

March 6, 2019

The Saratoga Town Board met at 6:00 p.m. in the town office. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. Passineau was absent. The meeting was officially noticed on March 4th, 2019.

Heeg made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2019 meeting. Frank seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Frank made a motion to amend the minutes for the December 19, 2018 meeting. Heeg seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Clarification on the Town's drone use in light of the signs in the Town alleging "spying". The Town's attorney stated that the town could sue for an injunction to have the signs be removed or the town could send out a mailing to all town residents which would say: "Questions have been raised, and misinformation published alleging that the Town of Saratoga is using drones to "spy" on Town residents looking for Ordinance violations. This is not true. The Town investigates complaints communicated by Town residents; it does not go out "looking" for violation on its own. There have been two cases in recent years in which drone use was authorized by the Town attorney for evidence gathering purposes after serious nuisance ordinance complaints were brought to the Town's attention. The Town does not own any drones, and there are no cases being investigated at this time in which drone use has been authorized. Drones can be purchased by private individuals, so any drones that Town resident may have seen in recent months must be privately owned, and are not being authorized or used for any purpose of the Town of Saratoga."

The Board members agreed they did not want to wastefully spend the Town's money for either for a lawsuit or a mailing.

Tayna McGill, 1321 Church Avenue, requested a new business permit for Blessings, Holistic Spa. People would come based by appointment only so the traffic flow would be low. Since it is a home based business it wouldn't need to be approved by the Plan Commission. Forbes made a motion to approve the business permit. Heeg seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The ambulance contract with the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department was discussed. The Town would need to let Wisconsin Rapids know by July 15th, if we would like to extend the agreement another 4 years. The Saratoga First Responders are pleased to work with them and the training saves the town money by not needing to pay for refresher classes. The Town has been pleased with the response times when they are needed. Frank made a motion to send a letter to extend the agreement for another 4 years. Forbes seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Heeg made a motion to approve the transfer of owner for the mobile home park at 899 State Hwy 73 South. It is now named Hickory Shade MHC. Forbes seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed opening the brush site on Hollywood Road for 2019. There has been a lot of trees that lost branches this winter with all the snow and ice. It would be convenient for all town residents if the brush site was open all the time and not just one day during the week. The Board agreed to open the brush site beginning the first of April, if the snow is down far enough to get into the site, and continue to have it open through mid-May to allow people to clean up their properties from winter damage. As long as people don't bring in things other than brush, the Board will consider leaving the site open for the year.

Town residents may also purchase a Wisconsin Rapids compost pass through the Saratoga Mini Mart to take their brush and trees and their leaves and lawn clippings. Those passes

should be available in mid-April, also depending on the amount of snow on the ground.

Heeg made a motion to approve the provisional operator's license for Jamie Sarver and the regular operator's license for Sara Cherney. Frank seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the annual payment to REGI. Several people recommended paying REGI based on a commission rather than just an annual payment. The Town would like to give REGI something to work towards for the growth of the Town. The Board would like to have a public meeting to hear the residents input for the direction of town and ideas for growth of the Town. There is no due date for the payment. Forbes made a motion to table the payment until after a public meeting so there are more ideas REGI can help with. Frank seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Lorelei Fuehrer gave the Building Inspector's report. There aren't many building permits at this time. She is working on online fillable forms for the Building permits for the convenience of the Town residents. She is going to school for updates and changes that are being made to the building codes.

Billie-Jo Kester gave the Treasurer's report. There are still three businesses that are delinquent on their personal property. Dog licenses are due March 31st.

Dave Ryun gave the Constable's report. He has received calls about people plowing snow across the road. He has sent out warning letters since it is against Wisconsin State Statute. It is very dangerous for cars driving over them especially if people don't clean up the lines it can make when pushing it across the road. It is very difficult to find a place to push the snow with as much as we have gotten this year.

The results from Municipal Court 2/6/19

Ryan Flatoff, Violation of the nuisance ordinance-3rd offense-Default-\$187

Barry Pio, Violation of the nuisance ordinance-pled not guilty

Joseph Valiska, Violation of the nuisance ordinance-pled not guilty

Plan Commission will be meeting the second Wednesday this month and will be discussing short term rentals.

Some of the Town residents in attendance thanked the roadmen and wanted let them know they have done a great job with all the snow plowing this year.

Bill Leichtnam informed the Board that residents from the Town of Port Edwards have contacted the County regarding their water problems. 42% of their wells are contaminated with high levels of nitrates. The problem has been known for 9 months, but nothing has been done. They would like any help they can get. They may be asking the Town Board to pass a resolution.

Frank made a motion to approve the bills paid. Heeg seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Frank made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heeg seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski, Town Clerk