

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00.at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted February 23, 2024 and amended March 4<sup>th</sup> at the town hall, website, Kenny’s Lawton Bar, and published in the February 28<sup>th</sup> 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, George Grajkowski, and Tim Lorenz.

**MARCH  
BOARD  
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.

**CALL TO  
ORDER  
MINUTES**

The minutes of the February were corrected to state Borner “voted no” on 490<sup>th</sup> Ave Overlay project.

MSC to accept the minutes as corrected.

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

Clerk presented current financial report: checking \$17,97454; LGIP General \$36,315.16; LGIP Machinery \$121,950.37; LGIP Town Hall Fund \$106,051.15; Cash on hand \$25; Money Market \$235,128.20.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

Clerk also presented a summary of tax collections and disbursements.

MSC to accept the financial report.

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

No public comment.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

Maintenance Don Jakes reported they have been brushing, shouldering, all 6-20 foot small bridge/culverts have been measured; county will check the reflectivity of all the town signs if the board so desires. The town shop furnace is not working.

**ROAD  
WORK**

Concensus of the board to have Pierce Couty evaluate the reflectivity of the town signs.

**TOWN SIGNS**

MSC the chair and Don Jakes obtain bids and make a selection for replacing the furnace.

**FURNACE**

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

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 contract with Pierce County Highway Department for the inventory phase of the 6-20 feet small bridge/culverts.

**INVENTORY  
6-20’ SMALL  
BRIDGE/CULV**

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

Don Jakes plans to retire in 2025. Chair would like to hire second full time employee so they can work together to learn the town’s equipment, roads and procedures.

**SECOND  
FULL TIME  
EMPLOYEE**

MSC the town advertise and move forward for hiring a second full time employee.

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

Clerk was also asked to poll towns and county for current wages being paid to maintenance employees.

Board questioned if the town has a road to be upgraded through the Agriculture Improvement Program which is intended to improve roads used by the agriculture industry. Chair Billeter will have conversation with John Schroeder to see if they have future expansion plans.

**OTHER  
ROAD WORK  
AGRIP**

At the County Unit meeting, Commissioner Chad Johnson stated the county would be seal coating the week of June 24<sup>th</sup> and blade patching is scheduled for the weeks of May 6<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jason and Karen Bignell were granted a driveway off 480<sup>th</sup> Avenue in January 2015 for their 38 acres – 18 acres in Section 25 (parcel 006-01079-1010) and 20 acres adjacent to the north in Section 24 (parcel 006-01077-0500). This second parcel has no other access than the one granted the Bignell’s in 2015 and is otherwise landlocked. They are selling their parcels and the future buyer wants to build on the north parcel. Land Management requested a statement that the town has no objection to extending the driveway off 480<sup>th</sup> Avenue as access for the 20 acre parcel in Section 24. Chair Billeter had no objections so clerk sent an e-mail on February 27<sup>th</sup> to Land Management.

BIGNELL  
DRIVEWAY

There were no other driveway applications.

There were no operator license applications.

OPERATOR LIC

Clerk distributed the process for appointing a clerk which includes putting the matter before the voters as a referendum at the November election. The decision to go this route must be decided by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Chair Billeter suggested sending a letter to all town residents to see if anyone is interested in being clerk. Perhaps this notice can also be available for residents to pick up at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> election.

ELECT  
CLERK VS  
APPOINT  
CLERK

Open book with the assessor will be Tuesday, March 26 from 7-9 p.m. at the town garage. Board of Review was set for May 8 from 7-9 p.m. The chair, both supervisors and clerk attended Board of Review training in Eau Claire on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

OPEN BOOK  
& BOARD OF  
REVIEW

The WTA recommends towns do not have an official newspaper so Supervisor Ristow asked if the Town of Ellsworth has an official newspaper. NO the Town of Ellsworth does not have an official newspaper because we do not officially appoint the Pierce County Journal as our official newspaper each year at the January meeting. Publications are printed in the PCJ as information for our residents.

TOWN  
NEWSPAPER

The Department of Safety and Professional Services sent the access codes for Building Inspector Tony Feuerhelm and asked for a copy of our Building Code Ordinance. The town needs to make two corrections. Clerk drafted Ordinance 2024-1 to amend the Building Code with those two corrections – the town must include Codes SPS 327 Camping Units as any municipality that exercises jurisdiction over the construction and inspection of new dwellings shall also exercise jurisdiction over the construction and inspection of camping units. The town does not have authority to review variance petitions in the Commerical Building Code so this was removed from the Town Building Code.

ORDINANCE  
2024-1  
AMENDING  
ORDINANCE  
2021-2  
TOWN OF  
ELLSWORTH  
BUIDING  
CODE

MSC to adopt Ordinance 2024-1 amending the Town Building Code with the above described changes.

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Catalis \$500 (treasurer tax program); Chippewa Valley Energy \$404.48 (diesel); Ellsworth Parts City \$43.96 (parts); GFL \$282.03 (refuse hauling); Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services \$101.00 (electricity); Swift Current \$79.13 (phone and internet); Owen Assessing \$660.00 (assessing contract); Ellsworth Ambulance Services \$36,510.97 (per capita ambulance service)

BILLS

Phyllis Beastrom \$868.67 (expenses for payroll subscription and monthly payroll fees since October, postage for election, miscellaneous postage).

(Note: clerk contacted Ambulance Director before paying as she didn't think the amount was correct – director had already mailed a corrected statement for \$40,093.77 (1119 residents X per capita rate of \$35.83).

(MSC to pay the bills.

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

Correspondence this month was Pierce County land use permit for Don and Lori Jakes home.

CORRE-  
SPONDENCE

Animal issues: Have not heard anything about the response to Bryniarski's barking dogs. Next month we will renew our yearly fee with Companion Animal Control.

ANIMALS

Next meeting will be Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. Election is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

NEXT MTG

MSC to adjourn

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

ADJOURN

Phyllis J Beastrom, Clerk