

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted December 22, 2023 at the town hall, website, Kenny's Lawton Bar and published in the January 3, 2024 issue of the Pierce County Journal. All Town Board members (Chair Billeter, Supervisors Ristow and Borner, Treasurer Hines, Clerk Beastro) were present as well as Maintenance Don Jakes and town residents Sheldon Huppert, Barry Foy, and Tim Lorenz. Also present were Melissa Cook and Kelly McNamara from All Croix Inspections and Tony Feuerhelm.

**JANUARY  
BOARD  
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

The minutes of the December meeting had been previously distributed and were available at the meeting.

**MINUTES**

MSC to accept the minutes.

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

Clerk presented the December 31, 2023 financial report: Checking \$27,104.25; LGIP general \$4,816.22; LGIP Machinery \$121,396.06; LGIP Town Hall \$105,569.11; cash on hand \$25; Money Market \$12,307.31 town funds and \$599,210.97 tax collections.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

Clerk also reported the January 6 balances: checking \$24,947.29; LGIP General \$36,154.69 as the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter transportation funds of \$31,338.47 had been deposited; LGIP Machinery \$121,396.06; LGIP Town Hall Fund \$105,569.11; Cash on hand \$25; Money Market \$12,307.31 town funds and \$802,071.44 tax collections.

Town has not received the LRIP funds for blacktop on 480<sup>th</sup> Ave but did receive Joe Plummer's blacktop reimbursement on 480<sup>th</sup> Ave.

MSC to accept the financial report.

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

Sheldon Huppert suggested the town find a place to rent for town office/storage. Town is currently paying rent to clerk but will keep looking for suitable place.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

Don Jakes, maintenance reported they have been patching, brushing, finished mowing. The fire inspector noted exit lights must have battery backup so looking into replacing the exit lights. Clerk also reported the garbage bags were ordered through U-Line and were delivered to Pierce County Recycling that day.

**ROAD  
WORK**

Mark Peterson reviewed the engineering design of the 490<sup>th</sup> Avenue road project with the board on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A few changes were made including widening the road to 22 foot blacktop and 2 foot shoulders, all culverts to be replaced will be 18". In late January the WI DOT is scheduled to notify which road projects will receive state funding. The town will proceed on reconstructing this road in 2025 if we don't receive funding for 2024.

**490<sup>th</sup> AVE ROAD  
PROJECT**

County costs for 2" compacted overlay for 490<sup>th</sup> Ave east of Highway 10 to County Rd DD is \$97,400. Chip seal cost is \$19,200. Maintenance Jakes will contact Scott Construction for their estimate. Tabled to February meeting.

**TABLE  
490<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
OVERLAY**

Chair had obtained crushed rock price from Trimble Stone of \$8.85 Ton and from Pierce County of \$8.67 Ton but does not know if this includes the county handling fee or if the fee will be charged.

**CRUSHED  
ROCK**

MCS the chair after determining final costs, choose the best deal for obtaining the annual budgeted \$25,000 of crushed rock.

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

No driveway applications to consider.

DRIVEWAYS

Clerk had received All Croix Inspections contract effective March 1, 2024 so she notified Todd Dolan that the town had received complaints about their firm and the January agenda includes discuss changing building inspector. Melissa Cook and Kelly McNamara from All Croix Inspections inquired about and responded to the complaints the town had received.

BUILDING  
INSPECTOR

MSC the town solicit proposals for building inspector for the February meeting. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow). Vote Borner Yes; Ristow Yes; Billeter No.

Clerk had received an operator license application but applicant had not responded to the clerk's questions or provided a serving certificate so not presenting this application at this meeting.

OP LICENSES

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Bauer Built \$270.69 (new tire on patching machine); Ellsworth Parts City \$104.90 (hydraulic hose & parts); GFL \$287.35 (refuse hauling); Helmer Printing \$399.50 (tax list); Johnson Tractor \$14,500 (disc mower); Lisa Hines \$67.53 (postage & paper expenses); Owen Assessing \$660.00 (assessing contract); Pierce County \$35.00 (Don Jakes drug test enrollment fee); Pierce County Journal \$21.67 (meeting notices); Waltz Ace Hardware \$98.45 (supplies), MSC to pay bills.

BILLS

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).

Correspondence included: 1 – Clerk and Brit Harmon at Companion Animal Control received complaint about Bryniarski's barking dogs - Brit responded she would make a follow up call. She also included with her monthly report that a 2000 sq ft building for impounding animals will be built in Oakdale MN and the new name will be Companion Animal Care and Control. 2 – Clerk contacted Rural Mutual stating the town safe is not included in the town's insurance and inquired about equipment and records stored at her house and was told the equipment and records are covered under the town's policy with Rural Mutual. 3 – Pierce Pepin has grant available for accessing vehicle fuel during power outages. Town will not apply.

CORRES  
PONDENCE

Town Plan Commission will have to meet this month to consider Greg Pearson's rezone from general rural flex to commercial for the purpose of building storage units and review a CSM for Christopher Beckler, but since this property is in the ETZ, the Village Board will be reviewing and approving.

Animal issues: Ken Larson's black lab – running at large and Phil Johnson who lives in El Paso has 2 loose heifers.

ANIMALS

Next meeting will be Monday, February 5 possibly starting at 6 or so to interview building inspectors and meeting will resume at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MTG

MSC to adjourn  
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

ADJOURN

Phyllis J Beastrom, Clerk