

The Town of Ellsworth Plan Commission and Town Board met on Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted June 15th at the town hall, Kenny's Lawton Bar, and website. Present were, Plan Commission members: Kit Feuerhelm, Gary Nelson, Gordon Borner Adam Johnson and John Huber and Town Board members Roger Billeter, Brad Ristow, Gordon Borner, and Phyllis Beastrom. Also present were Don Jakes, Tim Lorenz and George Grajkowski.

JULY 17, 2023
PLAN
COMMISSION
& TOWN
BOARD

Town Chair Roger Billeter called the meeting to order.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Billeter asked about the future of the current town shop – keep or sell?. Supervisor Ristow stated in his opinion it's too costly to heat so we sell it or remove it and build a cold storage building at the new location.

DISCUSSION

OLD SHOP

Another comment - if the old shop does not sell, we should utilize it.

Kit Feuerhelm stated we seem to have two options: 1 – consider the complete town hall and shop project, or 2 – a stripped down project.

The members discussed why the project failed in May 2022:

- The board didn't talk about it in advance with the town residents
- The timing was not right – we had just completed a revaluation and the taxes were high – but taxes went down the next year
- Those who spoke against spoke a lot
- Those who were in favor did not promote it
- The project was not explained or defined well enough – it was only a concept design not actual architectural design – there were no blue prints and construction was not ready to begin
- The board needs to communicate with town residents and have informational meetings and explain that the statutes require the town residents to approve a building project but construction could still be a year or two away.

WHY VOTE
FAILED

What was the cost difference between a 2 bay shop and a 3 bay shop in 2022: \$290,000.

MORE
DISCUSSION

Town Maintenance Don Jakes stated Martell constructed a Cleary Building for \$400,000 but now realize they should have made the depth 56 feet.

Are there any other tax impacts in the future? Possibly a school referendum for building maintenance and a judicial center.

The land on the south side of the 490th Avenue will eventually need to be rezoned commercial. It's currently industrial and general rural flex.

REZONE
PROPERTY

Group decided to visit the Town of El Paso and Town of Hartland buildings and the Martell Shop. Don Jakes will set up meeting times.

VISIT
BUILDINGS

Set August 28th at 6:30 p.m. for the next meeting. Clerk will have tax impact on \$100,000 valuation for 1.5 million, 2 million, and 1.75 million loans.

NEXT
MEETING

MSC to adjourn.
(Motion by Kit Feuerhelm, seconded by Adam Johnson)
Phyllis Beastrom, Recorder

ADJOURN