

Town of Albany Minutes

December 12, 2023

The Town Board met at the Albertson Memorial Library with Abel Schultz, Doug Lawrence, Scott Roth, Grace Spangler, and Shannon Sheflin present. Melissa Everson, Ron Krupke, Susie & Andy Knauf, Rick Mahnke, Joe Eisch, were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was shared. Proof of posting was verified in four places and on the website.

Approval of meeting minutes: A motion was made by Abel Schultz and seconded by Doug Lawrence to approve the November Town Board Meeting and November Budget Planning Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported:

\$109,225.61 in Checking Account

\$92,317.04 in Savings Account

\$66,908.24 in the Building Account

\$9,386.55 in the Reassessment Fund

\$68,419.47 in the Machinery Account

\$112,846.53 in the ARPA Account.

Grace Spangler mentioned that credit cards are approved so she can move forward with getting cards for township. Scott Roth made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Abel Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk's report: Shannon Sheflin gave her verbal notice to vacate her role as the Clerk for the Township of Albany, she stated that although she loved the work of serving the community albeit challenging, the pay for the work required was not sufficient to support her and her son. This position if not appointed with a change in pay is better for someone that is retired and not someone who needs the funds to live. She stated that she had brought up her concerns since the October meeting, and since the board didn't choose to appoint her, that she would finish out the Town Hall Remodel, Taxes, Budget and everything she was involved in then turn it over to the board, but the next top priority is the Elections. Shannon stated that she had informed Ari and Sherri at Green County of her concerns and she shared with the board what Green County had said in response.

Public Input: Susie & Andy Knauf read a statement as well as expressed their frustration with the assessment process, the assessor, the value and criteria for coming up with the value of their property, lack of good high speed internet, road quality and the tardiness of the tax bills, Shannon Sheflin read a letter sent by Dennis Nussbaum expressing his concerns about the assessor, the assessors process, criteria assessors used, transparency, and timing between open book and the board of review. Richard asked what the Transportation Aid was, what has it gone up per year and how much we get per mile for road maintenance. Joe Eisch asked who the Township Board ultimately reports to, where do we get the information we need to operate as a board, and asked if the \$38,000 in the budget pays salaries for all officers on the board.

Library: Melissa Everson gave the Director report. Snack with Santa had 111 kids attend, was very successful, had 16 highschool volunteers, 4 adult volunteers, and 9 community members donated treats. They started the Adult writing club, and had their first meeting with 4 people in attendance. All numbers for the library are up except circulation. Circulation is down about 150 units. A lot of programs will be coming up over the winter. The January 22nd event in honor of Cateherine Blakemore is coming up, the Library is sponsoring a Wisconsin author, and everyone will go home with a free book sponsored by the Library.

Website: Shannon Sheflin provided Jody Sterr the Building Permit pricing sheet from Brian Flannery. Website does have the handbook for Board of Review and Open Book listed for public viewing.

Planning Commission: Letter went out in the tax bills expressing the need for members, Planning Commission is down a few members. The commission oversees land splits.

Roads and Driveway Permits: Nothing to report.

Zoning: There is a public hearing for Martin Buildings on Atkinson Road.

Building Inspector: Nothing to report. Put on agenda next month to discuss paying Brian Flannery as a contractor instead of as an employee. Grace Spangler will provide information about Ryan Lindsey at the next meeting.

Assessor: We have a contract from Bruce Gardiner to be the Assessor for 2024, need to review the contract and completely know and understand what is expected from the Assessor. Shannon Sheflin has done research on other Assessors and what has been discovered is that most likely the reason many municipalities had used Gardiner for so long is because they are the cheaper option of all assessors, and when municipalities are trying to keep costs down, there is a cost to that which equals poor quality, poor communication, poor output. So we can switch to a better communicator that will provide better quality, will return calls, be timely and friendly with better output, but that comes at a cost which is two if not three times the amount we are currently paying. Shannon Sheflin asked for a sample contract and quotes from two other assessors that were recommended, one of which the Village uses, and will give that information to the board.

Fire Department: Nothing to report.

EMS: Will not meet until January.

Payment of Bills: A motion was made by Doug Lawrence and seconded by Abel Schultz to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Shop/Equipment: Abel Schultz received a quote from Hutchinson Door. Abel asked Ron Krupke to call Hutchinson and introduce himself. Scott Roth made a motion to move forward with the bid from Hutchinson Door to not exceed \$1500 to replace the bad door seals in the shop. Abel Schultz seconded that motion, motion carried 3-0.

Ron Krupke said General Communication is coming December 26th to instal antenna on the new work truck.

ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act): Town Hall renovations are moving along, the building should be complete by the last week in December and can move items back into the building January 1st. To be safe, Shannon Sheflin scheduled the January meeting to be at the Library just in case more time is needed to get the building back in order. Abel Schultz will order the Election Booths.

Appoint Election Officials- Shannon Sheflin presented the list of Election workers for 2024, Abel Schultz made a motion to approve the Township Electors, Scott Roth seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. We will still take interested parties in helping be poll workers for the 2024 Election year.

Levy: Shannon Sheflin shared the Levy Worksheet stating that our current Levy is \$301,964.00, we have the option to increase the Levy by \$33 from what was unused last year. Abel Schultz presented the increase to the Levy or keeping the Levy the same to the town electors. Abel Schultz made a motion to keep the Levy at

\$301,964.00, Scott Roth seconded that motion, all in attendance voted aye, there were no nays. Motion carried 12-0.

Budget Review: Budget Public Hearing will be December 28th at 10am at the Library.

Set Next Meeting: The next regular meetings are set for Tuesday, January 9 and February 13, 2024. January 9th at the Library, February 13th will be back at the Town Hall Building.

A motion was made by Abel Schultz and seconded by Doug Lawrence to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

Shannon Sheflin-Clerk, Town of Albany