

## 2017 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

The 2017 Annual Town Meeting was held in the Barneveld-Brigham Municipal Building meeting room in Barneveld Wisconsin on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Jason Carden at 7:00 PM.

In attendance were: Chair Jason Carden, Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Rue, Kayla Schmidt (Johnson Block & Co), Keith Hurlbert (Barneveld-Brigham Fire Chief), Michelle Wright (Barneveld Area Rescue Squad), Bill Carden, Jim Strycharske, Jerry Davis, Dennis Carpenter, Mary Davis, Caroline Beckett, Frank Sandner, Kelly Carden, Greg Hilden, Doug Reeson, Jeff Jenson, Tammy Zander, Rita Zander, Steve Thoni, Scott Gaffney, Otis Nelson, Jeff Zander, Bill Lorenz, Valerie Gaffney, Kyle Thompson, Duane Elfering and Jim Malcheski.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Jason Carden.

A motion was made by Scott Gaffney to approve the 2016 Annual meeting minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Jim Strycharske. Carried Unanimously

Kayla Schmidt of Johnson, Block & Co presented the 2016 audit and financial report. She explained what is required in an audit and then went through the audit report noting the town ended the year with the receipts \$96,000 higher than the expenditures. She noted the Town is in good shape financially. A motion was made by Joe Karls to accept the audit report and financial report as presented. Motion was seconded by Rita Zander. Motion carried unanimously.

Keith Hurlbert gave the annual Fire Dept. report. He noted the Fire Dept. had 48 calls for service in 2016 and 3 structure fires. He added that the department had done some fundraising in an effort to lessen tax dollars needed. He said \$5,000 was raised this past year with fundraising. Chief Hurlbert added that the dept. now charges for controlled burns. He talked about education functions and educational sessions the dept. has gone through. He said the current membership is at 31 – but they'd like it to be around 37. He stated the challenges they have is to not "burn out" volunteers. He said the apparatus in the dept. is in good shape. They are working on what's called an evidence based budget.

Chief Hurlbert hopes to work on town driveways over the upcoming year. He said there are driveways that the fire Dept would have a difficult time getting up if there was an emergency. They plan to send letters to property owners who need to cut trees and do routine maintenance on their driveway.

Next Michelle Wright, as the Assistant Chief of the Rescue Squad, gave the annual report for the Barneveld Area Rescue Squad (BARS). She noted the BARS are an

advanced level EMS. She added that Ridgeway and Hollandale both have First Responders and she explained the areas of service for the BARS, which includes Ridgeway and parts of Hollandale.

Ms. Wright said the BARS had 193 calls in 2016. She said their current challenge is getting volunteers. Training time is a factor. They are hoping Vortex may provide opportunities for responders.

She said equipment is a challenge as everything has an expiration date and they need to continuously be purchasing updated items.

Ms. Wright thanked the community, the Fire District Board and the Fire Dept. for their support. She noted they have a good partnership, but are working toward an even better partnership.

Her final plea was for volunteers – they'll take people of all ages.

Next Chair Carden gave a road report. He noted the Clay Hill Road Bridge project is done and the next (and last) bridge the town needs to do is the Lakeview Road Bridge. He noted it'll be 5 or 6 years, but the process has begun.

Jerry Davis commended Scott Gaffney on his ethics and professionalism as a Board member and thanked Gaffney for his years of service.

Dennis Carpenter expressed gratitude to the Town Board on their Broadband work.

Chair Carden explained the total cost of installing Broadband is \$250,000. The County will apply for a grant as soon as the opportunity is there. Iowa County is committing \$50,000 and MHTC will come up with at least \$100,000. Chair Carden added that the Town has passed a Resolution in support of Broadband. Iowa County will submit a grant as soon as the State Senate Bill for Broadband is passed.

Frank Sandner raised concern on the ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek project. Sandner would like to be a rep for our area on a committee serving as a liaison between ATC and the Town.

Jim Strycharske asked what the outline of the Comprehensive Plan is. Chair Carden explained there are steps to follow and the Board is following them.

Greg Hilden asked that the Annual Meeting notice, though it isn't required to be posted at all, be posted in the Shopper several weeks ahead of time next year. It was noted that this year, the Annual meeting had been announced on the web site, on the bulletin board, and in an email to the 55 members of the news group.

Jim Strycharske asked for a vote on whether to send a survey post card now.

Scott Gaffney stated that he felt SWWRPC (SouthWest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) recommended not sending a survey out at this time. Chair Carden went on to explain why SWWRPC felt a survey was not a good idea early on, as it isn't clear what types of questions to ask.

Greg Hilden stated he had talked with SWWRPC who stated they have done 153 comp plans and did a survey on all of them.

Jerry Davis noted he feels there's a misunderstanding in what the post card is vs. what a survey is.

Chair Carden noted people have been resistant to a consultant due to the price and until we get into the process we won't know if a survey is necessary. The Board has chosen not to spend the money on a survey at this time.

Jim Strycharske asked to have a survey sent on the 2 issues discussed in the forums. A motion was then made by Jim Strycharske to have the Town Board send out a survey now, dealing with the comp plan and asking detailed questions on the two areas (Natural Resources and Land Use). Motion was seconded by Caroline Beckett.

There were then comments from Duane Elfering, Dennis Carpenter, Greg Hilden and Joe Karls regarding doing a survey now vs. later vs. never. A vote was taken. 4 people voted in favor of doing a survey now. More than 10 voted to wait on a survey. Motion failed.

Otis Nelson asked for the consultant cost thus far. Chair Carden stated that approximately \$3,500 has been spent and went on to explain the process going forward.

Chair Carden thanked Scott Gaffney for his years of service (10 years), and presented Gaffney with a plaque. Gaffney gave a brief speech noting it's been an enjoyable 10 years and thanked those he worked with.

Chair Carden then introduced Kyle Thompson as our new Board member and welcomed him to the Town Board.

Next Year's Annual Meeting will be held in the same place on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Jeff Zander at 8:10 PM to adjourn. Motion seconded by Scott Gaffney. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Audrey Rue, Clerk/Treasurer