

Town of Almena

Minutes – Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting August 14th, 2023

1-The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Ken Scheps at 6:06pm. Board members in attendance were Chair Ken Scheps, Supervisors Harland Becker and Ed Miller, Treasurer Hoyt Rose, Shop Employee Gary Krecker, Clerk Kristen Moen and Dan Stofell.

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 July 7th, 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 July was given by Treasurer Hoyt Rose. Chair Ken made a motion to approve Treasurer's report, Supervisor Ed seconds this motion, all in favor, motion carried. Clerk presented working capital and budget. At this time board discussed different road options with current budget options etc. They also discussed culverts, cost, grant funding, county funding, and what the town would be in charge of. No other questions from board.

5-Chair Ken opened public portion and clerk shared the town census increased by 5 people. Clerk also shared the Barron County Unit Meeting and Harland reported that him and possibly Ken would go. Ken also shared that the Bridge on 15 ½ near 4th street was approved for either \$640 or \$630 and anything over that cost the town would be responsible for. Chair did not have paperwork at the meeting but would provide it to clerk when he had it. Since it was not going to be repaired until 2025 he wanted it in the minutes in case another board was in place. Board to discuss again at next meeting. There were 7 bridges in Barron County approved. Ed asked if it would be concrete or timber and Ken was not sure. Board discussed how long the current bridge has lasted. Ken brought up that since we are not providing snow plowing this season that Hoyt should get letters out for other options to people before the tax statements go out. Harland to call plowers to see if they want their numbers shared and let clerk and treasurer know asap. Public portion closed at 6:36pm.

6-Treasurer presented the Master Touch estimate for Tax Statements again this year. It has gone up slightly except postage did drop 2 cents a stamp overall.

7-Clerk shared proposed election workers for the 2024-2025 years and was approved and signed by board. The following workers approved included Doug Kurschner, Susan Rheingans, Susan Wick, Ann Klugow and Arlene Hoff. New to the group will be Cindy McNamara.

8-Clerk shared estimate for rental of an additional ExpressVote for the 2024 election year which is the same for one month as one full year. Board discussed with it being a presidential election year having a 3rd machine would be nice to prevent long wait lines. Board agreed and approved the rental of an additional ExpressVote for the 2024 year at the cost of \$1,320.00.

9-Hoyt shared that our boat landing was picked and approved 9 out of 24 total requests. He stated that the DNR grant only paid down to #11 on the list. We were awarded \$11,097.09 which is half the cost. The lake association agreed to pay half of the remainder and the Town of Almena will then cover the other half with each paying approximately \$5,548.50 each. This will not happen until after Labor Day, the County will be doing the work, and they have it on their schedule. We will also need to purchase a handicap parking sign to place near the dock per the grant.

10-During road maintenance and equipment update board discussed and reviewed the culverts in the township, and they will plan to put blacktop over them in October. All signs are up about lose gravel. The mower is back and works. Gary took to truck center and it is now ready for second round of mowing. Plow for truck looks ok and are next o building away from the fertilizer. Fire numbers are done, and the truck will need new tires soon before winter. Board agrees to get new tires from the county. Village is getting a new truck as they were waiting on us to sell our old one but instead purchased from the County. Ken shared the rumor that we were purchasing Torgy's and Harland shared that the

people interested in buying it were to pay 1.6 million but appraised for 1.4 million. Board discussed additional expense of doors to increase width. Discussion of Fire Department and town hall if both decided to build new buildings and what would occur with zoning. Discussion that Fire Department would be able to get a grant to assist with any building or purchase of another building. Board discussed that they would at least reach out to Matt Torgerson and do a walk through of the building. Board to schedule and clerk to put out notice for special town meeting when scheduled.

11-Board audited and approved vouchers 9660-9681. Supervisor ED made motion to approve vouchers, Supervisor Harland seconds this motion, all in favor, motion carried. Chair requested September for yearly voucher audits to be completed.

12- Board sets next regular monthly town meeting for Tuesday September 12th at 6pm.

13-Chair makes motion to adjourn, Ed 2nds this motion, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted – Kristen Moen, Clerk