

**Town of Sampson
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, 6 April 2015**

The Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Sampson was called to order on **Monday, 6 April 2015** at 7:00 P.M. Notices were posted in the three designated areas, the town web site and the Bloomer Advance. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Butterfield. Supervisors Richardson and King were present as was Clerk/Treasurer Reed. There were 8 guests.

Chairman Butterfield led the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members had received copies of the **board minutes** of the regular board meeting held **Monday, 2 March**. A Motion was made by Supervisor Richardson to approve the meeting minutes. Supervisor King seconded the motion and all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given and accepted as read. Clerk Reed stated that Highway maintenance expenses were down \$4,200 from last year due to decrease expenses in fuel and salt and sand.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Butterfield introduced Mike Dahlby, Chippewa County Forest Administrator and Phil Montwill, Chippewa County Highway Construction foreman. Mike gave a brief presentation to the Board and guests about the **timber management program** that has started in the County gravel pit area across from the town hall. He stated that the woods had been unmanaged and therefore in poor health and the County intends to use timber revenue to invest in a new source of aggregate/gravel. The overall health of this area was in poor condition. Many of the trees have exceeded their life span and an invasive species (i.e. Buckthorn) has overgrown in the area. It was very ready for management. Mike had looked into bidding out the area to selectively cut the timber, but due to the poor quality of the timber the County did not receive any bids. Therefore the idea came about to plant a hybrid poplar trees that have a life expectancy of 6-8 years and can be used for bio energy use, which shows economic promise. Bids were then requested for whole tree chipping which makes planting much more feasible and is much cleaner. S & S Forestry from Cornell got the bid and as of this day they are about $\frac{3}{4}$ done and have a completion date of 1 May.

When this project was started in early April, the road bans were on the town roads, although originally the work was to start before the road bans came on. The semi's needed to get to St Highway 40, using a portion of 270th Ave. The County and contractor understood that use of this portion of 270th Ave was allowable, but due to miscommunication, the Board did not actually give permission for the County and S & S to run the town roads with the bans on. Chairman Butterfield and the Board expressed their discontent with this action. Phil stated that the County accepts their share of responsibility for the communications breakdown and the Chippewa County Highway Department will assist with repair and any damage done to this section of town road and has taken inventory of the road before the work was started. Phil assured the Board that this will never happen again and apologized for the action. In the future, the Town will be notified of any projects.

Mike stated that the County tentatively received a grant, funded by the Stewardship Program and intends to purchase land from Peter Hanson. Land that previously came under ownership of the County through tax deed (former Penn Livingston) will be

enrolled in the County Forest. The County will be cutting timber this summer near Highbanks Road (290th Ave), Knickerbocker and Ice Age Road.

Lynn Trowbridge asked how road bans are enforced. Phil stated that the WI D.O.T. has this jurisdiction and responsibility. He stated that there is only one D.O.T. certified state inspector to cover a four county area enforcing the road ban regulations, making it very difficult. He recommends notifying the Chippewa County Sheriff Department to report offenses. There being no more questions or comments, Chairman Butterfield thanked Mike and Phil for attending tonight's meeting.

Town of Sampson Resolution #1-2015 regarding implementation of County wide assessment was presented. Clerk Reed stated that at the W.T.A. District meeting that she had attended there was a lot of discussion regarding this proposal. The five legislators that were there stated that they did not think that this would pass. Many of the attendees voiced their concern about this. Clerk Reed had call Pete Procknow, the town assessor, and he stated that under this proposal the fees would be about \$30 per parcel. The Town currently has 2,587 parcels resulting in a yearly fee of \$77,610. The Town currently pays Pete \$10,000 annually. This would results in a \$66,610 increase in town assessment fees on the budget. The W.T.A. strongly opposes this legislation and drafted a resolution encouraging towns to adopt and send a copy to their legislators. A Motion was made by Supervisor Richardson to adopt Resolution #2-2015 as presented, opposing County Assessment. Supervisor King seconded the motion and all present voted aye. Motion carried. Clerk Reed will send copies to the W.T.A., Senator Moulton and Representative Larson.

Participation on the **2015 Chippewa County Recycling program** was discussed. A Motion was made by Supervisor Richardson not participate in this program. Supervisor King seconded the motion and all present voted aye. Motion carried.

The 2014-2015 **joint road maintenance bill** with the Town of Cleveland, in the amount of \$401.75 was approved.

Mike Kellen gave a report on the **New Auburn Area Fire Department** meeting. Mike stated that the bids had been open and Bauman Construction had won the bid. The bid was \$125 more than the estimate. Action will be taken to try to increase the grant money to cover this additional expense. Anticipated completion date is 1 October. An environmental study is still pending.

Chairman Butterfield reported that there was nothing new at the **Bloomer Ambulance** meeting he had attended. The plans are to still purchase another with money saved for such.

Clerk Reed reported on the **W.T.A. District** meeting she had attended but had previously discussed the main topic of the County assessment legislation.

Clerk Reed will be attending a **Board of Review training** on 1 May in Chetek, which will qualify the Town for the training requirements for this year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The next town board meeting will be on **Monday, May 4th** starting at 7:00 p.m. The **town annual meeting** will be on **Tuesday, April 21st** at 7:00 P.M.

Vouchers were then presented and audited. Supervisor King made a motion to approve vouchers 18338-18360 plus five electronic transfers. Supervisor Richardson seconded the motion and all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business a motion was made by Supervisor Richardson to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor King seconded the motion and all present voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.P.M.

Veda Reed, Clerk