

Regular Town Board Meeting
MINUTES
Town of Armstrong Creek
Armstrong Creek, WI 54103
March 15, 2021

Chairperson Barbara Barker called to order the Regular Monthly Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on March 15, 2021.

Present

Chairperson Barbara Barker, Supervisor Don Chitko, Supervisor Bonnie Pycrz, Clerk/Treasurer Chris Frydrych were all in attendance.

1) **Approval of Agenda**

- Chairperson Barker asked for a motion to approve the March 15, 2021 agenda. Bonnie Pycrz made that motion and Don Chitko seconded. Motion was carried.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

- Don Chitko made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2021 Regular Town Board Meeting and Bonnie Pycrz seconded that motion. Minutes were approved.

3) **Citizens Input**

- David Kowalkowski spoke to the Board about his future plans to expand his business and asked how he could work with the Board to come up with solutions to the problems he has regarding the current road restrictions that exist and how that would affect those expansion plans. He expects that delivering his product and receiving raw materials with this expansion would not be possible with the limits that are now in effect—there would not be enough hours needed during the suggested hours. The current restrictions limit his use of the road to after dark and when temperatures are below freezing.
- Other items Dave mentioned and is considering is that he could run a pump line under Fatla Road, and also asked whether the Board would help him get his product reclassified like milk delivery, which might help the situation. He suggested to the Board that research be done to find out what roads can handle what kind of weight, types of vehicles, and other conditions, etc. and what other towns do in similar situations.
- Other suggestions by the board and the electors were whether there are grants or other monies available which could help with upgrading Wall road and who could do the research necessary. James gave his findings on the cost comparison between what a Class A road and lesser class roads would cost to do. He also reported that he was told there are no funds available from the Forest Service this year to help with our costs on Wall Road.
- Discussion on how much we as a town would need to spend to prep Wall Road for future improvements, how tourism and business on Wall Road influence what money is available to us, and whether the money spent to prepare Wall Road now would carry into the future when the Forest Service does have funds available. Questions as to why not allow any usage of Wall Road, considering the fact that it does need serious repairs was asked, to which it was reported that there are still good parts on Wall Road that need to be preserved. All these things will be researched and that information used to make decisions on what can be done to upgrade Wall Road to make it suitable for use by both Dave Kowalkowski and all others looking to use Wall Road. Barbara Barker will work with the WTA to reclassify Wall Road for sap to be considered the same as milk delivery. Dave has his permits for this year, so these findings will be used for future decisions.
- Bonnie reported she will take on the task of doing the work necessary to have Wall Road

upgraded to a Class A road. Wally Leja suggested contacting the local Economic Development Committee for help, which he will do at their next meeting.

- Questions regarding the status of the 2022 Armstrong Creek Centennial were asked and it was reported that the Citizens For Armstrong Creek have been contacted to possibly combine the event with the Polish Heritage Days. Future meetings will be scheduled to continue the planning.

4) Communications

- The North Central Planning Commission survey was brought up and Wally Leja encouraged everyone to complete the survey for the purpose of giving information to let the commission know what activities would be needed or wanted in the area. Bonnie made a motion to put the information on our website and on Facebook and Don seconded that motion. Chris will submit that.
- The Clerk reported that she received a request from WPS to inform them of any road projects we are planning for the future.
- The Clerk reminded the Board of the annual loan payment due on the Case Loader in April and reported that after this payment we will have an approximate \$20,000 balance left on that loan.
- Clerk asked whether we will continue with Guardian Pest Control and forego the services of Clean Kill which was used for pest control in the past. It was agreed we will stay with Guardian Pest Control.
- Chair Barker asked for the Board's approval to sign and accept the Forest Cooperative Agreement which was agreed to by all.

5) Treasurer's Report

- Chris Frydrych gave the treasurer's report. It was reported that February receipts were \$508.41 and February disbursements were \$366,762.67 leaving a balance in the General Fund of \$109,008.83. Don Chitko made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Bonnie Pycrz seconded that motion. Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

6) Profit & Loss Report

- Chris submitted the Profit and Loss Budget Report and gave an explanation suggesting each board member look it over at their leisure to better understand it, and also suggested it will make more sense when the tax collections and settlements have been cleared. Don had suggested at the February meeting that if there were any problems, an auditor might be hired to look over the books. The Treasurer reported that she is confident that she can do the report, and can ask the accountant for assistance if necessary. The Board agreed to that.

7) Applying For Town Credit Card

- The Board members agreed that a credit card should be obtained for town use. Don Chitko requested that the statement for that account be available to the board members every month. Barbara will contact the Laona State Bank regarding the card and look into which card to get. Bonnie made the motion that the town apply for a credit card and Don seconded that motion. Motion was carried.

8) Property Purchase

- Regarding the property in question near Hilbert Lake which is of interest to Robert Laurence, at the February meeting Don Chitko suggested a description of the property be posted in April to request bids, and the issue be further discussed at the June meeting and a decision made then. Chris Frydrych brought property tax bills to determine which property we were looking to sell. James will look further into what the posting should read and also reminded the Board to include in the sale agreement that we would retain the right of way. James will work on the wording of the posting to be posted in April and discussed/decided upon at the May Town Board Meeting. (Upon further research it

was noted that approval for this sale will be requested at the annual meeting.)

9) AARP Grant

- Bonnie Pycrz reported that the AARP grant is again being offered this year. She applied last year but we were not selected. This year she will again apply for the same items requested last year, that being new windows for the Community Center and replacement of the concrete apron leading up to the front doors of the Center. After agreement and approval of the Board, Bonnie will apply for these same items.

10) Potawatomi Grant

- The Town Board has received notice that the Potawatomi Tribe will again be offering a \$10,000 grant to ten towns in Forest County. It was suggested that each board member bring ideas for what that money could be used. Suggestions such as water in the garage, improvements to the boat launch, and a new pump house, were discussed and along with other ideas will be brought up again at the April meeting for a final decision.

11) Raise for Dump Attendant

- Chairperson Barker asked whether the budget allowed for a raise for the dump attendant and after checking the budget it was determined the funds were available. Questions regarding other town employees were discussed and it was suggested the wage be raised from \$12 an hour to \$15 an hour. Don made a motion to that effect and Barb seconded that motion. The motion to raise the Dump Attendant wage to \$15 an hour was carried.

12) Applying for LRIP

- Discussion was held regarding the need to attend the LRIP meeting in order to be considered for any funds that were available. James will contact Bill Anderson as to when the meeting is, and two board members will try to attend.

13) 5-Year Road Plan

- James is continuing to work on revising and updating the 5-Year Road Plan. The next step is for the board to do a road assessment, and they will use that information for any revisions that have to be made based on their findings. Three of the roads being considered for work may be the grinding on Fatla Road, work on Cemetery Road, and a possible partnership with Goodman on North and South County Line roads. James reported that our 5-Year Plan is somewhat an outline and it can be changed. He will finalize the plan in the next few weeks.
- Don Chitko suggested some repainting be done on the Red Bridge but this might not be considered under the 5-Year Plan but is required to be done.

14) Revisions on Comprehensive Plan

- After some discussion it was decided that only a few small portions of the Comprehensive Plan need revising. Barbara Barker will work with Wally Leja to get this done.

15) Stanley Borzecki Road Update

- Because there are still questions regarding when and how the town of Engelking plays into what decision can be made with the Borzecki Road, more research will have to be done. Barbara Barker is working with Courtney at the Forest County Courthouse to follow up and will report again at next month's meeting.

16) Sam Pycrz Road

- James reported that all issues on this have been taken care of.

17) Pay March Vouchers

- Don made a motion and Bonnie seconded the motion to approve the March vouchers. Motion was carried.

Portfolio's Discussion/Action

a) Road and Equipment

- James Kowalkowski brought to the Board issues with flooding on Maruszczak's

driveway just off Highway 101. The town will put in a culvert there, with Stan Maruszczak agreeing to do the work free of charge with his equipment and James will assist him with the installation.

- James reported that after much headache and expense, the Oneida truck will soon be up and running. There were issues with “after market” parts being installed which resulted in more repairs and expense being needed. New versus used parts was discussed and it was agreed James would check on used parts. Bonnie motioned to finish the repairs at U.P. International and after James’s decision on new or used parts, we pay the balance from the General Fund. Don seconded that motion. The motion carried

b) Community Center

- Barbara reported that there have been inquiries about whether funerals can now be held in the Community Center, to which she reported they could.

c) Garbage

- Nothing to report regarding the dump.

d) Cemetery

- Nothing to report regarding the cemetery.

18) After discussion regarding required dates for the annual meeting, the Clerk not being able to attend on the required April 20th date for the annual meeting, Don Chitko questioning whether he could attend, and that the annual meeting must be set by an elector, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held immediately prior to the April Town Board Meeting which would take place on April 12, 2021. Carol Coffey made a motion to hold both meetings on April 12, 2021 starting at 6:00 p.m. James Kowalkowski seconded that motion. Motion carried.

NOTE: This decision was later reversed and the results will be posted.

Before adjourning Don Chitko reminded the Board that he and James would be ordering the new brush hog and mower in the near future. The funds were appropriated at our budget meeting. Makes, models, and prices were discussed. All agreed.

19) Motion to Adjourn made by Don Chitko seconded by Barbara Barker. Motion carried. Chairperson Barbara Barker adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by
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