

Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting held on Thursday, February 17, 2022

The Town of Newbold Town Board, met on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., for a Special Town Board Meeting at the Newbold Fire Department, 4588 Hwy 47, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, Oneida County, Wisconsin.

The following were in attendance: Chairman, Dave Kroll; Supervisors, Mike Suefloh, Mike McKenzie, Jim Staskiewicz, Dan Hess; Kim Gauthier, Clerk and Treasurer, Jodie Hess. Chairman Kroll called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and verified the agenda was properly noticed to the public.

Also present were six citizen members, Public Works Director and Keller, Inc., Devin Flanigan.

Discussion and action on possible fire truck purchase and auction bid.

Fire Chief Fetzer presented information regarding the fire department members request to bid on a 2007 C. Graves, demo pumper truck on WI Surplus auction site. The fire truck was inspected by Chief Fetzer at King Veteran Home. If purchased, the town would sell the 1998 current fire truck with over 25K miles. A new fire truck is estimated at over \$400,000. The bidding amount requested by Chief Fetzer ranges from \$76K to \$82K. *Motion by Mr. Hess and Mr. Staskiewicz to approve the purchase /bid of the proposed fire truck on the auction site, not to exceed \$85,000. That motion carried on a voice vote of all aye.*

Discussion and action on town hall project including discussion with Keller, Inc.

Discuss and presentation by Devin Flanigan, Keller Inc. on proposed town hall building at 5,100 square feet, 135 plus capacity meeting room with town official offices, conference room, single story building with main level record storage, voting equipment storage, warming kitchen, bathroom facilities, janitor room, mechanical room and furniture storage on the existing town hall slab.

The proposal includes demolition and filling of the existing basement due to mold throughout the existing building. Proposal is estimated at \$1.4 to \$1.5 million. Board discussion on location of bathrooms, access to hallway from meeting room, green space access, conference room location and reducing the mechanical room to accommodate hallway access.

Discussion on previous financial discussion at the Feb. 10th board meeting. Board discussion on obtaining town legal opinion on process, possible referendum/elector approval if needed, closure of the existing hall due to mold that would need remediation, next steps, space needs and heating systems.

Public Comment and Communication Period per Wisconsin Statutes whereby the Town Board may receive input on any matter raised by the public.

Brad White commented on the estimated costs, interest rates increasing and the need to move forward with the reasonable proposal.

Mark Fetzer questioned if the proposed meeting space was needed. Questioned if the town could borrow before the project would commence while interest rates are lower than the consumer price index.

Dorothy Skye commented the proposal is conservative, elections can happen, there is adequate public meeting space, adequate office space and the board should move forward.

Jim Winkler commented on board considering hydronic, in-floor heating as an investment into future energy savings.

Dennis Drescher commented the proposal as a very good common sense approach and asked that the board consider more community education on the needs and proposal, as he believes the citizens do not know what is happening.

Appreciation expressed on the board's prudence and openness on the project.

The Clerk proposed a press release on the matter since the closing of the existing town hall also requires a change in the voting location.

The Chairman requested a legal opinion from the town attorney regarding any special meeting of electors and possible use of town American Recovery Plan grant funds. Chairman Kroll will contact the town's attorney and schedule a special meeting with the board possibly Feb. 24th at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular meeting

Administrative Review and Action if necessary, concerning general government, public safety, recycling, sanitation, culture, education, job assignments, project updates, transportation, budget items, fund transfers, and future agenda items. *None*

Adjourned at 7:27 p.m., with no objection.

Respectfully submitted by
Kim Gauthier, Newbold Town Clerk