and*

***WHEREAS**, technologies like mobile cellular data are not a viable substitute for access to high-speed broadband to the home; and*

***WHEREAS**, there is significant Federal funding available for expansion of high speed broadband and that access to such funding requires a policy of support and plan of research and implementation;*

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Holland hereby establishes a policy to develop a comprehensive*

broadband strategy that covers the current and future needs of its residents, including those in rural areas, and major sectors within the Town: agriculture, business, education, government, healthcare, public safety and utilities; and,

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Holland hereby requests that La Crosse County, the Wisconsin Legislature and the Wisconsin Governor seriously support and fund efforts to allow rural Wisconsinites to experience equal opportunities and the same benefits of high-speed broadband to the home as urban Wisconsinites currently experience.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2021.

Motion by Mieden/Filter to approve Resolution 2021-1. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE: SPEED LIMIT AMENDMENT

Clerk Pedretti explained the amendment will update our speed limit regulations with the new road “Hidden Prairie Drive” (at 25 mph), which was added with the new Hidden Prairie subdivision plat. Motion by Herlitzke/Filter to by-pass the first reading and go straight to the second reading. **MOTION** carried unanimously. Motion by Herlitzke/Filter to approve Amendment #2 to Ordinance #2-2013 for Speed Limits. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

Clerk Pedretti noted the Wisconsin Towns Association 2021 Town Advocacy Council (TAC) membership is projected to cost \$1,066 and that we are not currently members of the TAC nor were moneys allocated in the budget. It was the consensus to defer to next year.

Clerk Pedretti noted the La Crosse Area Planning Commission (LAPC) membership was discussed during the budget process and money was allocated for dues, projected to be \$2,180. Motion by Filter/Mieden to dues for LAPC to become dues’ paying members not to exceed \$2,250. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Michaels suggested we continue “as is” through February. Discussion followed concerning future rentals and the upcoming February primary election. It was the consensus to give the clerk the authority to use her discretion on office availability but no rentals will take place through the end of February.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND BILLS

The December Treasurer’s report and January invoices were reviewed. Motion by Mieden/ Filter to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented and approve the January bills in the amount of \$106,949.93. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Clerk Pedretti reported there will be a stormwater workshop at 6:30 pm on February 9th, a public hearing on a map amendment to the Comprehensive Plan at 6:30 pm on February 10th (followed by a Plan Commission meeting than regular Town Board meeting) and that there is a spring Primary Election on Tuesday, February 16th.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mieden/Herlitzke to adjourn. **MOTION** carried. Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn J. Pedretti, Town Clerk