

TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 23rd day of October, 2023 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 meetings held on October 9, and October 18, 2023 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to write-off a 2022 Personal Property Tax Bill on parcel # 10-5421 in the amount of \$38.83. This was property at the Keyes Lake Mobile Home park, which had collapsed and hauled out in August of 2023 and the owner has left the area. All in favor, motion carried.

A proposal from Cascade Engineering to provide 1,100 Ninety-six gallon refuse collection carts with the Town of Florence logo at a cost of \$51.25/each and a price of \$8.25 for each cart to assemble, deliver, unload, deliver curbside and assign addresses and hang literature was discussed. Bomberg stated that he feels that it is in the best interest of the town to own the carts, instead of a contractor providing them. As discussed for several months, the town is required to transition to an automated refuse collection service in 2024. Bomberg stated that the automated refuse collection service will eliminate the sale of garbage stickers and by owning our own carts will save the taxpayers money in the long run. Also adding, with the town owning the carts, the board hopes to keep contractors on a competitive bidding scale for service. McLain stated that much of the town board discussion on this topic has been in "closed session" and he feels that the public needs to be informed about the decisions the board is making and he does not like the idea of putting a special charge on tax bills for the service. McLain also believes residents should have the option to use the service or not. Discussion was had as to the up-front cost of the bins and the fact that the town will need to lower it's levy limit for the 2023 taxes payable in 2024 by an amount to be determined with the help of WI DOR Local Government Services Bureau. VanPembrook reported that the town must pay for refuse collection service first, before a special charge can be assessed on the residents who will use the service. Tom Brandt questioned the town board again, if the town has looked into carbon credits, with Bomberg stating that a presentation was given at the last county board meeting and recommended Brandt speak with Patrick Smith, Florence County Forestry and Parks Administrator.

Bomberg made the motion to approve the proposal from Cascade Engineering with Holbrook seconding the motion. A call for the vote was made with Bomberg and Holbrook approving and McLain being opposed. Motion carried.

On a motion by Bomberg and seconded by Holbrook a proposal from Green for Life to provide 5 years automated refuse collection service for 1,100 – town owned 95 gallon containers counted each week in the amount of \$12.55/home was approved. A call for the vote was made with Bomberg and Holbrook approving and McLain being opposed, stating the same concerns as the previous agenda item.

McLain expressed again concern that the public needs to be informed of the decisions being made and asked for a public informational meeting be scheduled in the very near future. The board agreed to get a meeting scheduled prior to the Budget Hearing in mid November.

Also discussed was that as more information regarding the transition to the automated refuse collection is known, people will be directed to the town website at www.townofflorencewisconsin.com and the town office will be mailing and emailing information within the week.

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VanPembrook submitted for board review all September bank reconciliation reports and informed the board of a complaint about how loud the fan is when running in the community center, during the meal site, making it difficult to hear when visiting.

Fire Department bills totaling \$567.27 were approved for payment on a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly town bills totaling \$48,918.05 and automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$21,698.39 were approved on a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain. All in favor, motion carried.

Under board concerns Bomberg asked VanPembrook to mail a nuisance notice to 2311 Old Hwy Sixty-Nine.

On a motion by Bomberg and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to enter into Closed Session under WI SS 19.85(1)(c) Compensation and Evaluation. Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting Aye (3) and Zero (0) Nays. Motion carried.

On a motion by Holbrook and seconded by McLain it was moved to reconvene to open session. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting Aye (3) and Zero (0) Nays. Motion carried.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to approve 2024 Wages as discussed. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business it was moved by Bomberg and seconded by McLain to adjourn until November 13, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the community center. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:

Shelly VanPembrook
Clerk/Treasurer