

DRAFT

TOWN OF BENNETT

REGULAR MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:30 PM

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Brett Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other officers in attendance were Wesley Koehler and Timothy Haskins, Supervisors, and Tamara Johnson, Town Clerk. Absent: Stephanie Lintula, Town Treasurer. The Cemetery Sexton, Charles Martineau and 10 other town residents were also in attendance. Notices of the meeting were posted at the Town Hall, Recycle Center, and the Town Website on Monday, June 3, 2024.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the May 13, 2024, monthly town board meeting were read by clerk. *Wes Koehler made a motion to approve the minutes as read, and Tim Haskins seconded. Motion carried.*

APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Moved by Timothy Haskins, seconded by Wesley Koehler, to pay the bills, Checks # 19707-19736, Payroll and Withholding payments for May and June. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Stephanie Lintula submitted her report which was read by the clerk. The account balances on May 31, 2024, were – Checking Account: \$25,854.22, Money Market: \$169,136.88, ICS Account: \$0.01. The accounts balanced with the bank as of May 31, 2024. *Moved by Wes Koehler, seconded by Tim Koehler, to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

Fire Department: The Fire Chief, Travis Theien, was not available.

Highway Department: Bruce submitted a report to the board. A copy is attached to the original of these minutes.

Constable Jay Burfield was not available this month.

Cemetery Sexton: Charles Martineau submitted a report to the board. A copy is attached to the original of the minutes.

Douglas County: Nothing

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election Security: Nothing more discussed.
2. Liquor License Applications: *Wes Koehler moved to approve the liquor licenses for Minnesuing Acres, Sidelines Bar, Bait & Resort and Wasko's Campground Plus. Seconded by Tim Haskins. Motion Carried.*
3. Cigarette License Applications: *Wes Koehler moved to approve the cigarette licenses for Sidelines Bar, Bait & Resort and Wasko's Campground Plus. Tim Haskins seconded. Motion Carried.*
4. Operator (Bartender) License Applications: *Wes moved to approve the Operator License applications for: Wendy Hicks, Mary Wesolowski, Mary Viets, Anthony Solin, Sandra Omeara, Jean Welle, Steven Beidel, Jacob Zoltak, Peter Leone, Richard Severin, Elizabeth Schorik, Miranda Wakefield, Simon Stewart, Todd Campbell, and Jonathan Lindberg. Seconded by Tim Haskins, Motion Carried.*
5. Summer Road Tree Removal: Brett Hunter presented information on the board's position to consider removing the 2 large white pine trees from the edge of Summer Road. He stated that at this time he is waiting for more information from the Wisconsin Towns Association, and the Wisconsin DNR. As he sees it now, there are 5 options:
 - a. Ignore the fact that the trees are on the road edge—this causes a liability for the town.
 - b. Remove the 2 trees
 - c. Move the road over—which requires DNR willingness to sell land and would require moving the culvert and gas line. Expected much expense.
 - d. Make Summer Lane a one-lane road with a guardrail by trees
 - e. Abandon the road—turning it back to the property owners who would then be responsible for the road maintenance and snow plowing.
6. Loan Application Process for New Truck: Brett stated that he would look into getting a VIN number so that we can start the loan application process for the new dump truck that was ordered.

Brett moved to use \$60,000 of the Equipment Fund for a down payment and borrow the remaining amount. Seconded by Wes Koehler. Motion Carried.
7. Dispose of Old Lawn Mower: *Tim Haskins moved to post a notice requesting sealed bids for the old lawn mower to be awarded to winning bidder at the July board meeting. Seconded by Wes Koehler. Motion Carried.*
8. Local Road Certification—Electronic or Paper: *The board agreed to allowing the road certification process to be handled electronically rather than getting the large map and packet to filled out on paper.*
9. Budget Amendment – None
10. Review Permits: No action needed.
11. Correspondence – Nothing

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) Much discussion on the removal of trees from Summer Road. Comments included:
 - a. There are other places where trees fall in the road right-of-way (ROW)
 - b. The slick, ungraded road surface is more dangerous than the trees in the ROW
 - c. Spoke to DNR those trees are over 100 years old, what makes them an emergency now?
 - d. There are other priorities in the town (grading, gravel)
 - e. Does the wording in the State Statute stating “Highway”—apply to a town road?
 - f. Are there exceptions to the state statute for road right-of-way?
 - g. Trees on Summer Road were compared with trees on the Gunflint Trail in Minnesota.
 - h. Questions regarding the options that Brett stated. Comment that the Guardrail & one lane road seems to be the cheapest option.
 - i. Brett assured the residents that he would wait until the August Board meeting to allow time for all information to come in and options to be researched. The concerned residents were encouraged to look at the statutes and consider options that would benefit the whole community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. was made by Wes Koehler, seconded by Tim Haskins. Motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Johnson, Town Clerk*