

Town of Cary Monthly Meeting, September 10, 2019 unapproved

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Cary Board was called to order at 7 p.m. at the Cary Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Patrick after the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Chairman Jim Patrick, Supervisors Dennis Brunner, Dale Zawislan, Treasurer Barb Schmidt, Clerk Patricia Lippert, Tim Ecker grader man & 8 taxpayers.

Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes, Dale seconded, motion passed.

Dennis made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Dale seconded, motion passed.

Public Input: Richard Fenske of 11250 Steffek Rd made the board aware of the reckless way some ATV riders have been driving on Steffek Road and others in the township. The main complaint was that they were driving 60-65 miles an hour. Others were children too young to be driving, 4 on 1 ATV and not wearing helmets. There were other citizens there who stated the same things and on different roads. Mr. Fenske felt some of the ATV operators were associated with land owners on Steffek Rd. Chairman said a letter would be sent to remind landowners to obey the laws of ATV travel on roads. The board also stated that if the abuse does not stop, Steffek Rd could be closed to ATV traffic. **As a reminder to all ATV drivers, the board has the option to close any or all roads in the town to ATV travel.**

Abe Theys, 10711 Hwy 73 commented on the charge for ambulance service. He felt the town pays a fee for service so why is there an additional charge. Chairman will contact provider for explanation.

Old Business: LP FS Insight called and offered LP at contract price of \$ 1.099. The township will take this price and pay as they go.

Tree debris: Policy change Effective October 1, 2019 in regard to removal of trees and brush from road ditch, as stated in State Statutes 86.03. All landowners are responsible for debris removal. The policy was signed by the Town Board. This policy change will be published on the town website. When landowners are notified that there is tree debris in the ditch, they will have 30 days to remove it. Debris remaining after 30 days will be removed by the town and actual cost will be billed to the landowner.

Insurance coverage from the town covers anyone paid as a town employee.

Grass Cutting: A discussion regarding continuing cost of the roadside grass cutting and questioning if it would be less expensive for the town to buy a tractor and mower to do the mowing. Discussion was held in regard to a local vendor doing it. The fall cutting will be done in 2-3 weeks.

In regard to tax collection: The board signed a policy change for tax collection. All taxes beginning December 1, 2019, will be paid by mail using money orders, personal or cashier checks. The treasurer will no longer have hours posted when she will be collecting taxes. A notice of this change will be included in the tax mailing. The township will continue the bond on the treasurer for collecting the taxes.

The chairman explained the changes on clerk and treasurer bookkeeping. We are using Excel spreadsheets and the board is able to review checks written and funds still available on the printouts the clerk and treasurer provide for the monthly meeting.

Laser level: The town is planning to purchase a laser level for ditch work. A resident offered to sell one of his to the town for \$401. Tim will pick it up and evaluate it.

Job Description for equipment maintenance Chairman wrote a new job description for equipment operator and the board will review.

Step and ramp work includes adding dirt lift on east and west walls to accommodate improved drainage, then stone will be placed under the eaves, the ramp will be moved to the front of the town hall.

Garbage Collection Cost of landfill went up. The residents will see an increase on their bills of 20 cents per month.

Equipment: Loader repair of 2 pins and seal on ram. Cost \$600, no labor or trucking was charged. Additional pin being replace, no charge. New glass is now installed. Bill for insurance pending parts were returned etc. exchanged, now waiting for final bill for insurance company.

Roads: Gravel applications are now completed. Roads worked on were Yetter, Turner, south Johnson, Lindsey, Eagle, Amelia and Progress. The board will begin to develop a 5-year road plan including roads to be graveled and care of blacktop.

Food for thought. We may find a revenue shortfall based on allowable levy as the town is not experiencing much new construction. We may need to ask for permission to raise taxes at the budget hearing to continue improving/repairing roads. The purchase of a replacement for the Cruz Aire has depleted our equipment fund. We are currently hiring out our grass cutting. Residents have asked if we have considered purchasing a tractor and mower unit, as they felt it would be a better long-term solution. In addition, our grader is 21 years old. A 21 year old machine has a likelihood of increased costs for repairs and the possibility of not getting needed parts. Our grader is currently working well, however, that does not mean it will always continue to do so. Is the board asking to purchase a new grader? No, but it is time to plan for replacement.

Fall Road Inspection will be done October 2 starting at the town hall at 8 a.m.

New Business: New time sheets were developed for the board. Changes in recording and submission were discussed. Dennis asked if the board wanted the town hall sprayed for bugs this fall. The board approved a fall spray. It was suggested that a sign-in slip be used at all meetings.

Someone wanted to know if the town could get a credit card. After a discussion, it was decided that it was not a good practice to have one.

Dale asked permission to attend the WI Towns Association meeting October 13-15 in the Dells. Jim will attend Monday October 14.

Wood County has been approved for FEMA Aid for the storm damage of July this year. Meeting will be September 11, with mandatory presence to determine if our expenses qualify for federal aid. Chairman will attend the meeting.

There is disparity between the State valuation of the town and how our assessor values property in the town. State uses a 1.5 percent raise for each year. The assessor uses comparable sales of property in Cary, Rock and Hiles, towns to arrive at a fair valuation. The assessor said some of that may change after the re-evaluation is done by him this year.

Dennis made a motion to pay bills. Dale seconded, motion passed. Checks # 9281 to 9299 were written out for the amount of \$75,128.00.

Dennis made a motion to adjourn, Dale seconded, motion passed.

Next meeting will be October 8, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Meeting to work on budget will be October 10, 2019 at 7 p.m. This will be a working meeting to develop the budget for 2020, there will be no town business discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. Patricia Lippert, Clerk