

TOWN OF RHINE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

GENERAL MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Town of Rhine Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Ron Platz at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 in the Town of Rhine Hall, W5250 CTH FF, Elkhart Lake, WI.

Chairman: Ron Platz
1st Supervisor: Allen Feld
3rd Supervisor: Todd Purkey
4th Supervisor: Frank Zimmermann

Clerk/Treasurer: Lexann Hoogstra

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** The agenda was posted on February 25, 2016.
2. **Pledge.**
3. **Approve minutes of January 5, 2016 and Dec. 30, 2016:** Stand as written. Motion to approve by Frank Zimmerman. Seconded by Al Feld. No nays.
4. **Treasurer's Report and Elections Report from Clerk:** Approved as presented.
5. **Building Permits for November:** Read into the record.

Public Comments:

Julie Stodolka lives in town of Herman on our eastern boundary. She expressed her concerns regarding a property near her in the Town of Rhine, and she believes there is a concentrated animal feeding operation there. The property owner has no permit for this. She is disturbed about this and wants someone to look into it. There is a new giant manure pit ½ mile due west of her property, and she is anxious about the quality of life being altered by this for both herself and other residents that live closer to the pit.

Ron Platz mentioned that he is aware of this situation, and he has contacted our attorney about it in relations to who has the authority to regulate the situation. Our ordinance does contain verbiage about the number of animal units allowed before USDA and/or DNR have to get involved.

There were no other public comments, and this portion of the meeting was closed.

6. a. Farmland Preservation Tax Program:

Kevin Struck, from Sheboygan County and UW Sheboygan gave a presentation on the Farmland Preservation Tax Program. Some of our farmers may be falling off the program for getting tax credits for next year, and he presented some steps to prevent this from happening.

He offered a handout on the Farmland Preservation Program. This is an entirely new program from the state. Statutes have been re-written. To get into the program again, it has to be certified by Dpt of Agriculture . He explained the different highlights and pros and cons of this program.

About 15 to 20 landowners in the town of Rhine have participated each year. Last year the tax credits were approximately \$1000 per landowner. Rhine's Certification expired 12/31/2014. Rhine applied for and received an extension once until 12/31/2015. So, landowners filing taxes for 2015 can still get the tax credit. Unless the town recertifies, they will not get the credit next year. Mr. Struck is currently working with several other towns to become recertified for the program, and the Town of Rhine could possibly also hire him. He explained what is involved in recertifying. He thinks it would be difficult to get this redone for 2016, but could possibly be done for 2017. It is possible to hire an outside consultant to help with this instead of him.

Questions/concerns from Zimmerman: If we recertify to be in Farmland Preservation, some farmers may not want to participate it. They should not be forced to be in it. Kevin said that might require some zoning changes. Platz explained that these concerns would be addressed at a public meeting.

6. b. Annual Reports from:

Elkhart Lake First Responders – Lisa Holzman, Captain of Elkhart Lake First Responders

136 total calls were handled in 2015 by a total of 16 active members. Some of the first responders have been part of Sheboygan county active shooter training. They have been able to upgrade to 5 newer fibrillator models. 6 new people have completed EMR training. In 2016 they will continue training with SWAT and the county.

Sanitary District # 3 – Charlie Windsor

Had a handout for the board of their financial report and minutes of last meeting. They pick up trash around Elkhart Lake. Shoreline residents are serviced by JD Trucking now. They switched from bi annual taxation to annual taxation for a lower mill rate. It still covers the cost of trash pickup. Jd Trucking is from Waldo. They also pick up for Crystal Lake sanitary district.

Sanitary Districts 1

Al Feld spoke for District 1. It's around Crystal Lake. They maintain sewers and garbage pickup around the lake. Garbage hauling by JD Hauling. Everything is running fine there.

7. Deer Carcass Removal:

Ron Platz explained an email the town received regarding deer carcass removal. The county/state won't pay for this service anymore. The County has contracted with an independent service contractor to do this. Sheboygan County will pay \$468 per month at this time and recalculate the costs in January of 2017. The County will pay Thiebold, and the town will reimburse the county. The County wants a response as to whether we will be participating in this or not.

Recommendation by Platz to enroll in the program for the first year and review it next year for costs, etc. Motion to try it by Zimmerman. Second by Feld. No nays. All approved. Unanimous vote.

8. April Town Board Meeting:

Set for April 12th due to the election on April 5, 2016. Motion to move meeting to April 12 by Zimmerman. Second by Feld. No nays. April 19 will be the date for the annual meeting of the spring electors.

9. Elkhart Lake Triathlon:

Information on the triathlon to be held on June 11, 2016 was reviewed. Comments by Platz that this has run smoothly in the past. Motion by Feld to cooperate / participate this year. Second by Purkey. No nays.

10. Appoint new Clerk/Treasurer:

Swearing in of Lexann Hoogstra as new clerk/treasurer, to be effective February 2, 2016.

11. Mike and Tracey Dorsey property:

There was a discussion regarding the Dorsey property on Crystal Lake and the information provided by our attorney regarding this. The Building Inspector could not issue a requested permit due to setback requirements. The home owners have hired an attorney to investigate. Discussion continued regarding the correspondence between attorneys and who has the authority

to regulate the setbacks, as well as suggestions from Paul Dirkse on how to handle this. The discussion continued to include interpretation of ACT 55. Comment by Booher that in our long range plan our 3 lakes are designated as exceptional resources in our town, and we should do everything possible to protect those lakes.

12. Price increase for Freon-bearing appliances:

AL Feld explained that we were given a price increase from Advanced Disposal effective January 1, 2016. The price is being increased from \$30 to \$35 per item. Motion to increase the prices as above was made by Al Feld. Second by Zimmerman. No nays

13. Town Clerk training:

A motion was made by Frank Zimmerman to approve training for the town clerk in Green Bay, including costs, from July 10 to 15. Seconded by Al Feld. No nays.

14. Town Credit Card:

The board discussed the option of getting a credit card or petty cash for town use. We are waiting on more information from the bank regarding rates, fees, etc. before making a decision.

15. Chairman's information report:

Platz recommends whoever is able to attend the IOH seminar at Millhome Supper Club on March 22. This will cover new laws regarding IOH.

Ron Platz mentioned a letter from the DNR regarding a land purchase.

16. Sub-Committee reports:

Todd Purkey explained the ordinance committee has been working on several items. One is a permit for utilities when placed within the right of ways. The clerk has contacted Wisconsin Towns to see if other towns might have an ordinance that covers this situation.

The committee is also working on building setbacks. Multiple variances are granted each year, especially on Crystal Lake. There has been difficulty enforcing the setbacks. The county is reluctant to widen roads there. He discussed why this is a difficulty now and how we could handle the problems that arise frequently. There has been some suggestion of proposing a setback of 20 feet. It's currently 60 feet from the centerline. We have to follow up with county on their ordinances and with the attorney to see if we can change setbacks. Booher commented that if ACT 55 is indeed true, then this is a mute point.

Liquor license: There has been discussion on the 7 licenses in the the town of Rhine. There has been dialogue regarding a business on Cyrstal Lake that is not using its liquor license. We want to be sure that license is available so the property owner can more easily resell. This has been tabled for now with a request to revisit it at a later time.

Cemetery zoning: Setbacks and zoning concerns with one property at county A. Building materials are being donated for a new storage shed. The property owners don't want to pay the cost for a Board of Appeals hearing. Purkey discussed the status of current cemeteries in the Town of Rhine and how they are zoned at the present time. The committee is working on creating a new cemetery zoning that would allow for consistent land use within a new zone of CZ.

The committee is also drafting an ordinance to regulate liquid manure hauling on town roadways. He reviewed concerns that have instigated this new ordinance and what the committee is now doing in this direction. Highlights of the new proposed ordinance were reviewed. This is a draft only at this point.

There was a concern raised at a previous meeting about fences and unlicensed vehicles. The committee has decided to make no changes to this ordinance at this time.

There were no other committee reports.

17. Approve Vouchers: A motion to approve vouchers was made by Zimmerman and seconded by Feld. All approved. No nays.

18. Next Meeting Date: April 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Regular Town Board meeting.

19. Adjournment: At 7:09PM, a motion to adjourn was made by **Zimmermann**, second **Feld**. Discussion: None Motion carried with no nay votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Lexann Hoogstra, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Rhine