

Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting

**TOWN OF BELL
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 13, 2017
at 7:00 p.m.
at the Bell Community Center**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Matt Lazorik, Mike O'Bryon, Vicki Lewis-Hay, Janice Olson, Y. Fleming and MaryBeth Tillmans. Lynda Nedden-Durst were absent.

-Board Meeting Minutes- M. O'Bryon made a motion to approve the minutes and V. Lewis Hay 2nd the motion. Approved.

-Treasurer's Report – Y. Fleming made a motion to approve the report and V. Lewis Hay 2nd the motion. Approved

Old Business:

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1. Siskiwit River Protection and Access – Update

The following update was given by M. O'Bryon:

The NOAA grant was awarded to the town. This would appropriate ½ the funds to purchase the Siskiwit Property. It asks the Town to respond by August 1st. At that time, if the Town passes on, that is votes against the grant, it will most likely be offered to Bayfield County.

The NOAA grant requires that the other ½ of the funds from the acquisition of the property still needs to be secured and this could occur through a DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant that the BRC applied for. (it is on hold at the moment due to the Town's resolution of opposition). The DNR made it clear that funds would be awarded in the fall only if the Town of Bell can demonstrate that there is local support for the project, articulated through a letter. The Town Board letter would need to mention how the resolution that was sent in February 2017 no longer reflects community sentiment; that the Town of Bell held a series of votes; that sentiment has shifted to supporting protecting this land through public ownership; and to ask that the DNR reconsiders the grant award because as a community, we are supportive of this property's purchase being funded with stewardship dollars, our previous resolution notwithstanding, and regardless of whether the Town of Bell or Bayfield County accepts the NOAA grant for the purchase of the property.

Parks and Lands has contacted the WI Towns Association, the Wisconsin Election Commission, and retired attorney Bill Bussey, regarding the preparation of a referendum ballot, and have proposed a ballot for public vote on July 11th a special meeting. Bussey did not get back to them.

WI Towns says there are no requirements to writing a referendum ballot and the WEC had only official voting ballot stuff on the web site.

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2. Siskiwit River Protection and Access- setting a date for a public hearing, and setting a date to vote on the possible land transaction

M. O'Bryon proposed having a special vote by ballot and at a Special Town Meeting on July 11th, followed by the Regular Board Meeting at 7:00. The ballot question would have a specific question about purchasing the land. A public hearing would be held on July 29th. V. Lewis Hay recommended having an impartial mediator at the public hearing for facts to be presented along with questions and answers from people present. A representative from the DNR, NOAA and the BRC will be asked to be present to answer questions. M. Lazorik spoke with Rob Schierman from Bayfield County Zoning. The land is zoned R-1 and would need to be rezoned for the proposed public activities and a parking lot for the land's future intended use. The rezoning would have to be done by the property owner, which the town is not. Discussion was held. Y. Fleming said the rezoning, according to Micheal Friese from NOAA can be done after the purchase and this can be written up in the contracts. M. Lazorik recommended having a special town board meeting on Tuesday, June 20th at 7:00p.m. for a decision about who should the board hire as an impartial mediator and how can we do that. Another item for the meeting would be a decision on the zoning and the process that needs to be followed. The actual vote to purchase and the regard to the rezoning, along with the correct process to go about this needs to be determined. V. Lewis Hay and Y. Fleming will find a mediator for the public hearing and M. Lazorik and M. O'Byron will work on the rezoning. A special town board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20th at 7:00p.m for these items

2. Birch Hill natural area - Discussion and possible decision

An informational meeting was held last week. Bill Sloan did a presentation. A mile trail can be done this summer with no cost to the town. There is no update on the grants that have been applied to for this project.

3. Income Survey – Community Development Block Grant – Update

M. Tillmans gave an update. The Bell town Board of Supervisors decided (February 2017 meeting and as discussed the April 2017 Annual Town Meeting) to conduct an Income Survey in accordance with the Dept. of Administration Community Income Survey Guide (Feb. 2016). A committee was formed. Following the State guidance, the census survey was conducted from April 19, 2017 through June 11, 2017. The survey was mailed to each resident household in Bell Town.

To qualify as a viable survey, DOA required an 80% response rate. The survey was mailed to 152 households that were identified as full time residents of the Town. One was returned as no longer living in Bell town and another was returned as deceased, so the final number was 150.

123 households replied for an 82.00% response rate. Of those responding, 53 reported incomes above and 70 reported incomes below the Bayfield County averages. This equates to a 52.15% below average income rate. The 123 households responding had a total of 229 residents with an ethnic/racial mix of 213 White; 2 American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2 Hispanic;

1 Other Multi-Racial; and 10 preferring not to answer. (The completed survey documents will be held in the strictest privacy pending a DOC request to review them.)

The initial response was less than the desired 80% response rate. The committee made follow up calls, sent letters and emails to the Non-respondents. In several cases in a follow up phone call, the respondent gave a verbal response which was recorded after the fact on a survey response form. This was the respondents choice to have their response identified with their name but once recorded, anonymity was restored.

The 2010 Census sampling of income levels indicated that the Town of Bell was significantly wealthier than was most likely. Because we are a small and tight knit community, it was believed that the true nature of our income levels was misrepresented. Thus the Income Survey was conducted. Although not overwhelming so, it is clear that the residents of the Town of Bell do not meet Bayfield county average income levels.

The results of the survey will be submitted to the Dept. of Administration.

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4. Rescind old Transient Vendor Ordinance- Decision

M. Lazorik made a motion to rescind the old Transient Vendor Ordinance 2012-4 and M. O'Bryon 2nd the Motion. Unanimous decision. Passed.

5. Auction of Town dump truck-Decision

The current bid for the dump truck being auctioned is \$20,250.00. M. Lazorik made a motion to set a reserve amount for the bid at \$40,000.00 and V. Lewis Hay 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Passed.

6. Campground Ordinance – Discussion and possible decision

M. O'Bryon read the new updated Campground Ordinance. M. O'Bryon made a motion to adopt the 2017-2 Campground Ordinance and Y. Fleming 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Passed.

New Business:

1. Roman Point Road Right of Way Clearing – Discussion and possible decision

The town crew has done work on the right of ways on Roman's Point to remove roadside obstructions to improve visibility . They used a brush boar and upset a lot of people.

Dave Paulson claimed he spoke on behalf the property owners on Roman's Point. He said not all right of ways on Roman's Point are sixty six feet. He asked that the town maximize esthetics and do a minimalized approach. It is important for the town to be in conversion with the community affected.

2. Use of Robert's Rules at Board Meeting

Y. Fleming made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules for the Town of Bell Board parliamentary procedures effective as of the Oct. 17th board meeting. J. Olson 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Approved.

3. Liquor License Renewal Approvals–Ehlers Store, Star North, The Good Earth Outfitter, O'Bryon's Village Inn and Little Niki's

Liquor license renewal applications were received from Ehlers Store, Star North, The Good Earth Outfitter, O'Bryon's Village Inn and Little Niki's. There have been no changes to their applications. All of the establishments have paid their personal property taxes. There was one hold from a distributor, but they did release it. The approvals would be pending the legal notice running in the Daily Press. Y. Fleming made a motion to approve the licenses and M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Passed.

4. Siskiwit River Project - request for a zoning hearing

More facts are needed. A special town board meeting is set for Tues., June20th to gather more information and continue discussion.

5. Long term and short term parking at the marina – Discussion and possible decision

This was discussed at the last Marina committee meeting. It is not a problem at this point. No action is necessary.

6.. Mike Wright Class A permit request- Discussion and Decision

Mike Wright is moving to Washburn. He would like to do short term rentals. The Planning Commission sent him the criteria for the Town of Bell and Bayfield County. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application to the county. J. Olson made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the county and M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Approved.

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Committee/Project Reports:

Fire Department/Ambulance- No runs for the fire department or ambulance

Roads- Gravel is being delivered. Calcium Chloride is being spread. The marina project is done. Mowing will be done before July 4th.

Planning Commission- Discussions are continuing with the Halvorson proposal on Superior Ave.. An alley right of way does not exist. Halvorson's will have to do the research to verify this. The Planning Commission will keep it on their agenda to keep it open. Greg Weiss approached the Planning Commission about having employee housing with cabins or sheds on their property. The Planning Commission does not have any foreseeable objection, unless they do not meet the county's building code. They will be meeting with the Wis. Dept. of Transportation about reducing the speed limit on Highway 13 through town. They are also looking into eliminating jake braking by semis approaching town.

Marina- The marina project was only \$1000.00 over the estimated cost of \$177,000.00. There is not a boardwalk along the north side of the inner slip. The committee would like to have a boardwalk there. A boardwalk will be put there. Discussion was held about having outside outfitters accessing the water via town land having a town permit or pay a fee.

Parks and Lands/Green Shed- They have been painting and staining picnic tables. The Green Shed is now open.

Community Center-Continuing maintenance and up keep of the building.

Notices/Library- There will be a book sale on July 2nd. There will be a table at Corny Day. Yvette Fleming is retiring as the president of the Library Board. They are looking to fill the vacancy.

Recycling Center-Everything is going well.

Airport- None

Cornucopia Business Association-Kathleen Russell is looking into a room tax. They are looking into the speed limit issue. The Spring Fling was a big success.

Scenic Byways Committee – None

Bills were paid. At 9:55 p.m. V. Lewis Hay made a motion to adjourn the meeting and J. Olson 2nd the motion. Approved.

Respectfully submitted

MaryBeth Tillmans - Clerk