

TOWN OF EMPIRE

Monthly Meeting

August 9, 2023

Chair James Pierquet called the monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Empire to order at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at the Empire town hall. Notice and agenda of this meeting was sent to the Town's official newspaper, the Reporter, and a copy is on file with the Town Clerk.

Present at the meeting were James Pierquet, Chair, Richard Julka and Ted Halbur, Supervisors, Mike Morgan, Town Clerk, Gail Schindelholz, Treasurer, Peter Becker, Permit Issuer, Tom Schindelholz, Trish Schnettler, Mary Costello, Brian Sarauer, Denise Theel, and other residents.

Chair Pierquet called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion by Julka, seconded by Halbur, the minutes of the July 2023 monthly meeting were approved.

The first order of business was Todd Donovan W4322 4th St. Rd. presented to the board his plans to build a storage shed on his property. Donovan stated that the structure will be 32'X54' with 12' side walls. Donovan wanted to present his plans to the board because the location wasn't typical. Chair Pierquet stated that Donovan was clear to go ahead with his project.

Next order of business is reviewing the Certified Survey 2023-43 for Michael Baumhardt Parcels T08-15-18-08-09-011-00 & T08-15-18-17-05-012-00. Duane Hitsman representing J E & Associates Inc. had asked to be added to the August Agenda to discuss and answer any questions associated to this survey. Mr. Hitsman was not present, so the board had decided to wait until the end of the meeting in case he had the time wrong.

Next order of business is to review and update the cement crushing site located at W4370 Hwy. 23. We had a letter sent to Jason Guelig from the town's attorney. Supervisor Halbur stated that he had driven past the site and did not see the crusher in place. Clerk Schnettler stated that he had driven past the previous week and the crusher was present, not operating, and there was a crew working on the crusher. Both Halbur and Schnettler stated that still was material present to be crushed. Chair Pierquet stated that Town will keep an eye on the site and act if needed.

Next order of business is to review the update Utilities Permit form. Clerk Schnettler explained the changes made from the original Fond du Lac Conty example. First making it a Town of Empire Document and second providing space for additional contacts. Chairman Pierquet stated that the permit fee would be \$125.00. Supervisor Julka made a motion to approve the new permit form and the \$125.00 permit fee. Supervisor Halbur seconded all were in favor, motion passed.

Next order of business is to review update the process of utilizing Cedar Corporation for our next Comprehensive plan. Clerk Schnettler stated that at the last meeting the board was undecided if they were going to use the survey option. Surveys have been done in the past and results were similar from survey to survey. Deputy Clerk Morgan stated that he had received a letter outlining the deadlines and the extension request. Deputy Clerk Morgan stated that he would forward the email he received to Ken Jaworski at Cedar Corporation. Chair Pierquet stated that due to the time factor that we would rely on the public meetings as opposed to the surveys.

Chair Pierquet stated that he had received notice that there is approximately 2.5 acres on Cty. Hwy K south of Rienzi Road available from the Wisconsin DOT. Chair Pierquet received a call from Margret Hack that she would like to build a new house on her 26 acres with 6 acres being residential. Clerk Schnettler will research the land with Fond du Lac County to verify the zoning and acreage.

Supervisor Julka asked now that the salt shed has been completed who is going to do the approach. Chair Pierquet stated that we would have our Road Superintendent create a temporary approach with gravel and put asphalt in next year.

Supervisor Halbur had nothing to state.

Permit Issuer Becker had nothing to state.

Clerk Schnettler has two additional members for the Planning Commission Steven Loehr and Graham Goebel This will make the commission membership at 7. Chair Pierquet advised that we prepare appointment papers. Clerk Schnettler brought up the discussions that he has been having Deputy Clerk Morgan and the attorney for the owner of W4478 4th St. Rd. and the 20 acres to the south. An individual would like to build on the top of the 20 acres but there are two hurdles; one being the grade of the driveway, it is currently too steep, and the second is the location of the building site may or may not for into the hilltop ordinance. Morgan and Schnettler looked at the building layout two days prior and decide that either the Town Chair and/or members of the board would need to go to the building site. Clerk Schnettler informed the Board that he had emailed the county an updated keyholder form. Clerk Schnettler informed the Board that a couple had reached out and is planning a wedding next summer and wanted to know how late that could go before it would be a noise ordinance. It is a private party held at Ledgerrock Distillery. Chair Pierquet advised no later than 11:00pm. Supervisor Julka advised that it would not be a bad idea to inform the sheriff's department of the wedding incase there would be any complaints. Have received inquiries from neighboring property owners of the bar located at N5490 US Hwy 45. An unnamed member voiced concern about the possible reopening. Objecting to the possible reopening of the bar. Chair Pierquet stated that you can't deny a liquor license on here say. Nobody has applied for a license and if they did there would be an annual review of the license. If their operation was deemed unsafe for the Township, then the license renewal would be denied.

Chair Pierquet opened the meeting to public comment. Mary Costello from Mary Hill Park wanted to bring up a couple of concerns. The first is an Airbnb operating in Mary Hill Park. The property has been a source of many police reports over the years and the property is delinquent for two quarters in paying their water bill. Chair Pierquet said that wouldn't be enough to refuse their reapplication for their license but advised that they are sent a copy of the Short-Term Rental ordinance. Mary Costello had an additional concern, protecting the new road from erosion caused by the recent rains. There are some deep ruts leading up to the road and some of the asphalt has begun to erode, according to Brian Sarauer. Mary and Brian had photographs. Dennis Theel is looking for a variance change. He has forms for the garage are too close to his house. They are closer than 5 feet. Permit Issuer Becker confirmed this. Clerk Schnettler advised that Mr. Theel draw up a dimensional drawing and present it to the clerk and the clerk will arrange a meeting with the Board of Appeals.

Nobody was in attendance to discuss the certified survey Board waited until 8:35pm. The Board could not approve the survey because they have questions and there was not a representative present. Supervisor Julka made the motion to table the certified survey until a representative was able to attend a board meeting. Supervisor Halbur seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Bills were approved and paid.

On a motion by Julka, seconded by Halbur, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Scott Schnettler
Town Clerk

These minutes were taken at a meeting of the Town of Empire Board held on August 9, 2023, and entered in this record book this XXX day of August 2023.

Scott Schnettler
Town Clerk