

Minutes from the Town of Trenton Annual Meeting

Date and Time: Monday, April 12, 2011, 8:00 PM

Place: Town of Trenton Town Hall, 1071 Highway 33 East, West Bend, WI 53095

Elected and Appointed Officials Present:

Town Board Chairman Joe Gonnering, Town Board Supervisor Ed Doerr, Town Board Supervisor John Norman, Town Clerk Cindy Komro, Town Deputy Clerk/Zoning Administrator Barbara Davies, Town Treasurer Monica Diaz, Town Building Supervisor Walter Groteleuschen, Town Attorneys Robert Feind and Tim Schoonenberg. (All are Town residents with the exception of Town Attorney Robert Feind and Walter Groteleuschen.)

Town Residents Present:

Bob Becher	Joseph Gabrish	Mike Komro
Jacque Becher	Roland Gauger	Arlene Norman
Mike Bykowski	Joseph Gonnering	John Norman
Mike Diaz	Bob Grueneberg	Scott Schweizer
Monica Diaz	Dennis Kay	Lance Unger
Ed Doerr	Cindy Komro	Glenn Williams

Total qualified electors of the Town present at the beginning of the Annual Meeting: 18

Chairman Joe Gonnering asked those in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Joe Gonnering called the Meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Gonnering explained that the qualified electors present at this meeting make and second the motions during the Annual Meeting. The qualified electors then vote "in favor" of, or "opposed" to, the motions. Elected Town Board members are present to hear reports, answer questions, and help facilitate the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2010 Annual Meeting:

Dennis Kay moved to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2010 Annual Meeting. Lance Unger seconded. Voting in favor: 18. Opposed: 0. No discussion – motion carried.

Annual Report – Newburg Fire Department:

Newburg Fire Chief Dave Geidel introduced himself and President Paul Fahey, and handed out a summary of the calls made in 2010 for the Town. The Department currently has 52 active personnel. The new County radio system has been installed recently in the Department. The MABIS mutual aid box alarm system is a County-wide system, recently employed by Washington County in the fall of 2010, that saves time and effort when requesting outside aid. Since inception, the Newburg Fire Department has used it three times and it has worked very well. The Newburg Lion's Club donated \$1,000 to the Fire Department, which was used to upgrade their ice drill and two GPS units. The Annual Firemans' Picnic will be held June 3-5, 2011. The Department will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012, and will host a one-day celebration to commemorate that event. Chairman Gonnering expressed thanks to the Newburg Fire Department on behalf of the Town residents.

Annual Report – Trenton Police Department:

Town Police Chief Joseph Gabrish introduced himself as the founding officer of the Town's Police Department in 1997, replacing the Constable system in effect at that time. Gabrish distributed copies of his 2010 Annual Report, summarizing the Department's traffic citations, investigations, ordinance violations, parking tickets and service calls in 2010. Gabrish noted that there are two vehicles in the Police Department. The Department consists of seven Officers and one part-time clerk. Chief Gabrish reported on some of the Officers' noteworthy calls. New portable radios were received, paid for by Washington County. Squad car computers are able to reduce paperwork and time, by linking directly to the state. The Department has a new website. Town resident Arlene

Norman commented that people know that the Trenton police are present in the community. Chairman Gonnering expressed his appreciation to the Police Department on behalf of the Town residents. He also mentioned that County Sheriff Dale Schmidt appreciates the Trenton Police Department.

#### Budget Review:

Town Treasurer Monica Diaz presented her Annual Report. Diaz reminded the residents that only about 13% of the property tax revenue collected is dedicated to the Town budget, with the remaining amount distributed to the State, County, and Schools. To date, 681 dog licenses and five kennel licenses have been issued. Treasurer Diaz reported on some of her other duties, including collecting delinquent personal property taxes. Chairman Gonnering pointed out the Town's mill rates, listed in Treasurer Diaz' report. Town resident Joan Baumgartner asked how the state budget changes will affect everyone's garbage and recycling fee. Chairman Gonnering reported that the systems in place for trash and recycling may change slightly, and that the Board is considering what options are available. Treasurer Diaz noted that the \$130 trash/recycling fee per household is quite economical, compared to other communities in the area.

#### Election/SVRS Update:

Town Clerk Cindy Komro introduced herself as the Town's expert for the State Voter Registratoin System (SVRS). Komro reported that the State System is constantly being updated, as voter information changes (names, addresses, deceased voters). The Wisconsin Voter Public Access ([vpa.wi.gov](http://vpa.wi.gov)) is available for any registered voter to view voting history, find a voting location for a particular address. Joan Baumgartner asked how public VPA is. Komro indicated that only records that are already considered public records are available to view, and that in order to view your voter record, you need your name and your birthdate, which makes it fairly secure.

#### Building and Zoning Report:

Town Buliding Inspector Walter Groteleuschen introduced himself and reported that he has been performing inspections in the Town for some time. Inspector Groteleuschen reported 2 new home permits for 2010, down from 3 new home permits in 2009. Total valuation of all permits issued in 2010 is \$933,158.00. Building is slow everywhere. Town resident Michael Komro asked who is handling the abandoned building that used to hold El Rey Restaurant. Chairman Gonnering reported that he met with the representative of the bank that currently owns the property. The process will take some time to proceed to resolution. There was a determination that the Town could not require demolition because the building is not more than 50% unusable.

#### Emergency Government Report:

Town Board Supervisor John Norman recalled the horrible snowstorm on Groundhog Day. FEMA has requested a report of the costs (just over \$24,000 for Trenton), for possible reimbursement. Supervisor Norman discussed how FEMA has changed. Every year the Town must prepare a hazardous chemical report. Chairman Gonnering expressed his appreciation for the time and effort that Supervisor Norman has spent learning about Emergency Management.

#### Recycling Committee Report:

Chairman Joe Gonnering reported that the recycling grant is coming to an end. The Town has done a tremendous job with recycling. The average recycling per person in the Town is about three times the state average, an impressive rate. Chairman Gonnering reported that all options are being considered to reduce costs to the Town, including recycling less often (twice a month). However, each option has a cost to the Town or the residents, or both. All options will be considered. The 2010 recycling grant is \$24,244.69 for the Town. Town resident Michael Komro asked whether the Town's trash costs would go down if we recycled more. Chairman Gonnering replied that, as a whole, yes. Town resident Michael Bykowski asked whether the Town has facilities to accommodate the new law on used automotive oil and filters. Chairman Gonnering reported that currently there no fee-free options. Town resident Bob Gruenberg mentioned that there are garbage trucks with

two bins in the back. Town resident Jackie Becher noted that on Tuscola Lane, two separate trucks come for trash and recycling. Chairman Gonnering explained that Veolia uses both types of trucks in the Town (trucks with two bins to accommodate both trash and recycling, or trucks used separately for trash and recycling). Chief Gabrish mentioned that if the Town decides to move to another option, getting a bin with a lid would be helpful to reduce scattering debris. Chairman Gonnering said that the large, covered garbage bins are about \$139 apiece. Town resident Michael Komro asked whether a resident can buy his own large recycling bin. Chairman Gonnering said that the particular recycling bin used in the Town is the notice for the recycling truck to stop and collect. Town resident Michael Bykowski mentioned that larger bins may be difficult to drag down the long driveways that are prevalent in the Town. Town residents Bob Gruenenberg and Arlene Norman discussed the problem of trash and recyclables flying around in the wind. Chairman Gonnering noted that flying debris is sometimes the fault of the open truck, but that residents should collapse their recyclable materials to minimize the problem.

#### Equipment, Roads, Snowplowing Report:

Chairman Joe Gonnering reported on the roads that were paved, crackfilled and linestriped in 2010. There were 42 callouts for snow and ice control during winter 2010-2011 (compared to 32 in 2009-2010). Chairman Gonnering commended the Public Works employees for their hard work and long hours. Town resident Jackie Becher asked about the new beet juice component that can be mixed in with the salt. Chairman Gonnering said that the Town has the equipment to use that mixture. Public Works Employee Lance Unger reported that the “bugs” are still being worked out in that system. Chairman Gonnering said that that system works better in lower temperatures. Town resident Michael Bykowski asked how many miles of roads are the Town’s responsibility. Public Works Employee Lance Unger said the Town is responsible for about 62 miles of the total of 81 miles of Town road.

#### Town Plan Report:

Town Board Supervisor Ed Doerr reported that the long-term plan is in effect. The County has decided not to submit a final bill that the Town has carried forward for a few years. The Town has about \$29,000 in reserve for that purpose, that the Town will not be billed for. Chairman Gonnering received the same information from the County. The Town of Trenton did not need to have maps reprinted, as other municipalities. Copies of the Town Plan are available. Supervisor Doerr discussed the Farmland Preservation in the Town. Arlene Norman asked what could be done to encourage the local farmers not to subdivide and sell to developers. Supervisor Doerr reported that the Farmland Preservation system is available for that purpose, which is voluntary. Chairman Gonnering mentioned the Farmland Preservation County meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> before the Planning Commission meeting. Dennis Kay is the Town’s Farmland Preservation representative.

#### County Board Report:

Town Board Chairman Joe Gonnering also introduced himself as a County Board member serving part of Trenton, part of Farmington, part of Newburg, part of the Village of Jackson, and part of the Town of Jackson. The year 2010 was a tough year for the County budget. Chairman Gonnering is the Chairman for the Public Safety Committee. The jail population has remained consistent at 221 per month, which is up from 2009 by about 6 or 7 people. The County has a contract with other Counties to house juveniles. Currently, the average is 9 juveniles, expected to increase to about 16. The County is utilizing video conferencing between incarcerated persons and the judge, which saves the County money. Chairman Gonnering is also on the Board of Adjustment, which has not been meeting often because of the lack of building in the area. The Census change has resulted in slight redistricting in the area. The Committee responsible is attempting to keep the Trenton lines intact. Brian Bausch and Carol Puerling also represent parts of the Town. Town resident Bob Gruenenberg asked about Gonnering’s district. Discussion followed.

Any Matter that May Come Before the Annual Meeting:

Dennis Kay asked when Open Book and Board of Review were scheduled. Open Book is scheduled for Monday, May 2 from noon-2:00 PM. Board of Review is scheduled for Monday, May 23 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Chairman Gonnering discussed the 2011 Road Tour, when the roads are assessed for needed repairs and maintenance. Chairman Gonnering admitted that not all roads needing repairs will be repaired, based on budgetary constraints. Town resident Bob Gruenenberg pointed out certain roads in or near the Town that belong to the City.

Bob Feind and Tim Schoonenberg were introduced as the Town Attorneys.

Adjournment:

Dennis Kay moved to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 9:46 PM. Arlene Norman seconded. Voting in favor: 18. Opposed: 0. No discussion – motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy A. Komro  
Town Clerk

Affidavit of Posting:

These Minutes were posted on the Town of Trenton Town Hall Bulletin Board at 1071 STH 33 East, West Bend, WI on Monday, April 25, 2011. Cindy A. Komro, Town Clerk.