

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, August 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted July 26, 2024 at the town hall, website, Kenny’s Lawton Bar, and published in the July 31<sup>st</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 Tim Westerberg and town residents Donna Larson, George Grajkowski, Tim Lorenz, Sheldon Huppert and Barry Foy.

**AUGUST  
BOARD  
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.  
The minutes of the July 2<sup>nd</sup> board meeting and the special July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting and were available at the meeting. July 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes were corrected to state 2” overlay had been applied on 490<sup>th</sup> Ave East of Highway 10. MSC to accept the corrected July 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes and the July 19<sup>th</sup> special meeting. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

**CALL TO  
ORDER  
MINUTES**

Clerk presented current financial report: checking \$22,759.66; LGIP General \$123,306.99; LGIP Machinery \$124,687.18; LGIP town Hall Fund \$108,431.13; Cash on hand \$25, Money Market \$69,584.90. In July the town received \$7730.75 for fire dues which will be paid to Ellsworth Fire Services, 15% of the Shared Revenue \$13,667.09; and Exempt Computer Aid \$481.18. In August the Town will receive the tax settlement from the County in amount of \$126,318.39. MSC to accept the financial report. (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

Public Comments: The fee established by the board last month for driveway permit is excessive (George Grajkowski). The board should look at Sunnyside School as a potential site for the town hall and shop (Sheldon Huppert). Comments were made regarding the management of the ambulance service (Donna Larson). Supervisor Ristow stated he would schedule a meeting with her, the ambulance director and himself to discuss this matter as this is not a town issue.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

Maintenance Don Jakes reported: 1- they are replacing road signs with reflective signs. He estimates it will cost \$3500 a year for four years to replace the road signs. Clerk was instructed to put this in the budget. 2 –Tim and RJ from Hartland have been patching; 3 – Fahrner submitted for the 2025 budget an estimate of \$43,156 for applying GSB88 on newly constructed 480<sup>th</sup> Avenue and on overlay on 490<sup>th</sup> Ave East of Highway 10 to Cty Rd D. Clerk will put this in the 2025 budget. 4- the county finished delivering the crushed rock; 5- Wednesday the county will do grader overlay,

**ROAD  
WORK  
SIGNS  
GSB88**

Haas Sons Inc. of 203 E Birch St, Thorp WI were awarded the bid for the 490<sup>th</sup> Ave Road Construction project with the lowest bid of \$763,958.18. They plan to begin after Labor Day. Clerk reported CCF Bank has been given the bid information and will inform them of proposed start date.

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

Clerk reported the applications for the second round of ARIP projects are due September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**ARIP  
PROJECT**

No new driveway permit applications to consider. However, Chair Billeter commented that the town roadway ordinance states only 2 parcels can have access from the same driveway. Clerk will contact Jason Szymanski who recently requested the 3 lot CSM have the same driveway access. Note – the roadway ordinance does permit a waiver to change provisions of the ordinance on a case by case basis.

**DRIVEWAY  
APPLICATION**

Christine McPherson, Pierce County Emergency Management director notified the Town Clerk that due to changes in emergency management technology, Xcel Energy is no longer maintaining the sirens and asked if the Town of Ellsworth is interested in maintaining the siren on 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue, just to the west of 683rd St. MSC the Town of Ellsworth deny the request to take over the maintenance of the siren on 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue.  
(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

XCEL SIREN  
ON 410<sup>TH</sup>  
AVE

Clerk had contacted the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (state retirement program) about enrolling employee in this program. In order to participate, the town has to apply and submit all documentation by November 15<sup>th</sup> to become a participant. The Employees then is eligible beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. Employee is required to have deductions of 6.9% from payroll and employer also pays 6.9%. Funds are electronically transmitted monthly and clerk is responsible for reports and final report at the end of the year.

WISCONSIN  
RETIREMENT  
PROGRAM

The board will meet in closed session with employee prior to the September meeting to discuss retirement options.

No operator licenses applications.

OP LICENSES

MSC to adopt Ordinance 2024-3 for process for appointing town clerk and to submit the referendum question to the town electors at the at the November election: Shall the person holding the office of Town Clerk in the Town of Ellsworth be appointed by the town board?

CLERK  
POSITION

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

To take effect, 1 - this ordinance must be published after board approval so Clerk will submit for publication in the August 14<sup>th</sup> issue of the Pierce County Journal; 2 - the town electors must approve the referendum at the November election;; 3 - if approved, the ordinance takes effect upon the expiration of the term of the incumbent clerk in April 2025.

Clerk proposed for the board to review Ordinance 2024-4 adopting the State of Wisconsin Municipal Records Retention Schedule. The town has the choice of opting out of provision not applicable for our town. This will be tabled for further review.

RECORDS  
RETENTION  
SCHEDULE

No additional vendors contacted regarding scanning town records. Clerk will contact EO Johnson in Eau Claire about their program.

SCAN RECORDS

Hannah Ninneman has submitted a request for a home based business. The Plan Commission will meet on September 19<sup>th</sup> to review her plan and make a recommendation to the town board for the Conditional Use Permit,

PLAN  
COMMISSION  
&

Supervisor Ristow suggested the Town Building Committee, composed of the building committee and the plan commission, meet after the Plan Commission meeting to review and discuss town hall.

BUILDING  
COMMITTEE

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Auto Value \$26.99 (parts); Ayres Associates \$6,250.00 (490<sup>th</sup> Avenue Engineering); Consumer Cooperative \$ 245.55 (gas); CNA Surety \$275.00 (bonds for clerk and treasurer); Column 164.51 (publishing in Pierce County Journal); Companion Animal Control \$15 (animal control); GFL \$306.52 (refuse hauling); Pierce County Journal \$24.77 (share of August Primary

BILLS

absentee voting notice); Owen Assessing \$660.00 (assessing contract); Pierce County Highway Department \$1766.17 ( bridges and No Thru Truck signs); Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services \$95.00 (electricity); Swift Current \$76.94 (phone and internet); Waltz Ace Hardware \$144.92 (parts, supplies) and Ellsworth Fire Services \$7,730.75 (fire dues).

(MSC to pay the bills except Companion Animal Control and clerk is instructed to write a letter asking for resolution for Bryniarski’s barking dogs).

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

Correspondence: 1 –received propane tank lease from Ag Partners; 2 - Notice of building permits for Bruce Nauman – deck and Mark Steves – modular home; 3- Supervisor Ristow reported the ambulance fees for next year will increase by 5% - \$1.79 per capita increase.

CORRES-  
PONDENCE

Animal issues: Chair received call about dogs, but they were in Town of River Falls.

ANIMALS

Next board meeting will be Monday, September 9 at 7 p.m.

NEXT MTG

MSC to adjourn

ADJOURN

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

Phyllis Beastrom, Clerk