

Town of Niagara, Marinette County
Regular Town Board Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023 at Niagara Town Hall, W6889 US Hwy 8

Agenda of Town Board Meeting

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order and Roll Call.
 - a. The October 17, 2023, Monthly Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was met.
 - b. Present: Chairman Bob Butler, Supervisor David Sanicki, Supervisor Ron Neuens, Treasurer Debbie Emond, Clerk Sara Wentzel. Excused/Absent: None.
- 2) Approve / Amend agenda items for October 17, 2023.
 - a. M/S: Neuens/Sanicki to approve the agenda for October 17, 2023. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.
- 3) Approve / Amend minutes of September 19, 2023 Town Board Meeting.
 - a. M/S: Neuens/Butler to approve minutes of September 19, 2023, regular Town Board Meeting as presented. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.
- 4) Treasurer's Report as submitted/presented by Debbie Emond.
 - a. Income for September equaled \$20,642.26. Expenditures for September equaled \$14,220.92.
 - b. M/S: Sanicki/Neuens to approve Treasurer's Report as submitted/presented. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.
- 5) Public Comment; non-discussion from Board.
 - a. Clerk Wentzel announced the town website is now "live" and operational again (www.townofniagarawi.com) so all meeting agendas, minutes, public notices, etc. will be shared there from this point forward. Also, the website is still under construction (since being transferred to a new provider) so things like the ordinances and such will be added in the coming weeks.
 - b. Bruce LaLiberte says public thanks to the County for picking up trash (discarded tires) discovered on Town roadside.
- 6) Discussion / Action Item: Road Inspection and Three-Year Road Plan including LRIP/TRIP project.
 - a. Discussion: Chairman Butler met with local town chairmen to review distribution of funds across townships. Clerk Wentzel met with former Clerk Dawn Johnson and Pat Schlies (Scott Construction) recently to prepare the LRIP application along with Township's Three-Year Road Plan (2023-2026). The Board needs to approve Three-Year Road Plan (2023-2026) tonight as drafted by Clerk Wentzel to submit it with LRIP application online due November 1, 2023. The Three-Year Road Plan is for Provencher Road to be done in 2024 with Chapman Road and Morin Road slated for wedging and chip sealing in 2025 and 2026, respectively.
 - b. M/S: Sanicki/Neuens to approve Three-Year Road Plan as submitted by Clerk Wentzel where Provencher Road will be done in 2024, Chapman Road and Morin Road to be done in 2025 and 2026, respectively. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.
 - c. Status: Complete.
- 7) Discussion / Action Item: New Town 1-Ton Truck.
 - a. Discussion: Truck is completely finished, plow on and ready to be picked up. Chairman Butler and Ken Romuald will go to Era Chevrolet tomorrow, Wednesday, October 18, with funds to cover remaining balance due and bring it back to Town Garage.
 - b. M/S: None.
 - c. Status: Complete.
- 8) Discussion / Action Item: Sale of old Fire Tanker (1993 International).

- a. Discussion: No additional bids were received. Scott Morin showed initial interest; Chairman Butler contacted him multiple times with no response. Chairman Butler contacted auto auction, but it appears to be more complicated than initially thought. Chairman Butler asks that the Board move forward with sale of the tanker and accept the written bid of \$4,625.00 from Mr. Glen Meyer, which was opened at September's meeting.
 - b. M/S: Neuens/Sanicki to sell the old Fire Tanker (1993 International) to Mr. Glen Meyer for his written bid of \$4,625.00. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed. Clerk Wentzel will contact Mr. Meyer.
 - c. Status: Complete.
- 9) Discussion / Action Item: Discussion of Fire Numbers Assignment, Installation.
- a. Discussion: Zoning Administrator Bob Grandaw has researched this project (breaking up the Township into three different districts and tackling one at a time), and believes there are +/-100 addresses which will require attention within the first district (R1) to be done in 2024. For an estimation on cost of materials, bulk fire signs would be \$18.55 each with bulk posts at \$9.86 each. Fire signs are 10-12 weeks from ordering to delivery. Bob recommends to finalize plans and order materials before end of the year so that the project can officially begin in Spring 2024. Full project cost (including Bob's time, labor and mileage) is quoted at \$4,000. The Township will cover the cost of this project.
 - b. M/S: Sanicki/Neuens to allocate \$4,000 for the project, approve Zoning Administrator Grandaw to order necessary materials, and begin assigning fire numbers in the first district (R1) in Spring 2024. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.
 - c. Status: Complete.
- 10) Discussion / Action Item: Codification of Town Ordinances.
- a. Discussion: Clerk Wentzel is still in communication with Municode, the vendor we have approached with this project, and is awaiting an estimate on cost and timeframe for codification to be done.
 - b. M/S: None.
 - c. Status: In Progress.
- 11) Discussion / Action Item: Hiring of new Town Hall Cleaning person.
- a. Discussion: Paul Vilringer has resigned from the position, and Mike Carpenter has contacted Chairman Butler, expressing his interest. Chairman Butler requests to hire Mike Carpenter at the rate of \$175/month and add him to Township payroll as a 1099-employee. Clerk Wentzel will work with Paul on a formal job description, and Paul will train Mike on all duties to be performed.
 - b. M/S: Butler/Sanicki to hire Mike Carpenter at \$175/month and as a 1099-employee. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.
 - c. Status: Complete.
- 12) Discussion / Action Item: Raising of Plow Drivers' Wages.
- a. Discussion: Tom Jonet has let Chairman Butler know that he will not be plowing this winter. Jim Cater and Tim Coron will continue to plow majority of roads with Ken Romuald. Joe Geldmeyer will be utilized for small areas, intersections. Chairman Butler believes Township needs to post the position to recruit another plow driver; Tim Coron stated that Randy Peterson has expressed interest in snow plowing and will have Randy contact Chairman Butler. Discussion ensued whether Town Maintenance individuals should receive one rate of pay while snow plowing and another rate of pay while ditch cutting and/or performing other tasks (as agenda item only addressed raising of plow drivers' wages), or if all wages should be raised across the board regardless of task being performed. The topic will be tabled for now, and will be amended on

November's meeting agenda to reflect discussion/action on all Town Maintenance individual's wages for all duties performed in their roles.

- b. M/S: None.
- c. Status: In Progress.

13) Road Chief's Report.

- a. Ken reports the old ditch cutter (gear box bearing) went out again. Jim will be helping Ken to fix.
- b. All sand and salt mix received.
- c. Carbide snow blades have been received, and will be put on in near future.
- d. For Winter 2023-2024 Joe will lead snow plowing calls, notifying Ken of weather/road conditions, and Ken will contact crew when the plows need to go out.

14) Planning Commission Report as submitted/presented by Bruce LaLiberte.

- a. No meeting held. A few minor wording changes need to be made to several ordinances, which will take place in the coming months.

15) Zoning Administrator's Report as submitted/presented by Bob Grandaw.

- a. 6 permits were issued in September.

16) Lake Shannon Report as presented by Bob Butler.

- a. Friday, October 20, 2023 at 3:30 PM will be the next Lake Shannon Quarterly Meeting, which Bob will attend, to be held at the Town Hall.

17) Multi-Jurisdictional Court Report as presented by Bob Butler.

- a. Bob attended recent meeting held September 26, 2023. Everything is in order and running smoothly. No other updates at this time.

18) Announce next meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 6:00 PM at the Niagara Town Hall.

19) Adjourn

- a. M/S Neuens/Sanicki to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. Voice votes taken; no negative votes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara Wentzel, Clerk

Bob Butler, Chairman

Ron Neuens, Supervisor

Dave Sanicki, Supervisor