

**TOWN OF UNION
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Minutes of Thursday, January 6, 2011**

The Town of Union Board monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Kendall Schneider at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at the Evansville Fire Station, 425 Water St., Evansville, WI. Those in attendance included Chairman Schneider, Supervisors George Franklin and Don Krajeck, Treasurer Sharon Franklin, Clerk Regina Ylvisaker, Building Inspector Bob Fahey, and Constable Kim Gruebling. Also in attendance were Plan Commission members Alvin Francis and Dave Pestor.

Clerk's minutes (December 2 & 18, 2010)

Motion to approve the minutes of both December 2 and December 18, 2010 as written made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Sharon Franklin reported the following balances as of December 31, 2010:

Local Gov't Investment Pool General Fund	\$	0.00
Park and Recreation Fund	\$	12,424.37
UB&T Money Market Sweep Account	\$	1,738,875.40
Of Which \$10,494 is A1 Conversion Fees, And \$25,000 is Re-Valuation Fund		
UB&T Checking Account	\$	15,000.00
Leedlemill Bridge CD	\$	18,875.23
Wayne Disch Memorial Park Fund	\$	2,392.55
Morning Ridge Stub Road CD	\$	20,146.62
Escrow Accounts:		
Robert Janes/Bakers Crossing	\$	813.77

Constable's report

Constable Kim Gruebling reported receiving one complaint of a stray dog; the issue resolved itself without any action being taken on his part. Was unsure of the location.

Building Inspector's report

Building Inspector Bob Fahey reported the following building and driveway permits issued in December 2010:

Date	Permit #	Parcel #	Name	Address	Description	Construction Cost
12/11/2010	10-5-D	6-20-198	Ruth Sperry & Jim Johnson	W Territorial Rd	Field Driveway	
12/6/2010	10-39-B	6-20-211.5	Dave Gallman	8310 N Territorial Rd	Electric service	
12/8/2010	10-40-B	6-20-268.12	Michael & Amanda Heelein	6539 N South 5th St	Basement remodel	\$2,000.00
12/21/2010	10--41-B		Mya Rognstad	8213 N North Ct	Basement remodel	\$15,000.00
12/2/2010	10-22-B	6-20-66.1	Terry & Amy Kersten	16341 W Union Rd	OCCUPANCY OF NEW HOME	

Winter Maintenance Policy

Kendall Schneider presented and reviewed the Town's Winter Maintenance Policy. He noted Rock County has a policy very similar to what the Town has drafted. Residents must be aware of the fact that

there is no clear/bare road policy, either at the County or Town level. State law states roads must be passable within 3 days. Within the Policy are provisions for destruction of mailboxes when it is known that the damage is caused by a snowplow, in which case the mailbox will be replaced with conventional box & post at the expense of the Town. Schneider noted that if such damage occurs, it should be recorded by the property owner as soon as possible preferably by taking a picture, and reported to the Town.

Motion to accept the Town of Union Winter Maintenance Policy dated December 19, 2010 made by George Franklin. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment (5 min max per item, no action will be taken on any issues)

Greg Helgesen expressed concerns that Al Miller may not have enough equipment and/or manpower to handle future snows. He didn't think that being plowed in for three days would be considered normal; following the recent storm he finally got out of his home at noon on Monday. Schneider noted that County Road C, which is plowed by Rock County, was not open until later in the afternoon on Monday. Helgesen asked if rock chips would be used all year for traction; Schneider explained that the chips look like they have been a good fit for the Town thus far, but may be on a little thick at this time. The Town's main concern is having enough traction and proper coverage for ice control. Helgesen noted that it stated in the Winter Maintenance Policy that the Town is not responsible for damage to lawns, turf, and gravel deposited in lawns by snowplowing. He stated that the end loader used by Footville Trucking to clear snow dug up a great deal of sod near him, which was exacerbated by the wet conditions; will the Town be repairing the damage? Schneider stated that most likely the sod will be left as is to settle and be mown over.

Ray Legris inquired as to why sand/salt mix is not being used. Schneider explained that the mix is being applied now, and additional salt has been added in anticipation of warmer weather.

Paul Forster stated that it was previously taking only one day to be plowed out, now it is taking 48 hours before a plow comes down their road. Schneider reiterated that opening roads within three days is the state law. He also stated that he understands the plowing contractor has purchased an Oshkosh V-plow since the December 12-13 snow event. In past years, Schneider noted, people have been stranded due to roads drifting shut similar to what occurred on the 12th-13th. He clarified that the Town is not necessarily looking to save money by having a private contractor plow the roads, but are instead looking for independence. In the past, the Town couldn't get their roads plowed when we wanted them done, and now we will have that control. Additionally, during the December 12-13 snow event, there was more equipment on Town roads sooner than there would have been if the County would have been plowing. The extreme drifting closed a lot of east-west roads, which was out of our control. Forster asked if the stone chips would be swept off the roads in the spring, as he feels leaving it on the roads would be dangerous for motorcycles. Schneider is of the opinion that between plowing and rain the majority of the chips would be removed and sweeping would not be necessary.

Marie Messinger, from the Evansville farmer's market, was in attendance and briefly discussed current initiatives. The group is looking for ways to encourage people from out of the Evansville area to attend the farmers markets. The market will be held on Saturdays beginning the last Saturday in April, location yet to be determined. The market also is holding a book discussion group at the Eager Free Library and is looking for individuals to participate.

Roadwork

Covered under previous agenda items.

Approval of 2011 Rock County Humane Society Contract

Gruebling expressed concerns that, as the contract is currently written, the Town could potentially have the responsibility to take care of animals that are evidence in criminal investigations. The new contract does not require the RCHS to contact the Town when they pick up animals, and states that they will only pick up animals when it is "appropriate." It is unclear in the contract language if a citizen would be able to call and request a pick up, or if such requests would still need to go through the Town. Gruebling is

concerned that the Town will have no control over who is bringing in animals, and that all animals are accepted, not just dogs. He noted that the Dane County Humane Society contract is very similar to the Rock County contract. Gruebling believes that State law only requires Towns to handle dogs; Schneider thought one option would be to merge with other towns and provide a service jointly. Gruebling feels the Town should sign the contract this year and continue to search for options for next year. He proposed checking with the Green County Humane Society, and see if they would be agreeable to working with the Town if the constable would transport animals.

Motion to not sign 2011 contract with the Rock County Humane Society made by George Franklin. Second by Don Krajeck. Krajeck clarified that the reason for not signing at this time was to enable the Town to continue the discussion, as the Town must have control over who authorizes pickups.

Franklin believes that all or part of the Board should meet with the RCHS to discuss our concerns; amendment of original motion to include this provision made by George Franklin. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Status Update on Legal Proceedings in the Following Matters: Gildner Property/Removal of Second Home; Non-Licensed Mobile Home Parks; ATV Use and Damage to Town Property**

Regina Ylvisaker updated the Board on the status of non-licensed mobile home parks. Legal counsel has filed lawsuits in the non-licensure of Valhalla Mobile Home Park and Birchwood Mobile Home Park. Regarding the issue of ATV use and damage to Town property, Ylvisaker requested Board direction regarding further action. The Board agreed at this time to concentrate on having legal counsel draft an ordinance addressing the issues for consideration of the Board.

Krajeck requested that the Board move into closed session to discuss the Gildner property/removal of second home following the regular board meeting.

Public Hearing: Repeal of Chapter 17, Zoning, Section 17.25 (6) "Noise"

This agenda item is carry over from December 2010; the Town's Code of Ordinances adopted in December included a chapter addressing "noise," but the section of Chapter 17 covering the same issue was not repealed.

Public hearing opened at 7:38 pm.

Gruebling noted the Town may want to incorporate "vibrations" issue into the new code, as it is something that can be felt and doesn't require measurement tools.

Public hearing closed at 7:39 pm.

Motion to repeal Chapter 17, Section 17.25 (6) "Noise" made by Don Krajeck. Second by Kendall Schneider. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing: Amendment of Chapter 2.26, Town Plan Commission

The purpose of the amendment is to reduce the number of members of the Plan Commission from 7 to 5; the Commission currently has one vacancy.

Public hearing opened at 7:43 pm

Gruebling feels that the change will result in less input on decisions; however it would also save some money in per diems and he feels that things do progress faster with fewer members. One issue he noted was waiting until a term expires; Schneider explained that the change would not be enacted until April when terms expire. One term expiring is currently vacant; the other expiring is held by Gruebling, who is running for Town Supervisor.

Dave Pestor believes that more was getting accomplished when there were fewer people on the Commission.

Alvin Francis believes that it is good to have as many people involved as we can in the decisions that come before the Commission.

Sharon Franklin noted that if there are only five members there can still be input from members of the community.

Public hearing closed at 7:45 pm.

Ylvisaker noted that if the Board decides to move approval of conditional use permits back to the Board level, additional amendments to the Chapter would be necessary. Would be nice to make all the changes at once. Krajeck is in favor of changing to 5 members, and would like to enact it in April. Motion to table issue to April 12, 2011 Board meeting made by Don Krajeck. Second by Kendall Schneider. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing: Amendment of Partial Code of Ordinances to include Chapter 2.26, Town Plan Commission

The purpose of the amendment is to include Chapter 2.26, Town Plan Commission, into the Town's Code of Ordinances.

Public hearing opened at 7:50 pm.

No comments received.

Public hearing closed at 7:51 pm

Motion to amend the Town of Union partial code of ordinances to include Chapter 2.26, Town Plan Commission made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: Farmland Preservation Landowner Meeting

A map was presented of priority parcels to be included in the PACE program from Rock County. Francis has heard that the County is trying to get some applications in by January 21, and top priority areas have best chance of getting approval. The areas in Union are mostly north of Cty. C. It was noted that almost all of the Town of LaPrairie is included in the priority area.

The Board requested to keep "Farmland Preservation Update" as an agenda item on Board agendas for updates from Plan Commission on these issues.

Recycling Center Update

Jerry Krueger reported a normal month. Christmas recycling on the Friday following Christmas filled recycling bins, as is the usual following the holiday. The office heater has been acting up, control is going out. Krueger thought the Town may want to look at using a different type of heater now that it has a larger space, perhaps wall mounted propane. Wants to be sure a safe method is used.

Approval of 2011 Meeting Location

Schneider reported discussing the issue of the Town's meeting location changing permanently to the Fire Station at the recent Fire District meeting, and it was approved to have Plan Commission and Board meetings, as well as elections, at the Station. The issue of charging for the space is still up in the air, and will be discussed at the February Fire District meeting, held on the first Tuesday of the month. The public is welcome to attend.

Motion to approve changing the Town's meeting location to Evansville Fire Station made by Kendall Schneider. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Franklin thanked Town citizens and some citizens from outside the Town that helped get the roads open during the last snowstorms. He feels that we can place blame for things that went wrong in many areas, but we tried to do our best and probably need bigger equipment. He agrees that safety is an issue; however emergency services have been delayed in the past when there was no snow on the ground. Living in Wisconsin, we have to deal with snow and the plows cannot be everywhere at once. The Town is committed to making improvements.

Pay Bills

Motion to pay bills and go into closed session made by Kendall Schneider. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Motion to return to open session made by Kendall Schneider. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to adjourn made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Regina Ylvisaker

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