

Board Meeting
January 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jennifer Meyer. People in attendance were: Supervisors – Jeff Whyte, Mona Mathews, Clerk Beverly Christopherson, Treasurer John McLaughlin and see attached list of visitors. Supervisor Jeff Bechard present VIA Zoom. Supervisor Paul Travis not present

Flag Salute

Plan Commission:

A. Menards: Application for conditional use permit (CUP):

1. Amend allowing Employment Center to be included in their Planned Unit Development (PUD).

2. Amend PUD to allow modification to the typical C2 sign requirements.

Nick Brenner from Menards was present to explain and answer any questions. Town Plan Commission did not have questions on the Amendments to PUD. Employment center will have more office spaces. Second sign going up and will be same as sign by US Bank.

Chair Jennifer Meyer made a motion to approve CUP. Supervisor Mona Mathews seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carries.

B. Menards: Preliminary Certified Survey Map (CSM) for a parcel of property purchased from Haas/County Line Rd., Combining Parcels: Nick Brenner from Menards mentioned that this is a 12-acre parcel Menards purchased and acreage is between the Distribution Center and Railroad. Purchasing this parcel will square up the entire area. Access to the property will only be from Kane Road or N Town Hall Road and is not open to the public. Eau Claire County has made their comments.

C. Robertson: Application for CUP for a Columbaria/CTH EE (Town Hall Rd.) & West Folsom St.: John Robertson was present VIA Zoom to answer questions from Board and Residents. CUP is for Gray Farm Gardens Columbaria - Cremation only and will start with just one garden area and expand from that point. Gray Farm Gardens will take ownership of Columbarium. John Robertson will be starting the company and not sure how it will be set up at this time. All monies collected from those being placed in Columbarium will pay a fee and a portion of that fee will go towards perpetual care. Chair Jennifer Meyer questioned what happens if that money runs out? Who will take over? Mr. Robertson said that no guarantee that money will last forever. Chair Jennifer Meyer was not able to find any information on Gray Farm Gardens. Mr. Robertson said that is because it is not set up at this time. Chair Jennifer Meyer also brought up state statutes that need to be looked at before they go ahead with the CUP and application if very vague on many points. Town would like Robertson to redo the application and look into the state statutes. Supervisor Jeff Whyte would like to see Mr. Robertson go back to Eau Claire County to get application complete with state statutes and then come back to Town. Many residents were in attendance with questions:

Resident Don Erickson is questioning how big the parking lot will be and how it will be constructed?

Mr. Robertson said the parking lot will be graded, leveled off, and graveled.

Resident Kurt Anderson is concerned on the amount of traffic this will bring.

Mr. Robertson stated that this will not bring any more traffic than a normal cemetery.

Supervisor Jeff Bechard asked how much each spot will cost and percentage for perpetual care?

Mr. Robertson stated that 25% of cost will go towards perpetual cost but does not have cost of sites at this time.

Resident Don Erickson how many sites the area will have?

Mr. Robertson stated that in the beginning 440 sites will be in the first garden. 2 Urns can be sealed in each site.

Resident Rod Behlke is also concerned where more money will come from as needed for upkeep.

Mr. Robertson said that as more sites are sold more money added to the perpetual care fund.

Supervisor Mona Mathews mentioned that the cemetery on East Side in Town of Washington is now owned by the Town, due to no money to continue care.

Resident Don Erickson also asked if they will be putting up lights?

Mr. Robertson said no lights and minimal security.

Mr. Erickson also asked what type of landscaping they will be doing?

Mr. Robertson said they will be hiring a landscaper to do the gardens.

Chair Jennifer Meyer asked if any water way issues? Any low Lands?

Mr. Robertson said that this will all be gone over and addressed when surveyed.

Mr. Robertson did ask the residents in attendance if they had any suggestions for a different type of business to put on the land. No residents had any suggestions.

Mr. Olson had issues with any lights and vandalism as they have horses right next to this acreage. Mr. Robertson is aware of the horses and feels that they will not be in any danger as their will be no lights and should be no vandalism and people should not be coming into the gardens at night.

Chair Jennifer Meyer does not feel traffic will be an issue in the area. The biggest concern at this time is the state statute that has to be met. State statute in question is 157.128 and they need to go back and look it over and then re-do the application. Towns attorney has been contacted regarding the statutes and has issued a letter to the Town that the Town will pass on to Eau Claire County for their meeting.

Resident Kurt Anderson wanted to know if this will be open to the public or gated?

Mr. Robertson said it will have a secure gate with minimal signage.

Supervisor Mona Mathews feels that there are too many unknowns with this CUP to approve.

Supervisor Mona Mathews is making a motion to table approving CUP until next meeting.

Supervisor Jeff Whyte seconded the motion. Vote was 2 yes and 1 nay, motion carries with unanimous vote.

Visit Eau Claire: Benny Anderson from Visit Eau Claire was present at the meeting. Town of Union web page has seen a lot of traffic lately and the Conservancy is the main part people are looking at. Good Traffic on what the trails look like. Visit Eau Claire is presently working on having a GPS App for all trails. These trails will be all the snowmobile, ATV/UTV, Bike, and walking. Visit Eau Claire is working on seeing where all trails end and connect. Also working on Grants to update and connect trail system. Benny Anderson feels that Silver mine Drive has a lot of opportunities, working with Ski Club on promoting their area on silver mine. Benny Anderson feels the Destination Development funds should be around \$5K to 10K and will help with multiple projects in the Town. Destination Development funds come from room tax dollars paid and Town of Union should receive these funds. Supervisor Mona Mathews asked Benny Anderson If the Town could have the some of their pictures of the Towns parks to put on the Town's website. Benny Anderson will see that the Town gets them to use as they want. Supervisor Mona Mathews would also like a more extensive list of Business in Town of Union. Town Clerk has a list used for the Township Fire Department that can be used.

Park Commission:

A. Chair Report: Park Commission Chair Fred Belay not in attendance. Town Board Chair Jennifer Meyer gave report: Chair Fred Belay is working with UWEC for research on Conservancy. Park Commission is working with Visit Eau Claire in connecting trails. Fred Belay did not have any luck with getting stump grinder. Will have to look at maintenance of Park Trails for 2021. Park Commission is looking into restriction for spraying Poison Ivy. Park Commission is working with

Visit Eau Claire for Destination Development funds, these funds could be used for Park Pavilion or any other improvements.

B. Adopt Outdoor Recreation Use Plan 2021-2026 Resolution: Supervisor Mona Mathews made a motion to approve the Resolution for 2021-2026 Outdoor Recreation Use Plan. Chair Jennifer Meyer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carries. Resolution 2021-01.

Roads:

A. Quarterly meeting with EC CTY Highway Dept: January 12, 2021 @9am – Chair Jennifer Meyer was not able to attend, meeting will be rescheduled.

B. Plowing, brush cutting: Crescent needs brush cutting, Supervisor Jeff Whyte said that is Eau Claire Counties to brush. Chair Jennifer Meyer did mention in the crier to residents that overhanging trees need to be cut back as they do cause damage to emergency vehicles.

C. Chayne Dr. & Xiong Blvd Road bids for Spring 2021: Army Corp of Engineers did send information on how to proceed. Bid proposal will be done in February and awarded in March. Cedar Corp will do the posting. Chair Jennifer Meyer will talk with Eau Claire County on bids for Xiong Boulevard.

D. Any other road business: Chair Jennifer Meyer mentioned that County Line Road is going to be an issue and needs to be updated. It is very highly traveled and is narrow. Should look for grants to help with cost for repairs.

Reminded that County T, Town will have to pay 5% for development.

Supervisor Jeff Whyte will be driving around and look at roads that need work.

Township Fire Station #3:

A. Battalion Chief Report: Battalion Chief Dave Kleist was present and reported they had 370 runs for 2020 and in 2019 all 5 Townships had 380 – 390 runs, so not much different. They have made some training schedule changes.

ATV/UTV Town Route Cont'd Monthly Discussion: Chair Jennifer Meyer will meet with Jeff Gibson.

Constable Report: No report to hand out.

A. Relief Position: Chair Jennifer Meyer spoke with John Swarski and at this time he is not comfortable with taking this position. Constable Russ Johnson is out of State for the Winter months. Board needs to contact the Humane Association and see what the procedures are. Supervisor Mona Mathews asked if anyone knew what other Towns do? No one was sure. Supervisor Jeff Bechard agreed that the Town needs a backup. Chair Jennifer Meyer will contact Constable to get procedures and the proceed looking for replacement.

Building Inspector Report: Report handed out to Board.

Citizen Input & Questions

Board Reports:

MPO: No meeting held

Visit Eau Claire: Meeting is coming up

TFD Board of Directors 01/25/2021: Chair Jennifer Meyer will attend

Elk Creek Lake Rehab 03/10/2021:

Review/Approve Dec. 8, 2020 minutes: Supervisor Mona Mathews made a motion to approve minutes as presented to the Board. Supervisor Jeff Whyte seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carries.

Review/Approval Bills: Clerk Beverly Christopherson handed out the Accounts Payable report. Supervisor Mona Mathews made a motion to approve payables as presented to Board. Chair Jennifer Meyer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carries.

Treasurers Report:

A. Report: Treasurer John McLaughlin reported that tax collection has gone very well this year and so far, \$1.8 million has been collected.

Approval Underground Cables – Chairman- Chair Jennifer Meyer mentioned that she had one for Volbrecht Farms from Xcel Energy.

Review/Approve: Licenses: Operators and Liquor: Chair Jennifer Meyer made a motion to approve operators licenses as presented to Board. Supervisor Mona Mathews seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carries.

Town Hall Properties:

A. Transfer Station

1. Fee Schedule Updates/feedback/comments: January 1st new fees started. Lots of bags sold in December. Brett Huber ok with new fee schedule

2. Spring 2021 Trench in Conduit for West WI Telcom 24/7

B. Town Hall Exterior Windows Installed 12/09/2020, comments: Look very nice

C. Town Hall & Station #3 Message Boards – were delivered, install spring 2021

D. Town Hall Rental monthly discussion – Town Board agreed to not rent Town Hall. Will address again at February meeting

E. December 2020 Newsletter feedback: Newsletter mailed and received by residents.

Set next Town Board meeting: February 9, 2021

A. Comp Plan Meeting: February 4, 2021 at 6:30pm

B. Park Commission: March 4, 2021 at 9:00am

Motion to Adjourn

Supervisor Mona Mathews made a motion to Adjourn at 8:43pm, Chair Jennifer Meyer seconded the motion.