

Town of Almena

Minutes – Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting **September 12th, 2023**

1-The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Ken Scheps at 5:57pm. Board members in attendance were Chair Ken Scheps, Supervisors Harland Becker and Ed Miller, Treasurer Hoyt Rose, Shop Employee Gary Kreckler, and Clerk Kristen Moen. Also in attendance were Pat and Sue Wick, Kent Kindschy, Keith Kahl, and Sandy Mathieu.

2-The Clerk states when and where the Notice and Agenda for the meeting was posted.

3-The Clerk presented via email and meeting the monthly meeting minutes for August 14th, 2023. Supervisor Harland made motion to approve minutes as presented. Supervisor Ed 2nd the motion, All in favor, Motion carried.

4-The Treasurer report for August was given by Treasurer Hoyt Rose. Supervisory Ed Miller made a motion to approve Treasurer's report as presented, Harland Becker seconded this, all in favor, motion carried. Clerk presented working capital and budget with no questions from the board. Clerk to reach out to Sue Moravitz about an uncashed check.

5-Chair Ken opened public portion and Sandy Mathieu presented her Parent Educator program and pamphlet to the board. She discussed that she would like to use the Town Hall one day a week to meet with clients in the township. She currently meets with 5 in our area both in the village and town. Her plan is to use the facility on Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm. She shared what she would be doing during that time including snacks, classes, and provide goods for them to take home. She plans to bring some totes that she will store in the corner. Only concern that was discussed was election Tuesdays. Sandy was OK with either rescheduling or not having it that week. They also discussed the safety of keeping the back bathroom door locked on those days or only having them use one bathroom. She also shared what services she provides on Heart Island. Board agreed this was a great idea and she already has a key. Sandy left the meeting at 6:17pm. Clerk Presented Cumberland Ambulance letter for a monetary donation. Board noted. Ken then shared that Mark Servi who worked at the county is now going to help serve Districts 2&3 to help with contracting and working through the towns association to help them get the LRIP/TRIP grants. It does have a cost of \$90 an hour for his services including mileage etc. Ken stated that he did discuss some options about the town hall with him and he was willing to look into funding etc. for us at no cost currently. At this time Ken shared that the board has been looking at options for possibly a larger shed etc. Ken did talk to Vince and he stated that the fire department is tight for space and Ken will discuss this more at the next fire board meeting. Ken then shared with those at the meeting that this is a work in progress and we are only looking at all options. Board then discussed what they thought after looking at the building out by the gas station. Board was not impressed with building for their use. Discussed possibility of Synergy building again, also the option of fire hall if they were to rebuild.

6-Kent Kindschy presented a handout and shared the updated School estimates as of September 2023. They are down 10 this year, Summer School Grant paid for summer school and they had 4 extra summer school days which increased the number of students. All other information is on the handout and can be seen per request. Ken left the meeting at 6:29pm.

7-Board opened discussion for the snow plowing agenda item. Pat Wick then presented a handout of his property and discussed when he purchased that property in the 70s there was a verbal agreement they would plow in and around his driveway for the plow to turn around. He was concerned this would end. Ken assured him it would not and the town would continue to plow it as they requested. Pat and Sue then did share how it had been done in the past and how they feel it would work best in the future. They did hire someone to also come through to clean up the driveway once the Township had completed this task. Wick's were pleased and left the meeting at 6:55pm.

8-Board looked over and noted equalizer report.

9-Hoyt shared with board that 30% of COVID funds can be used for roads so it was noted \$30,000 will be spent this year on roads and he will file in April.

10- Board noted DNR letter

11-Board discussed the county and what they needed to complete with the culverts. They will also be starting the lake roads as discussed and they plan to cut out driveways to create a straight edge. They will be starting in about a week or two with blacktopping over the culverts as they are all in. Board signed and clerk to return acknowledgment for 15 ½ Ave over lightening creek for funding at 100% cost and when its completed the town is responsible for the difference. Letter available per request.

12-During road maintenance and equipment update Gary reported that mower is working well and board said ditches look very nice. He did hit some rocks at the same location as earlier this year and this person has a history of dumping rocks. Gary reported it happened with the boom mower and he feels he may have pushed them up last time mowing. Hoyt reported that it will be going out in the tax bill about if damage is caused to the mower because of debris put in the ditch, the person who placed it is responsible for those expenses. Board also wanted clerk to send a letter to said person. Clerk to talk to Gary about this. Gary took the mower to Arland for 3 hours and had their shop employee try it and he was impressed. Gary just replaced blades and he has only used the grapple once but it worked really well.

Harland then shared that he forgot to share in public portion that the neighbor of a guy building a new 2-3 stall garage on 2 ½ upper road that we approved is concerned it is being built way to close to the road. Harland did tell him he would check it out, drove by, and it is in fact just fine.

Board then discussed a gate on a road near Val Paulson's and that the neighbor is requesting the gate to be moved up by the road. Gary stated it is open now and the chain is off of it but in the spring he will move it.

13-Board audited and approved vouchers 9682-9694. Supervisor Harland made motion to approve vouchers, Chair Ken seconds this motion, all in favor, motion carried.

14-Board audited and approved 2022 vouchers: Information available per request.

15- Board sets next regular monthly town meeting for Tuesday October 10th at 6pm.

13-Chair makes motion to adjourn, Ed 2nds this motion, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted – Kristen Moen, Clerk