

Minutes from the Annual Meeting – Town of Trenton

April 8, 2008 - 8:00 PM

Town of Trenton Town Hall, 1071 STH 33 East, West Bend, WI 53095

Elected and Appointed Officials Present: Town Chairman Joe Gonnering, Supervisor John Norman, Supervisor Ed Doerr, Town Clerk Barbara Davies, Town Treasurer Monica Diaz, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Komro, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Frank Mayer, Police Chief Joseph Gabrish. (All are Town residents with the exception of Frank Mayer).

Town Residents Present:

Paul Fahey, Michael Bykowski, Jim Wollner, Michael Komro, Lance Unger, Dennis Kay, Clyde Gerner, Arlene Norman.

Total qualified electors of the Town present at the Annual Meeting: 15

Chairman Joe Gonnering asked those in attendance to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gonnering called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Gonnering explained that the qualified electors present at this meeting make and second motions during the Annual Meeting. The qualified electors then vote “in favor” (aye) or “not in favor” (nay) of the motions. Elected Town Board members are present to hear reports, answer questions, and keep things moving along.

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2007 Annual Meeting:

It was moved by Lance Unger and seconded by Dennis Kay to approve the Minutes of the April 10, 2007 Annual Meeting. Aye: 15. Nay: 0. No discussion – motion passes.

Annual Report – Newburg Fire Department:

Chief Waldkirch introduced himself and members of the department. Waldkirch reported 45 fire calls and 255 rescue calls during 2007. The Fire Department is receiving more rescue calls than ever before. Waldkirch reported that a committee has been formed to investigate the purchase of a new rescue squad, which will cost approximately \$150,000. Waldkirch said they are also looking at some space needs for the Fire Department, which is cramped in its current quarters. Chairman Joe Gonnering thanked Waldkirch and the firefighters for all they do for Town residents. Waldkirch closed by saying that the Newburg Fire Department does everything it can to keep costs down.

Annual Report – Trenton Police Department:

Police Chief Joseph Gabrish gave a brief background of the department. Gabrish told the residents that he is trying to hire more established officers to keep officer turnover to a minimum. Gabrish directed residents to copies of his 2007 Annual Report, available on the table at the entrance to the meeting room. Gabrish reported purchase of a new squad car in 2007; the 2001 Crown Victoria was sold. Gabrish reported that his department also works hard to keep costs down. Chairman Gonnering reported that the Police Department

also assists the Fire Department at accident scenes. The Town does not have to pay for the full cost of required ongoing officer training because all officers work full-time for other departments. Mike Komro asked how many hours per week officers were typically on duty. Gabrish said that an officer is typically on duty 5 hours/day.

#### Budget Review:

Treasurer Monica Diaz had prepared an Annual Treasurer's Report for residents. She reviewed the highlights of her report. Clerk Barbara Davies recapped the budget challenges for 2008, including snow and ice control and road repair.

#### Cable Review Report:

Supervisor John Norman reported that the Town is essentially out of the cable business because the state has authority for cable effective 1/09/08. The Town's agreement with Charter Cable expires in 2011. After the Town's agreement expires in 2011, the state takes over. Norman reported that he still gets a lot of calls asking about broadband service, etc. The Town cannot do anything to force Charter Cable to provide those services.

#### Building and Zoning Report:

Building Inspector Frank Mayer read from his report, noting issuance of permits for 12 new single family homes in 2007. Average per unit cost in 2007 was \$256,500; average square footage of a home was 2295, a slight decrease from 2006.

#### Emergency Government Report:

Supervisor & Emergency Government Director John Norman reported that suddenly emergency management is a hot topic. Katrina has forced all municipalities to focus on how to manage emergencies etc. "NIMS" – National Incident Management Systems - certifications are now required at various levels of government. It is now necessary to understand the "NIMS" rules to be able to navigate the requirements for managing an emergency situation. Dennis Kay asked about the new county radio system, if there was any estimate of what Trenton might have to pay. Joe Gonnering said there are no solid estimates on the cost at this point.

#### Recycling Committee Report:

Chairman Joe Gonnering reported recycling of 694 tons of material in 2007. The 2007 Recycling Grant was \$20,268. It is hoped that the grant will be available in future years. The 2007 recycling report is due 4/30/08, and it is required to get the recycling grant each year. There have not been many calls or complaints on garbage or recycling pickup.

#### Town Plan Report, County Cooperative Plan Report:

Supervisor Ed Doerr reported that, after four years, the County SmartGrowth Plan has been completed and goes to the Washington County Board for approval on 4/15/08. Discussion followed. There was a meeting at Washington County Fair Park to allow for citizen comments and input. Joe Gonnering added that questions have been raised as to why the county is voting on the plan before all the towns etc. (participants) have voted to approve their individual plans. If this is approved and participating municipalities make

changes, the county will have to amend its plan. The Town will begin review of its plan in approximately June. Discussion followed on that process, including a possible water study.

#### Equipment, Roads, and Snowplow Report:

Chairman Joe Gonnering reported the purchase of two new snowplows early in 2008. There were 64 snow/ice control callouts in 2007-2008, resulting in the use of 2500 tons of salt and 900 tons of sand. A grass blower was purchased in 2007 to clear lawn clippings off the baseball fields/soccer fields. The new snowplows are equipped with prewetting systems, which should hold the salt on the road better. Trucks are replaced on a 10-year rotation, as the salt is really hard on the electronics and wiring. Mike Komro asked about using more sand and less salt on the roads. Gonnering answered that the sand is hard on the bearings, causing lots of wear. Jim Wollner added that the salt is still needed to cut the ice on the road. Discussion followed.

#### Set Compensation for Elected Supervisors and Town Chairperson:

Chairman Joe Gonnering read the summary of current salaries for current elected Board members: Chairman, \$9609.42/year; Supervisors, \$5615.44/year for the term of office ending 4/1/09. It was moved by Dennis Kay and seconded by Mike Bykowski to approve a raise of 2% for elected officials for the term year ending 4/10, and a raise of 2% for the term year ending 4/11. Aye: 15. Nay: 0. No discussion – motion passes.

#### County Board Report:

Chairman and County Supervisor Joe Gonnering reported assignment to the Safety Committee, the Appeals Board, the Library Committee, Housing & Development, the Building Committee, and the Sheriff's Department Committee. All committees except a couple will be changing because of the newly elected supervisors. County Finance has OK'd cost overruns for the new Sheriff's Department. Various cost-saving measures were considered. The extras will be paid out of county sales tax revenues, which are currently higher than anticipated. Cabella's is providing about the amount of sales tax predicted. The County Budget passed without problems.

#### Any Matter that May Come Before the Annual Meeting:

Dennis Kay asked if the County had ever gotten anything from the Milwaukee County Stadium Board. Joe Gonnering said no correspondence had been received.

#### Adjournment:

Move by Mike Bykowski and seconded by Dennis Kay to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 9:23 P.M. Aye: 15. Nay: 0. No discussion – motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Davies  
Town Clerk