

# TOWN OF UNION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING Minutes of Saturday, December 18, 2010

---

The Town of Union Board Special Board Meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. on Saturday, December 18, 2010 at the Evansville Fire Department, 425 Water St., Evansville, WI by Chairman Kendall Schneider. Those in attendance included Chairman Schneider, Supervisors George Franklin and Don Krajeck, and Clerk Regina Ylvisaker.

## **Snowplowing**

The Board discussed the issues that came up with regard to snowplowing during the first two snows of the year.

Kendall Schneider reported he rode with Josh Wiser last Sunday through the subdivisions, and thinks gang mailboxes would help with more effective snow removal in those areas - especially in cul-de-sacs. The Town would first have to talk to property owners about the issue of gang mailboxes, and would have to consult with the post office about placement.

Schneider noted that, as property tax bills have gone out, some residents have complained about the amount of money spent on snowplowing. Schneider has figured that the amount of Town taxes actually going directly to snowplowing expenses is quite minimal.

Don Krajeck would like to assemble a list of plowing related issues for Al Miller to review and respond to prior to the next Board meeting. The Town of Center is having a meeting on Monday; Krajeck felt that Board members should perhaps attend the meeting to see what issues Center has had with plowing. Krajeck stated Miller plans to purchase a larger truck for plowing, which should address some of the problems they ran into with the most recent snow event. Krajeck also thinks that issues like salting and laying down material should be an automatic thing on the part of Footville Trucking (FTC); he had to call and ask them to do it yesterday. He is unsure if Miller doesn't want to use too much of the Town's monetary resources spreading material. Krajeck feels that there should be more salt in the mix, and more material should be laid at stop signs and intersections. George Franklin disagrees that Miller needs larger equipment. He rode with Wiser on Monday morning and Miller's truck was stuck on East Union Road near Larsen's. The driver had kept going into a drift when he should have stopped, and had gotten stuck. Franklin felt it was an issue resulting from inexperience. Krajeck feels that the current equipment won't be able to handle roads with 4-5 foot drifts for long distances. Additionally, the banks will get so high that the wings on the current trucks won't be high enough or won't have enough power to move them. Krajeck believes the Town needs to have access to something like a grader, to be able to respond to such conditions. The Town of Brooklyn has an Oshkosh that doesn't get used much but they have it when it's needed. Whomever plows our snow should have the ability to access such equipment, in his opinion. Another snow with 10+ inches and wind will result in endloader work to open the roads. Krajeck thinks Miller was overmatched for the recent storm. Franklin believes the snow this past Sunday, with the wind, was worse than snow storm we had last year. By Monday night, less than 24 hours after wind stopped blowing, all Town roads were open at least one lane wide.

Krajeck stated one issue that arose from the recent storm was whether the Town and FTC should have been out plowing on Sunday when it was snowing and blowing. Visibility was extremely poor, and the Board agrees it was far too dangerous to be out at that time. It was calm in Evansville at that time; perhaps Wiser could have been working in the subdivisions earlier. Krajeck stated that the Town does have a contract with FTC to plow the Town's roads – how much help does the Board feel they should be providing them in snow removal? Help was provided during the recent storm as it was an emergency situation. Franklin believes the Town and FTC must work together, as the whole situation is new to both parties. Krajeck asked if the Board wants FTC to handle plowing Elmer Road, and the Town plow Green Bay Road. Elmer Road is a problematic road, especially when the wind is blowing. Agreed to assign plowing as such, with the approval of Miller.

Regarding having a second part-time road patrolman for backup, they would likely rarely be needed and

compensating for being on call all the time would be difficult. Franklin and Krajeck can plow if needed. Krajeck feels very strongly that the Town needs to be in the position to plow all its own roads within the next few years. A full time road patrolman position would play a part in that as well. He also believes the Town should also work with the City of Evansville on the issue of joint salt/storage.

Franklin plans on attending the Town of Center meeting on Monday, and thinks Krajeck should attend also. He feels they should not go with the intention of dealing with the Town of Union's issues, but to be there if anything comes up.

Review of draft Winter Maintenance Policy:

Franklin doesn't like "Under no circumstances will the Town use one of its pieces of equipment to push, pull or tow a stranded, private vehicle from a roadway or ditch." What if a vehicle is in the road and the plow cannot get around it? Schneider is also concerned about insurance. Statement under Other Provisions "If vehicle is blocking one or more lanes halting snow and ice control operations, it will be moved by whatever means are necessary to reopen the roadway" would allow the Town to address such situations. The Board agreed to add "at owner's expense" to the end of the statement.

Krajeck recommended striking the statement "If abandoned vehicles are encountered on the CTHs, the Sheriff's Department will be contacted and requested to have the vehicle removed at the owner's expense." The Town is not involved in plowing county highways so the statement is unnecessary. Agreed by all to strike.

List of issues for Al Miller to address:

- Purchase of a larger truck, specifically v-plow
- Recommend a third truck in case of breakdowns
- Routine sanding/salting: conditions are different here than in Footville, someone within the Town needs to monitor the road and weather conditions and follow up with ordering sanding/salting as appropriate. Krajeck can be responsible for this when he is not working, and Franklin will back up on the dates Krajeck is working. Sanding and salting will continue to be done on an as needed basis, but would like to have more salt added to the mix.

Franklin feels that the Board should have sat down with Miller with a map of the Town to review all the Town roads so everyone was clear on what would be expected.

Regina Ylvisaker informed the Board that transportation funds still need to be spent to meet budget projections and maintain GTA payment levels. The Board agreed to purchase a smaller truck with plow from Franklin for \$16,500. A payment to FTC will be due in January per the snowplowing contract as well. Ylvisaker will figure the year end expenditures and determine which payments should fall in 2010 and 2011.

### **Banking**

Franklin reported having problems recently with Union Bank and Trust not taking property tax payments if the checks are made out to anything other than "Town of Union." Sharon Franklin often receives checks from escrow companies and property owners made out to "Rock County" or "Sharon Franklin Treasurer" and having the checks remade is not a viable option in most cases. The Franklins went to M&I Bank and discussed the problem they were having; M&I stated they would accept checks made out to the three most commonly used names. The Board agreed that they should return to UB&T with the list of the most commonly used names checks are made out to and see if they will accept the checks. If not, the Board will need to consider changing banks. It is unfair to taxpayers if their taxes are late because the bank won't accept the check.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Regina Ylvisaker

*Note: minutes are considered draft until reviewed and approved by the Town Board at a properly noticed meeting.*