

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted January 24, 2024 at the town hall, website, Kenny’s Lawton Bar and published in the January 31, 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, Dennis DeMarce, George Grajkowski, Tim Lorenz and Tony Feuerhelm. Also present for Building Inspector interviews were Tony Feuerhelm and Todd Dolan.

**FEBRUARY  
BOARD  
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

Tony Feuerhelm of TF Inspection Agency, LLC introduced himself and stated he has owned TF Inspections for 5 years. Another inspector has 24 years of experience and his Office Manager has 24 years of experience and is in the office from 7:30 – 3:30. He is willing to work with contractors and is willing to meet with them in East Ellsworth early mornings and later in the afternoon to answer questions and pickup/deliver paperwork. He currently inspects the Towns of Diamond Bluff and El Paso in Pierce County and has a total of 14 municipalities. His proposed contract indicates the town will receive 20% of the fees paid.

**INTERVIEWS  
TF INSPECTION  
AGENCY**

Todd Dolan from All Croix Inspections has been our inspector for close to 20 years and would like to keep this relationship. He gives back 10% of the fees to the town. Owen Assessing appreciates being able to come to their office to look at plans, permits, etc.

**ALL CROIX  
INSPECTIONS**

Motion by Brad Ristow to move into closed session per WI Stats 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of negotiating an agreement. Seconded by Gordon Borner.  
Roll call vote: Brad Ristow Yes; Gordon Borner Yes; Roger Billeter Yes

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow to move back to open session.  
Roll call vote: Brad Ristow Yes; Gordon Borner Yes; Roger Billeter Yes

**OPEN  
SESSION**

MSC to have a one year Building Inspector contract with TF Inspection Agency LLC.  
Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Roger Billeter.

**ONE YEAR  
CONTRACT**

The minutes of the January 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 current financial report: checking \$17,726.07; LGIP General \$36,154.69; LGIP Machinery \$121,396.06; LGIP Town Hall Fund \$105,569.11; Cash on hand \$25; Money Market \$1,093,400.48.  
Town did receive and deposited on January 26<sup>th</sup> \$25,041.26, the LRIP funds for blacktop on 480<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
MSC to accept the financial report.  
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

Sheldon Huppert inquired if town had followed up on locating a place to rent for town office/storage – clerk had not checked yet.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

Maintenance Don Jakes reported they have been brushing, cleaned and waxed equipment, weight signs put up today. Also working on upgrading the exit lights. He also noted in discussions he's had with vendors the price of sealcoating and crack filling will be 23% higher this year. Question was raised whether the town has reflective signs. It was suggested that Don drive the town roads at night to check on reflectivity.

ROAD  
WORK

Have not heard anything about 490<sup>th</sup> Ave funding or if state has revealed road projects that will receive funding.

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

MSC to proceed with 2 inch overlay with Pierce County on 490<sup>th</sup> Ave east of Highway 10 to County Rd DD at cost of \$97,400.  
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner). Requested voice vote:  
Brad Ristow yes; Gordon Borner No; Roger Billeter Yes.  
(other costs considered from Pierce County 1 ½ inch overlay \$71,000; from Scott Construction total cost of \$38,000 for leveler - fill wheel ruts to have a smooth surface - and then apply dresser rock).

490<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
OVERLAY

Pierce County cost of \$8.67 Ton for crushed rock included the county handling fee so the county has been delivering crushed rock to the pile.

CRUSHED  
ROCK

Bridge inspection for bridges over 20 feet occurs in even number years.  
MSC to have Pierce County conduct the bridge inspections.  
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

BRIDGE  
INSPECTIONS

This does not include the 6-20 feet small bridge/culvert inspections. We are in the inventory phase where they are all to be identified. Tim Lorenz identified them on a DOT road map when he was parttime employee. By April 15<sup>th</sup> the town has to decide who will complete the inventory phase – collect & input a set of criteria for each small/bridge culvert. The WI DOT will pay \$100 per small bridge/culvert during this inventory phase. Will discuss at the March meeting.

SMALL BRIDGE/  
CULVERT  
INVENTORY  
& ASSESSMENT

Greg Pearson withdrew his request to rezone 8 acres from general rural flex to commercial for the purpose of building storage units. By removing the 8 acres from agricultural production, he would have to pay an ag use conversion charge on that acreage, together with an increased value of commercial land this project will be too costly.

GREG PEARSON  
WITHDREW  
REZONE

MSC to approve driveway application for proposed CSM for Christopher Beckler in the SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 20. Driveway needs an 18" culvert.  
(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow.)

CHRISTOPHER  
BECKLER  
DRIVEWAY

Surveyor Brandon King had submitted a survey for the board to approve. The survey done for Phyllis Ray, creates a 3.4 acre lot for the house and out buildings in the NE-NE of Section 10. In conversation with her, she intends to live on the property until she no longer can and a neighboring farmer is buying the remaining acreage.  
MSC to approve Phyllis Ray proposed CSM.  
(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).

PHYLLIS  
RAY  
CSM

MSC to issue operator license to Annette Carpenter at Kenny's Lawton Bar.  
(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

OP LICENSES

<p>Board of Review training will be held at the WTA District meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Eau Claire, along with other informative sessions. Clerk will send in registration for the town board and the clerk.</p>	<p>BOARD OF REVIEW TRAINING</p>
<p>The February WTA magazine features an article on the anti-democratic and anti-vote power of ETZ and asks the town to contact its legislators asking them to support this legislation. Clerk will draft a letter and share with board members to send to legislators.</p>	<p>LETTER TO LEGISLATORS</p>
<p>The following bills were reviewed for payment: Auto Value \$ 50.98 (supplies); Elan Financial Services \$56.35 supplies and containers for flag storage); Ayres &amp; Associates \$18,750 (490<sup>th</sup> engineering); B&amp;B Repair \$881.55 (2021 truck brake repair); Ellsworth Fire Services \$44,174 (yearly assessment); Ellsworth Parts City \$101.96 (hydraulic hose &amp; parts); ETI Corp \$149.00 (liquor license software update); GFL \$283.36 (refuse hauling); Lisa Hines \$10.79 (postage); Owen Assessing \$660.00 (assessing contract); Pierce County \$1590.59 (Steve Brand culvert); Pierce County Journal \$56.49 (meeting notices); Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services \$117.00 (electricity); Swift Current \$74.31 (phone &amp; internet); Waltz Ace Hardware \$13.99 (supplies). MSC to pay bills. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).</p>	<p>BILLS</p>
<p>Correspondence included: 1 – All Croix Inspections building permit for Don and Lori Jakes; 2 – Pierce County Land Use permit for Schroeder Farms for grain bin and address for Scott Zimmer. 3 – Notice form Ellsworth School District Referendum on April ballot not to exceed \$25,445,000 for building improvements; 4 Renewal from WI Dept of Revenue for Town of Ellsworth Business permit; 5 – no work related injuries for 2023 reported to WI Department of Safety and Professional Services; 6 – Received dividend from Eau Claire Coop Oil; 7 – Delmore Consulting offering their services for collecting data on 6-20 foot small bridge/culverts.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>
<p>Supervisor Ristow discussed finding a source for digitizing records and transferring all records so accessible by board members. This may be costly and would be a budget item for 2025.</p>	
<p>Animal issues: Did not hear anything about the response to Bryniarski’s barking dogs.</p>	<p>ANIMALS</p>
<p>Next meeting will be Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Agenda will include hiring full time maintenance position; hiring consultant for the small bridge/culvert project; and elected versus appointed clerk.</p>	<p>NEXT MTG</p>
<p>MSC to adjourn (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).</p>	<p>ADJOURN</p>
<p>Phyllis J Beastrom, Clerk</p>	