

**TOWN OF BLACK BROOK  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman, Erik Henningsgard. Supervisor I, Jake Macholl; Supervisor II, Matt Belle Isle; Treasurer, Carrie Blanchard and Clerk, Janel Belle Isle were also present.

There were 2 residents in attendance.

The meeting began by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading of the meeting notices, pursuant to Wisconsin Stats.19.83 was made by the Chairman.

**AGENDA:**

Chairman Henningsgard entertained a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion by Supervisor Macholl, second by Supervisor Belle Isle to approve the agenda, motion carried, 3 yes.**

**MINUTES:**

Chairman Henningsgard entertained a motion to approve the minutes. **Motion by Supervisor Macholl, second by Supervisor Belle Isle to approve the August 17, 2023 minutes. Motion carried, 3 yes.**

**VOUCHERS & BILLS:**

Chairman Henningsgard entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and pay the bills. **Motion by Supervisor Belle Isle, seconded by Supervisor Macholl to approve the vouchers and pay the bills. Motion carried, 3 yes.**

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

One Server Permit was issued to Echo Valley Events, \$25 collected.

Went to two hours of election training in Balsam Lake with Christine Wood who is our Chief Inspector on election day. Preparing for four elections in 2024 and we were told to prepare for a very large number of open records requests coming in after each one.

Received a Payee Information Error notice from IRS, following up on it. More than likely a misprint on a 1099 that can be corrected moving forward.

I have a majority of our vendors set up to be paid via Electronic Funds Transfer or Bill Pay through the credit union. It will decrease likelihood of fraud and cost of postage to mail checks.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The beginning checking account balance was \$301,126.88, with deposits of \$108,194.32 which includes \$27.46 in interest. Checks cleared were \$28866.53 and \$1794.47 was electronically disbursed, leaving an August 31<sup>st</sup> balance of \$378,660.20. Savings earned \$0.01 interest for a balance of \$32.83. Achieve Money Market #13 earned interest of \$101.24 for a balance of \$62,840.92; Money Market #03 for ARPA funds earned interest of \$178.84 for a balance of

\$111,004.64. Total of all accounts on August 31, 2023, was \$552,538.59. The road maintenance savings has \$5.00 and the checking earned \$0.08 interest, for a total of \$1000.40. Currently 3 outstanding checks totaling \$1723.09.

Discussed the mailings for upcoming tax time. Price went up from last year due to postage increase. Discussed inserts and the price of dog tags, which will stay the same. Suggestions to edit the garbage insert. Will update inserts and bring to next meeting for approval.

## **SUPERVISORS' REPORTS:**

**Belle Isle:** Watched an LRIP webinar. Met the Alcivia guys here for the 2nd LP pressure check. A leak in the line between the tank and the hall was identified and they will get it replaced with a new poly line. Worked on dumpster findings.

**Macholl:** Attended Amery Fire meeting— initial budget discussion. Possibly will be a 5 - 7% increase coming next year due to higher salaries. Their water bill will increase. Attended NW Ambulance meeting – initial budget discussion proposed to remain the same for 2024 at \$14 per capita. They will be offering 401K with a match to full time employees. They gave their director a 3% raise due to inflation. Got a visit from a resident asking that the cemetery be cleaned of branches being down. Checked it out, looks ok.

**ROAD REPORT:** Still mowing where needed. Put in a gravel turnaround in a driveway on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. and a turnaround in a driveway on 60<sup>th</sup> St. Worked on more spray patching. 35<sup>th</sup> is getting pot-hole, will look at it to see if spray patch will work on it. Chairman Henningsgard added that he talked to Buhr about the turnaround on 60<sup>th</sup> St. and he is happy.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Working with residents regarding cleaning up their yards. Wants to know what the Town wants to do about 46 111<sup>th</sup> St. The board will follow up with REM Inspectors and keep the Chief informed. 975 10th Ave. is working on cleaning their place up. Department is working on their budget as well. Their rates will remain the same for 2024, but we can expect an increase in 2025 due to wage increases. They did hire a new officer; she is doing well and is in training now. There are many speeders now that highway 63 is finished with new asphalt.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Went to Deer Park Fire Department meeting. They adjust their budget every 2 years; this is not a budget year. We pay them 12.9% of their budget. They pulled out of MAVIS (an on-call system where they can get paged from other areas) with St. Croix County, but still in MAVIS with Polk. Their Tender has a leak, needs repair or replacement. They are raising money to build a new hall, and realizing it takes time.

Connected with a representative from Fish & Wildlife about the flooding that happens on 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. in the Spring. Emailing back and forth, still working on it.

Talked to Ed Flanum about getting an easement drawn up for the turnaround on 60<sup>th</sup> St.

Met with Ayres who was selected to do the bridge on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. Will have a scoping meeting potentially in November to talk about different concepts of the project.

Talked with Kevin Solum who will be putting in a culvert on 20<sup>th</sup> for his manure lines.

Got a call from a guy about spraying for invasive weeds; town does not spray at this time.

Went to Clear Lake Emergency Medical Services meeting. Redrafted bylaws that needed to be updated. We can send 2 people to meetings where a vote is needed. New bylaws, if adopted in October, will state a minimum of 4 municipalities have to be in attendance to be considered a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dale Wood got a call regarding a barking dog – the man said he had already talked to Erik. Erik will go talk to the dog owner next time they bark excessively. Dale wants clarification on what to say if only one person is complaining about a barking dog. Until more than one complaint about the same dog or dogs occurs, it is not a violation of the ordinance.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Review and Recommendation regarding reduced road setback at 524 Little Falls Drive, Amery, WI** Plan Commission discussed the request for a six-foot relief from the setback requirement; moving from 63 feet down to 57 feet from the road center to build his shed. Plan Commission felt it will not hinder any town activity or potentially impact any neighbors, recommended approval of variance. **Motion by Supervisor Macholl to reduce road set back to 57 feet, second by Supervisor Belle Isle. Motion carried, 3 yes.**
2. **Review/Discussion/Decision regarding the monthly Town Hall dumpster.** Supervisor Belle Isle presented his findings regarding the overall cost of having a monthly dumpster service. The town is now charging the residents who use the dumpster much less than what is being charged by Waterman's. Recommended bringing the town's income and expenses for the dumpster more in line and making the sign in sheet a bit better. Discussion on current prices being collected versus paid out. Discussion about building materials. Discussion on the used oil barrel on premise. Discussion about not accepting building materials, which will be added to the insert in tax envelopes. **Motion by Supervisor Belle Isle to increase the charge per bag of garbage from \$3 to \$5; increase the charge per pickup truckload from \$20 to \$40; raise what we charge for all appliances to match what Waterman charges us; increase charge for car or truck tires from \$5 to \$6; increase charge for tractor tires from \$10 to \$55, second by Supervisor Macholl.** Further discussion about appliance charges and adding mattresses to the list. **Supervisor Belle Isle amended the motion to keep the appliance charges as is currently and to add mattresses at a charge of \$30 each, second by Supervisor Macholl. Motion carried, 3 yes.**
3. **Discussion regarding referendum for electors' input on 3 vs 5 person board and information campaign.** Janel will contact Michelle Erdman, our Town Counsel, to draft the referendum question for review and discussion at our next meeting. Erik will begin gathering information from the Wisconsin Town Association to use for the information campaign for discussion at our next meeting.

4. **Discussion regarding referendum for electors' input on clerk & treasurer positions being elected vs appointed and information campaign.** Janel will contact Michelle Erdman, our Town Counsel, to draft the referendum question for review and discussion at our next meeting. Erik will begin gathering information from the Wisconsin Town Association to use for the information campaign for discussion at our next meeting.
5. **Discuss budget process and schedule budget workshop** Budget Workshop scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
6. **Authorization of treasurer and clerk to make advances on the Westconsin Credit Union loan.** At this time, Chairman Henningsgard is the only person able to authorize draws on the loan we recently received from Westconsin Credit Union. Westconsin suggested that we authorize the clerk and treasurer to do so. **Motion by Chairman Henningsgard to authorize Treasurer Carrie Blanchard and Clerk Janel Belle Isle to make advances on the Westconsin Credit Union loan, second by Supervisor Macholl. Motion carried, 3 yes.**
7. **Discussion/decision regarding per capita increase for Clear Lake Ambulance service.** They are changing the structure of how they pay their volunteers in efforts to attract more help. They intend to increase the charge rates for services and to also increase the per capita rate from \$20 to \$36. Discussion about the effect on our budget. October 16<sup>th</sup> will be their next meeting to further discuss and pass the budget. Chairman Henningsgard will attend in Supervisor Belle Isle's absence.

Chairman Henningsgard entertained a motion to adjourn. **Motion made by Supervisor Macholl, seconded by Supervisor Belle Isle to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, 3 yes.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted and posted by:

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Erik Henningsgard, Chairman

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Janel Belle Isle, Clerk