

March 12, 2015 TOWN OF LEWISTON BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Lewiston Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Jon Steinhaus at the Lewiston Elementary School. All town officers present.

The agenda was reviewed. Jensen motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Walker seconded. Motion Carried.

The minutes of the February 12 meeting were read by the clerk. Walker motioned to approve the minutes as read. Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was reviewed. The checking account balance was \$328,089.84 deposits were \$173,437.72 and checks were \$634,623.39 The CD balance is \$62,536.17

Todd Hepler, candidate for Columbia County Branch 1 Judge, spoke on his qualifications for being judge.

Planning commission:

A draft of a driveway ordinance was reviewed. No action is taken at this time, but the planning commission has reviewed and approved this revision.

A request by Richard and Kate Schaper, Resolution 15-001, to change the zoning on parcel 608.c and 608.e was reviewed. Walker moved to approve the zoning request. Jensen seconded. By a vote of 3-0 the resolution was approved.

Chairman Steinhaus appointed Bev Weyh and Karen Manske to 3 year terms on the Lewiston Planning Commission.

Roads:

Ed Brooks, a state assemblyman from Sauk County is searching for a cosponsor for a bill that would remove the \$5000 per mile spending limit for Town roads.

The Columbia County Highway Department will be hosting a meeting for the Town Boards of the county on March 24, 2015.

Portage Fire Department:

The Fire Department Vehicle replacement fund, shared with Caledonia, Fort Winnebago, and Pacific was discussed. The City of Portage currently handles this fund, but the four towns served by the Portage Fire Department are planning on handling the account themselves and have begun to develop a plan. The current balance in the fund is \$1,278,000 invested with Ameritrade and \$40,000 in cash which is shared with the City of Portage. A cooperative agreement would need to be developed. Ehlers Investment Partners may manage the account for a .0015% fee. The fund would need one main contact person or overseer, possibly Steve Pate the chairman from Caledonia. There is still much planning to do and details to work out.

One of the fire trucks Lewiston owns needs repairs to the tank. The money for this repair will probably be taken from the vehicle replacement fund. Lewiston is responsible for approximately 19% of the cost.

Assessment reform was discussed. The proposed State budget has all assessments done through the

county. Some of the reasons this would not be beneficial for town residents is it would be an increase in cost, there would be less representation and access to the Board of Review, and there would be a decrease in assessment accuracy because of limited local knowledge of property in the town. Resolution 15-002, expressing the Town Board's position on this issue was reviewed. Jack Jensen motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Walker seconded. By a vote of 3-0 the resolution was approved.

Implements of husbandry and permits were discussed. The town roads are not built to handle overweight loads. Some requests can be denied because of the type of equipment used but others cannot be denied according to the law. One strategy to limit potential damage is to allow travel in only one direction.

Annual Meeting will be April 21, at 6:30 PM.

The Towns bills were presented for payment. Jensen motioned to pay the bills as presented. Walker seconded. Motion carried.

Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jensen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:12.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas E. Klappstein, Clerk