

OTTAWA TOWN BOARD Meeting Minutes December 11, 2023

The meeting of the Ottawa Town Board was called to order by Chairman Rupp.

Roll call attendance was taken and Town Supervisors Graham and Jones were present.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Treasurer's monthly financial activity report as presented. His motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Building Inspector's monthly activity report as presented. His motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

Sean Sullivan was present on behalf of Ruekert-Mielke. He spoke to the 2023 road program and task order plans he would like to implement for 2024. As the company values the relationship with the Town, they have offered the Town \$20k off of next years engineering charges. Mr. Sullivan also spoke to the pay request from Wolf paving. Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Engineer's monthly activity report as presented and to approve the payment #2 to Wolf Paving. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

During public comment, the following residents and non-residents spoke:

Gene Larson, resident on Waterville Rd., spoke that Waterville Road is a Rustic Road designation and is busier. He is firmly against ATV's on Waterville Rd.

W. Bosenbecker, resident on Parry Rd., spoke that he feels the ATV's would speed and has safety concerns on Parry Road, use near the campground, sign issues, 5 corners challenges and curves and blind spots.

Jerry Hanson, resident on Virgin Forest, spoke against the ATV's on the roads. He stated reasons as hills, curves, blind spots, does not want more additional traffic and Ottawa roads are not conducive to ATV's.

Nathan Murray, resident on Robinhood, stated this has no benefit for Ottawa. Not a leisure or tourist destination, noise and policing are low already.

Sandy Shore, non-resident from eagle, believes there is a misconception of ATV groups. They are respectful of roads, licensed, insured and can go the speed limit.

John Meyers, resident on Parry road, stated concern for bikes and kids and this would be too dangerous. Strongly against. He has concerns of heavier traffic, blind spots.

Steve Brasch, resident on Moraine Hills, is opposed to the ATV's on the roads. His concerns are for noise and the Pineview campground.

Donna Murray, resident on Robin Hood Dr., is against having ATV's on Waterville Rd. and thinks it will be a disaster

Frank Murphy, resident on Hwy Z, is for ATV's, but agrees and understands not using Waterville Rd. . ATV users will have lights, licenses and insurance. Most would use for neighbor visits or plowing. Maybe just not on certain roads.

Steve Spak, resident on Pretty Lake Rd., stated that ATV's are state regulated, have lights and registration. The routes requested are only on roads 35 mph or less. The UTV group is dedicated and holds classes and educational information.

Adam Rick, resident on Hwy Z, also on the Dousman Chamber of Commerce, believes this will be good for business in Dousman. ATV owners self-police and know it is a privilege. It's helpful on his farm to be able to drive on the road to check his property.

Mary Hanson, resident on Virgin Forest, spoke to the dangers of Waterville Road. Her daughter was 19 years old and seriously injured, leaving her still partially paralyzed. Everyday she hears traffic, fire, ambulance sirens. The Town needs more control of Waterville Rd. speeds and noise.

Jean Bosenbecker, resident on Parry Rd., is against ATV's on the roads. She stated it would be a safety concern, and with additional traffic already, and apartments being built on 67 & 18, as well as three Pillars adding 100 units, there will be even more traffic.

Steve Brasch, resident on Moraine Hills, spoke again to the peace and quiet of Ottawa. Solitude would be shattered. Would like a vote to Town residents.

No more public comment.

Chief Bowen of WLFD gave an update on the district. A deputy from the Sheriff's department was also present. He answered a couple of questions from the public. He spoke to Waterville road being narrow and hilly. There is usually one Sheriff spread over a large area of Genesee, Dousman, Ottawa, Eagle and Waukesha.

The next item on the agenda was for the request for ATV/UTV routes on Town roads. Supervisor Jones asked Steve Spak if he had anything he would like to say. Mr. Spak stated that the concerns over safety, noise and lighting are all addressed in Wisconsin Statutes. ATV drivers have the responsibility to follow the rules of the roads.

Matt, non-resident, President of the Okauchee ATV club stated that there are low ATV accidents, the routes would allow for business from extended communities, ATV's do pay gas tax, and registration. He believes the traffic and noise levels are overestimated.

Supervisor Jones asked where is the destination for ATV users, joyriding? Matt answered yes, they do road touring.

Supervisor Graham asked if Waukesha County is on board? County Supervisor Chris Mommaerts answered that the County may consider in certain areas. She stated there have been no ATV complaints in the Town of Eagle. She also stated that Palmyra is very busy with ATV traffic.

Supervisor Jones asked Matt if he would recommend licenses? Mat responded ATV state laws are different being 12 yrs. Old and up with an adult. He would suggest 16 yrs. and a driver's license.

Supervisor Jones asked how the laws are conveyed? County Supervisor Mommaerts responded this is done with an ordinance and the DNR enforces this in Eagle.

Supervisor Jones asked if the ATV club would pay for the required street signs? Matt responded yes; signage is mandated by the State. Ordinance can state that routes not open until all signs are up.

Supervisor Jones noted that the County response from Paul Decker is that they are not approved on County Roads. Can ATV's cross those roads? Matt responded yes, cross only.

Supervisor Jones stated the ATV club could consider a Town Hall type gathering in Okauchee to be open to the public, or an open house.

Supervisor Graham stated that it seems that Waterville and Parry roads are the big concern.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to table this item to the January 8, 2024 meeting to allow time to investigate this more, ask more questions and have the other board members participate in the discussion. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

The next item on the agenda was for Dan and June Pape, W395S3611 Hardscrabble Rad, Dousman, Final CSM and any necessary waivers. Supervisor Graham made a motion to approve Pape's Final CSM in accordance with the Town Plan Commission recommendation. The motion was seconded By Supervisor Jones and carried.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to approve Resolution 12-23 approving the Municipal Court Budget. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

The next item on the agenda was for appointment of Election Inspectors for the 2024-2025 cycle. Supervisor Graham made a motion to appoint the list of Election Inspectors as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried.

The next item discussed was Ordinance 12-23 removal of designated newspaper. Supervisor Jones made a motion to adopt Ordinance 12-23 as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

Discussion was had over updates to the employee handbook related to holiday hours. Supervisor Jones made a motion to update the employee handbook as discussed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

The board discussed Engineering firms project considerations. Supervisor Jones made a motion to give Chairman Rupp the authority to assign road projects to Delta 3 Engineering firm as she sees fit, and for her to consider any proposals from Delta 3 regarding additional Town engineering needs. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Graham and carried.

Chairman Rupp presented the updated Snow & Ice agreement with the Town of Eagle. Supervisor Graham made a motion to accept the contract with the Town of Eagle. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried.

Under Lake updates, Chairman Rupp gave an update on Waterville Lake requesting dredging information. Clerk Geyman shared that there had been a meeting between Pretty Lake, School Section Lake and Hunters Lake regarding wake boats. The State of WI is working on guidelines.

Supervisor Jones shared that the Ottawa Park is closed for the season. He also stated that he is still looking into more park sign options.

Supervisor Graham made a motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried.

Chairman Rupp shared correspondence from OASC, fire district agreement and tax rate information.

Supervisor Graham made a motion to pay bills as listed, in addition to payroll and associated withholding payments for L Geyman, M Barnhart, cardmember services and WE energies. His motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Jones and seconded by Supervisor Graham to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori J. Geyman, WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Ottawa