

Town of Merton
Town Board Meeting
Minutes of September 25, 2023

- Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Klink @ 6:30 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Klink
- Minutes- Minutes of September 11, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Fleming/Olson. Motion carried.

Present: Chairman Klink, Supervisors Herrick, Olson, Fleming and Morris, DPW Director Griffin and Clerk Hann. Absent: Attorney Murn, Treasurer Kempen.
Also, in attendance: Holly Stapleton, Scott Rohlffs, Glenda & Gerry Dolphin, Shelley Russ, Michelle Gibbs, Steve Markgraf, Kenneth Gray, Joe Donovan.

Citizen Comments and Concerns: Glenda Dolphin talked to the town board about how cozy and welcoming the Library in the Town of Merton is. She also stated that Library creates great value to the community and hopes that town continues to support the library at least as well as it has been funded in the past.

Old Business:

Consider/Act on Library Resolution to exempt Town of Merton from Waukesha County Library 2023 Levy for 2024 Purposes. Chairman stated that town met with the library about the levy limits placed on the town by the state. A motion to approve the Library Resolution and fund \$577,835 to exempt the Town of Merton from the Waukesha County Library 2023 Levy for 2024 purposes was made by Morris/Herrick with the condition that 50% of the county reimbursement of non-residential service be used by the Town to offset the reduction to the town levy with the approval of the Library Board. Motion carried.

New Business:

Consider/Act on Determining How to Calculate a Fire Fee. Chairman Klink explained the reasons why the board is looking at a Fire Fee. Clerk Hall read to the board the Statute on charging a Fire Fee that is fair and equitable to all the residents. Once the town received the information from the town assessor, calculations could be done to determine how to calculate that fee. Clerk Hann showed a spread sheet of the properties and what their estimate costs could be using three factors of acres, square footage of residential/commercial properties and outbuildings. Chairman Klink explained that referendum failed and there is no way to increase the levy with the state restrictions. Supervisor Morris stated the town levy would be reduced by the fires cost from 2013 but the fire fee would be calculated by today's cost. Morris also stated that exempt properties would now be charged the fee. Supervisor Herrick said

the town was looking at three options to calculate fee including a flat fee. Clerk Hann commented on all the options however using the three factors of acres, square footage of residential/commercial and outbuildings was the most fair and equitable. A motion to approve using a fee range for acreage & outbuildings and a cost per square footage for residential, garages, and commercial properties was made by Morris/Olson. Supervisor Herrick opposed. Motion carried. Clerk Hann will bring the information to the next board meeting.

Discussion on the Annual Charge per residential unit for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Fee. Clerk Hann asked the board for clarification on calculating the annual charge for solid waste and recycling. For the past few years, the town has not received any dividend from the Waukesha County on recycling and is asking about giving a reduction to the residents for 2024. Supervisor Fleming stated that the town should give that reduction to the residents. Clerk Hall will post the notice for the 2024 the Annual Charge per residential unit for Solid Waste and Recycling with the reduction and have the town board act on the fee at the next board meeting.

Consider/Act on the CSM to split approximately 73.14 acres, W316N8929 Hoff Road, into 2 parcels, as requested by Andrew Smith, on behalf of Patrick and Ann Smith, TAX KEY 0303-999-001 approved by Plan Commission on September 7, 2022. A motion to approve the CSM to split approximately 73.14 acres, W316N8929 Hoff Road, into 2 parcels, as requested by Andrew Smith, on behalf of Patrick and Ann Smith, TAX KEY 0303-999-001 and approved by Plan Commission on September 7, 2022 was made by Fleming/Herrick. Motion carried.

Consider/Act on Resolution to Borrow \$820,000 for the 2023 road projects, for the purchase of 2023 Highway Truck, Lake Patrol Boat & Motor, and Fire Capital, etc. Clerk Hann reviewed the details of the loan request with Bank 59. A motion to approve the resolution to borrow \$820,000 for the 2023 road projects, for the purchase of 2023 Highway Truck, for Lake Patrol Boat & Motor, and for Fire Capital was made by Herrick/Morris with a word correction on the resolution and remove “for” and change to “over” five years. Motion carried.

Review Discussion With North Lake Recreation Club on Park and Fire House. Chairman Klink talked about a meeting that he and Supervisor Fleming had with the North Lake Recreation Club and the Fire House. Thru that discussion it was stated that the town wishes that area to be kept a park. Supervisor Fleming stated that the tax payors paid for that fire station. Supervisor Herrick would like to see the Fire House be used for future EMS and Fire Service. Chairman will continue talks with North Lake Rec.

Consider/Act on Town Engineering. DPW Director Paul Griffin talked to the board about the two-year trial basis engineering agreement with Strand Engineering since

2021. He is recommending SEH be appointed a town engineering firm starting in 2024. A motion to approve SEH was made by Fleming/Olson. Motion carried.

Clerk, Board, Highway, Treasurer and Attorney Reports. DPW Director talked about the project on Beaver Lake Road. Herrick talked about the Municipal Court Budget. Clerk Hann will post the information meeting on Fire Fee for October 9 @ 6:30.

Vouchers as Presented - A motion to approve the vouchers as presented was made by Fleming/Olson. Motion carried.

Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was made by Fleming/Morris. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Donna Hann, Town Clerk