

Town of Eileen

Bayfield County * 29130 State Hwy 137 * Ashland, WI 54806

townofeileen.com

Chairperson – Terry Torkko (715) 682-0682

Supervisor – George Setzke (715) 682-5767

Supervisor – Tony Johanik (715) 746-2507

Treasurer – Carol Pufall (715) 682-9168

Clerk – Jena Barsch (715) 746-2104

January 14, 2014

Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm @ Town of Eileen Garage

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Terry Torkko, Chairperson. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Board Members Present:

Terry Torkko, Chairperson

George Setzke, Supervisor

Tony Johanik, Supervisor

Carol Pufall, Treasurer

Jena Barsch, Clerk

Opened floor for public comment; there was one resident who wished to address the town board under section 9.

Review of minutes from December 10, 2013 meeting and December 17, 2013 special meeting. Motion to accept minutes as read by Tony Johanik, seconded by George Setzke. Motion passed.

Carol Pufall, Treasurer, reported the checking account balance is \$333,507.08 and the savings account balance is \$5,925.60. Approximately 23% of taxes have been collected so far (\$302,551.60). Driveway snowplowing has brought in \$8,350.00. Motion to approve treasurer's report by George Setzke, seconded by Tony Johanik. Motion passed.

Terry Torkko, Chairperson, shared he was out of town over the holiday season. There were quite a few messages on his answering machine when he came home regarding snowplowing concerns. He passed the necessary messages on to Tony. Terry spoke with Tom Toepfer regarding the application of the TRIP funding. Tom said the funds transfer has been approved for the overlay project on Colby Road.

Terry also shared that his dad, Ed Torkko, passed away this last week. Terry expressed his thankfulness for supportive, caring people in this area during this difficult time. Ed Torkko had a saying, "Success only comes before work in the dictionary." Good words to remember.

Jena Barsch, Clerk, shared she has been working on W2 and other tax worksheets with guidance from Donna Anderson.

Randy Herrin, Road Superintendent, reported that all roads have been winged back by the grader. He has had some trouble getting the sand/salt mixture to stick to the icy spots on the roads during the extreme cold these past few weeks. So far 125 yards of sand/salt has been used and Randy has ordered another 200 yards. Currently, the equipment is running well; only have had a few minor repairs.

- **Snow wing out policy** – Historically the town has offered this service to non-contract driveway residents per resident request. Discussion among the board if this service should continue. There are concerns of liability issues and how to charge residents. Discussion of possible trial and error for the service this winter. Motion by Terry Torkko not to establish a wing out service policy for residents (those already in contract for driveways snowplowing are not included) seconded by George Setzke. Tony Johanik opposed, motion passed.
- **Mailbox damages** – This winter there have been some damages to resident mailboxes. The Town has an ordinance stating the placement of a metal mailbox to be a minimum distance of 24 inches from the edge of the road and minimum height of 46 inches from surface of the road to the bottom of the mailbox. Board agrees that the Town is not responsible for damaged mailboxes that do not meet ordinance requirements. A resident has requested a replacement/reimbursement of their plastic mailbox. Motion by Terry Torkko to deny reimbursement or replacement of the mailbox, seconded by George Setzke. Motion passed.

Equipment: Supervisor Tony Johanik shared the non-urgent repairs have been put on hold over the holiday season due to snow storms and Tony being ill. He will get back to work soon and will be doing the repairs to the equipment.

Town Grounds: Supervisor George Setzke, shared that the weather stripping for the floor has been purchased. He wasn't sure if it was the correct product as he was told it was a self-adhesive strip, but there are tubes of glue in the box. Carlson's confirmed it should have been a self-adhesive product and George is still working with them to get the correct materials.

Recently Randy informed George of a propane smell in the garage. George called Ferrell Gas (new service provider for the propane) and they came out and did a leak check. The technician said there was no leak, but that the tank was very low which could explain the smell. They ordered a propane fill as soon as possible. George spoke with Ferrell Gas regarding the question of automatic fills (as they always have been in the past) and their system had the Town under 'will call when need fill' basis. George had Ferrell Gas change it to the 'keep full' basis. Discussion of the current bill the Town received. Motion by Terry Torkko to deny the same day service fee to Ferrell Gas of \$150.00, seconded by George Setzke. Motion passed. Terry advised Jena to call Ferrell Gas and discuss issues with them.

Old Business:

- **Gingles agreement** – Terry has written a Letter of Understanding for the Towns of Eileen and Gingles regarding the Ashland Bayfield County Line Road division. This letter has been sent to the Town of Gingles and Terry is still waiting for a response from the Gingles Board.
- **New employees-** The Board has hired Tim Balde, Robert Klein and Kevin Leino for the positions of part time intermittent snow plowing drivers. Tim Balde has been training with Randy and has already been out plowing driveways.
 - **CDL** – Discussion among the board of possibly reimbursing the new town employees of the costs for getting their Commercial Driver's License. The cost is \$85.00 per road test and \$35.00 per written test (non-refundable.) Motion by Terry Torkko to request the part time intermittent employees to obtain their CDL with the Town reimbursing each employee for the cost of one driving test and one written test, seconded by George Setzke. Tony Johanik opposed. Motion passed.

- **Closed Session** – Motion by Tony Johanik to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statue 19.85 (1) (g) *“Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved,”* seconded by George Setzke. Motion passed.

Open Session – Motion to enter into Open Session by George Setzke, seconded by Tony Johanik. Motion passed. Terry shared there is a resident with unpaid personal property taxes. The total judgment and costs owed are \$4,509.68. The Town of Eileen has placed a lien against the house which fulfills the fiduciary responsibility of the town board to its residents. Discussion among the board if further action should be taken to pursue payment. Motion by Tony Johanik to pursue payment by garnishing wages at the maximum amount, seconded by George Setzke. Terry Torkko opposed. Motion passed. Terry will contact the Town attorney and inform him of the decision.

New Business:

- **Comprehensive Planning Team** – Bayfield County will not be renewing their contract with the AERC. So the question is: What is next for the utilization of the Ag Station? George shared he has spoken with Joanne Wagner, the Comprehensive Planning Team Chair, and the team agrees that they don’t have any power to make changes, but they can offer suggestions and pass information on to the county regarding future Ag Station ideas.

Public input – Esther Argenbright shared her plowing concerns

Motion to approve and pay bills (vouchers 8282-8326) by George Setzke, seconded by Tony Johanik. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting by George Setzke, seconded by Tony Johanik. Motion passed.

Minutes prepared by Jena Barsch, Clerk