

Warsaw Township

Township Board Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Duwain Eglund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Duwain Eglund, Larry Madsen, Diane McCorkell and Darla Frandrup

Others Present: Bob Flom, Marie Valburg, Cassandra O’Hern, Ms. Makarios, and representative from Solar Company.

2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Supervisor Madsen to approve the minutes as read; Supervisor Eglund seconded. All voted in favor; motion carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Marie Valburg, daughter of Ervila Sumner, is asking about the procedure to move forward on a zoning appeal approval from 2004 to build a "replacement" home on their property. This section has 12 dwellings, the maximum according to the Township ordinances. Marie referenced approval from the Township in 2004 and we did find this in the minutes. Ms. Valburg shared many documents for review and the Board decided that a Variance would be required to move forward. Ms. Valburg will let us know if she is going to pursue this.
- Makarios solar project. Per Subp. 7.5.3 Wind energy conversion systems, and solar energy production systems with an area of 2,000 square feet or more, provided that there shall be a setback of at least 2,500 feet from any existing dwelling on an adjacent property. Our ordinance do not reference solar systems smaller than 2,000 feet. A permit for a 720 SF ground mount solar system was approved.
- Cassandra O’Hern approached the Board with a building permit request to build a porch on their property located at 38780 10th Ave., Dennison. Supervisor Eglund moved to approve the building permit as submitted; Supervisor Madsen seconded. All voted in favor; motion carried.
- Darla shared research on how to designate a road minimum maintenance. Minimum-maintenance roads can be designated if the town board finds the road is used “only Occasionally or intermittently for passenger and commercial travel”. If there are homes on the road, a town board should not designate it as a minimum-maintenance road because it likely receives more than “intermittent” traffic and likely amounts to regular traffic. The designation can negatively affect homeowners because of the limitations placed on the services that can be provided to homes on the minimum maintenance road. For instance, school buses, and postal carriers often refuse to travel on minimum-maintenance roads. Also, the lower maintenance level on these roads may raise concerns over access by emergency vehicles.
- ARPA training will take place over Zoom on December 14th. They will be covering uses and reporting Darla and Diane will attend.
- The Leon Township road agreement was discussed and approved. Darla will send the annual \$1,500 bill.

- The Township received a request from Brad Anderson, Goodhue County Commissioner, District 2. Cannon Falls is doing an upgrade and retooling of the south water tower using ARPA Funds. This improvement to the tower will allow the ability to house more and larger equipment for delivering wireless connections to surrounding townships and ensuring a larger population is getting service for broadband. The cost of the upgrades the city is doing is in excess of 800 thousand. They are asking the Townships for commitments of ARPA funds. The Supervisors decided to not commit funds to this project until there is clarification on how the funds can be used.
- Tuesday Township Meeting Updates
 - a) There are a couple of Bills in the legislature that are relevant and important to Townships.
 - One that gives the Township a right to vote if they want to accept the road from the County and not have to automatically accept it.
 - Annexation reform bill – Current annexation law is unfair to townships and their residents as it allows a city to annex existing township land without agreement by the township. Townships should be on equal ground with a city when faced with a proposed annexation. MAT is hoping to support annexation by contract which requires both parties to agree. This would support laws to consider landowners’ wishes and allow residents a vote on whether they will be annexed. Townships should also be able to detach property when the property has not been developed or received additional services under a city’s annexation, and move a city parcel back to a township. Current law allows only the city or landowner to detach property.
 - b) Infrastructure bill created by President Biden recently might have available funds for Townships to use for roads and bridges. MAT office will keep Townships updates as they learn more.
 - c) ARPA funds bill has been passed by the Senate and on it’s way to hopefully allow Townships to use all ARPA funds as lost revenue. This would give flexibility on the uses and reporting.
- Darla is getting a bid from a scanning company to digitize our records. The Township attorney said that once we do this, we do not need to keep paper copies. Darla will work on the resolution to adopt a Township records retention schedule.

4. ADJOURN

Motion made by Supervisor Egland to adjourn the meeting; Supervisor Madsen seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved on 1/10/2022

Duwain Egland, Chairman

Darla Frandrup, Clerk

