

TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 22, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 22nd day of March, 2021 with Chairman Tim Bomberg and Supervisors John Holbrook and Shane McLain present.

On a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain the agenda was approved as posted. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on February 22, 2021 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

Scott Sternhagen, PCA with CLA was in attendance to provide information regarding the towns' 2020 YE Financial Statements stating that the town is in a healthy position ending 2021 with a net gain of \$111,627. The assigned fund balances in the highway department and equipment fund are positive for unforeseen expenses.

Discussion regarding the purchase of the Dominion ICE electronic voting equipment was continued with Bomberg informing those present that it isn't cost prohibited to continue using the Sequoia Edge II for 2022, as the town would be responsible for all the expenses associated in using them which totals approximately \$6,300 for the year, with at the end of 2022, still needing to invest in another handicapped accessible machine, and noting that there are few companies to choose from. Bomberg stated that he has spoken with the other clerks in the county and that these towns are moving forward with the Dominion ICE Tabulator in 2022. Again, Bomberg expressed that this machine will be a paper ballot and the voter will have the choice of inserting it into the ICE for scanning and tabulating or to deposit it into an auxiliary bin to be hand counted at the close of the polls. McLain expressed concern about the on-going media reports of election fraud in the 2020 election and the Dominion voting machines, adding "What's going to happen in the future, if these machines are found to be vulnerable and be determined to be able to be manipulated?" Clerk/Treasurer, Shelly VanPembrook stated when and if that happens, you can be assured there will be federal, state and local demands for election reform. Marcia Krcma, concerned resident, questioned who is the WI Election Commission and asked if they are hired or elected. Bomberg stated they are employees of the state. Krcma also expressed concern about the use of Dominion voting machine and expressed that good government begins at the local level. Bomberg stated we can only assure are citizens of how the election process is handled in the Town of Florence. On a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain it was moved for the town to look into creating a town ordinance or resolution committing to hand counting of all paper ballots that are deposited into the auxiliary bin on the ICE voting machine. All in favor, motion carried.

An update on the Ad-Hoc Committee regarding the Florence County Rescue Squad was provided by Diane Theis, EMT of the squad stating that re-structuring has begone and is encouraging. The members have been able to provide 70-80% coverage per week. Theis went on to say the department is determining the level of commitment of its' members, adding that the current culture is challenging. Theis stated she is very optimistic. Bomberg stated that we can be grateful for these volunteers.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to accept Great North Property Maintenances' 3-year proposal to provide mowing of the Woodlawn Cemetery which includes spring and fall cleanup, town park, vacant lot and around the Rescue Squad building. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook a Class B Liquor License was approved for T&G Frappier, LLC dba The Filling Station located at 740 Central Avenue. Gina Frappier, Agent. All in favor, motion carried.

A 60-Month Lease of a Konica Minolta Bizhub copier with Cooper Office Equipment in the amount of \$86.39/month was approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. VanPembrook noted that there is no increase from the current lease agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

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On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to accept a McCoy Construction Forestry proposal for a John Deere 544P Wheel Loader in the amount of \$175,500 and with an add on to include the lock up torque converter option of \$2,200 and contingent that the standard and full machine extended warranty includes travel time expenses. This motion includes a trade in of a 2016 JD 544K II Loader in the amount of \$116,000. Balance due is \$61,700. All in favor, motion carried.

VanPembrook submitted all February bank reconciliation reports for board review as well as reported that vouchers approved for payment on March 8th, 2021 by Bomberg totaled Checking \$64,124.90, automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$2,723.70 and Fire Department \$3,125.30.

VanPembrook informed the board that the town received a check for the paving of Sawmill Road that was done last year in the amount of \$125,625 and also reported that the town is allotted \$192,066 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. WTA is hoping to receive more clarity from the Department of Treasury soon and will continue to provide information so that this funding can be used to best support our community.

Fire Department bills totaling \$86.14 were approved for payment on a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly town bills totaling \$14,729.68 and automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$12,153.59 were approved on a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain. All in favor, motion carried.

Bomberg stated that he had attended a meeting regarding updating the Flood Plains mapping in Florence Count and informed them that the western portion of the county has little impact but if a resident is in an identified flood plain and they do not have flood insurance, FEMA will not assist.

Bomberg also stating he is working with the DOT regarding the installation of new planters being mounted on street lights and will provide more information when he receives it.

Krcma inquired about the picking up of garbage along town roads in the spring. Bomberg stated that this was a practice organized by the Fire Department and other citizens and that he would inquire with the Department if they were interested in organizing. VanPembrook added that in recent years the increased concern of drug paraphernalia has added to the decline of this activity.

There being no further business it was moved by McLain and seconded by Holbrook to adjourn until April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the community center. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:

Shelly VanPembrook
Clerk/Treasurer