

## **TOWN OF WELLS MINUTES FOR AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

The board for the Town of Wells held their monthly board meeting on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the town hall. Chairman Dennis Hemmersbach called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Supervisors Jeff Schmitz and Greg Schmitz were present as well as Treasurer Simon Wells and Clerk Diane Schwarz. There were 7 people present for the meeting. The minutes were reviewed for the Board of Review meeting held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Greg Schmitz made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Jeff Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes for the regular meeting immediately following the BOR were reviewed. Jeff Schmitz made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Greg Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes for the special meeting held on July 21<sup>st</sup> were reviewed concerning the hiring of a patrolman. Greg Schmitz made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Jeff Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Simon Wells gave the treasurer's report. Greg Schmitz made a motion to approve the report. Jeff Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The bills were reviewed for July-August 2023. There were questions about the Monroe County Highway Department expense. Dennis will check with the Highway Department to determine if it should be paid. The check will be held until further review. Greg Schmitz made a motion to pay the bills. Jeff Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was requested by the patrolman that an account would be set up at Lind's Hardware in Cashton. The chairman said that he would set up an account. Also, questions whether there is an account at a gas station in Sparta. It will be checked into.

At this time the chairman Dennis Hemmersbach called Dr. Gabriella Filippi. It had been requested by Dr. Filippi to have a conversation with the board concerning her properties of Deerfield Woods Estates and the upkeep of the town road along her properties which is Jargon Avenue. Dr. Filippi had stated that this road was constructed by her family and then had been gifted to the township for a benefit to the town in increased revenue with property taxes in exchange for the upkeep of the road by the township. She had indicated that she thought that there were some areas along Jargon Avenue that needed to be repaired. Records show that the last time that Jargon Avenue had been resurfaced was in the summer of 2014. The chairman had indicated that he knew that she was having logging done on her property that might affect the road. The board agreed with Dr. Filippi that there were some areas along a corner that needed repair and that it will be repaired this year by patching with cold patch material but after the loggers are done logging. The board also indicated that if the funds are there to accomplish the task, pending any natural disasters before that time, that Jargon Avenue will be considered for road maintenance in the summer of 2024.

The Monroe County WTA will be hosting a meeting at the Wilton American Legion on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There will be three people attending the meeting. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 there will be an ground breaking at the St Mary's Distillery for the Vernon Communications Coop for the initial part of the fiber optic construction process to begin. Their construction partner, White Construction, has begun drilling West of Highway 33 this week. Drilling is the first step in the process as it allows them to get their conduit and cable through tough terrain, soil, and under roadways without having to trench. Following drilling, they will begin to plow the mainline fiber through the road right-of-way with will likely start sometime in early to mid-September. Some of the board members have indicated that will attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

There was a Town of Wells Stream Crossing Survey done by the Monroe County Land Conservation Department. Some of the road-stream crossings in the Town of Wells over the Little La Crosse River were evaluated to see if there are barriers to aquatic life that inhibited to prevent fish movement upstream to potential spawning beds and diminish organic energy and matter thought the system. There were 12 sites that were evaluated and indicated that there are 3 areas that there are 3

areas that are recommended to be replaced at some point and 2 areas that should be closely monitored and the other sites will be assessed annually.

Monroe County has applied for a grant from the Federal Highway Administration's PROTECT (Protect Resilient Operation for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation) program to assess and plan infrastructure improvements in the Little La Crosse Watershed in Monroe County, Wisconsin. This required that townships along the Little La Crosse River would send information to the county concerning the damage along the town roads from the floods of 2017 and 2018. That information was sent to the county along with a letter to the Department of Transportation concerning the grant applied for by the clerk of the Town of Wells.

The Town of Wells has hired an energetic young man named Jestin Hemmersbach who we feel will be highly qualified and able to perform the duties of a patrolman. Welcome aboard Jestin. The Monroe County DOT will be doing random drug/alcohol testing for all the part-time patrolmen as well as the current full-time patrolman.

The chairman has been corresponding with Dynamic Concrete Resurfacing, LLC in regard to removing and replacing the flooring in the town hall. A bid has been given for the project of \$5,862.27. Questions were given whether this bid is for the completion of the project or if it is just for the installation of the flooring. The chairman will check into it and will schedule if possible.

Updates on roads and equipment were discussed. The patrolman has been mowing along the roadways and will start cutting back on the brush along the roadways soon. Tree-trimming was the topic of discussion and it was advised that Jestin and Luke Schmitz would coordinate and schedule when they could start doing this project together. Access to a wood-chipper was discussed. Availability would be the factor to determine where and when they could obtain one.\* New road signs and posts will have to be installed.\* Jestin indicated that a deer ran into the Ford truck before coming back to the townhall. The headlight was damaged and will be replaced. It was fortunate that there was no more damage done to the truck. The cost of the headlight is less than the deductible for insurance so it will not be claimed to the insurance company.\* A question was asked by the patrolman whether the oil had been changed on any of the vehicles. It will be checked into possible records by the previous patrolman if there is one. If not, Jestin will change the oil on the vehicles.\* Jestin asked if he could buy a weed-whacker with a blade for trimming. He will check into the cost.

The WTA District Budget meeting will be held in Eau Claire in September. There might be 3 that will attend from the Town of Wells.

The September meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Jeff Schmitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Schmitz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Diane Schwarz  
Clerk-Town of Wells