

**TOWN OF SAMPSON
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 9th, 2023 @ 6 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Jerabek.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present were 2nd Supervisor Carol Butterfield, Clerk/Treasurer Susan Gehl, Road Patrolman Richardson, and eleven guests. 1st Supervisor Samantha King was absent due to illness.

The minutes of the December 12th meeting were approved as presented with a motion by Supervisor Butterfield and a second by Chairman Jerabek with all voting aye.

The Treasurer's report was next. A report was given by Brandon Faschingbauer on the status of the Town's financial records. Brandon is the accountant hired by the Town to properly set up the Quickbooks financial program and determine if the payroll taxes owed by the Town had been properly paid for the period of January 1, 2022 through October 1, 2022. He stated that he found overpayments on the Wisconsin taxes of approximately \$4,000 and underpayments on the federal taxes of about the same amount. He is still trying to determine what penalties may be owed for late payment. He also stated that payments for goods and services had to be reentered to properly categorize them. He is about finished with the corrections and will continue to work with Clerk/Treasurer Gehl to make sure entries are correct. The Town has paid him \$2,000 for his work in 2022.

During public comment, Rick Plummer stated that the caucus on January 7th had an error in it. He stated that electors can only vote for one candidate as opposed to the two that were allowed at the caucus. Chairman Jerabek agreed with Rick and stated that he had been in touch with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The caucus must be reconvened and the nominations for chairman need to be redone. The caucus chairman, tellers, and nominations for 1st and 2nd supervisors do not need to be redone. It was decided to reconvene the caucus on Wednesday, January 18th at 6 p.m. The new date will be posted and folks who attended the original caucus will be notified if possible. Another guest stated that the town chairman could not be the caucus chairman. Chairman Jerabek read a response from the Wisconsin Towns Association attorney which stated that "if the current town chairman is running for office, they cannot automatically also be caucus chairman but must be nominated and elected by the electors present at the caucus." This was a moot point as Chairman Jerabek did not chair the caucus on January 7th, David Skaw was elected to be the caucus chair.

Road work was the next discussion item. Several guests had questions and comments about the snow removal during the last big storm in December. Chairman Jerabek explained what was done after the storm. Jack Skaw was hired for two days to clear trees off the roads with his large end loader. He also had to clear 100th street the

morning after the storm so that road patrolman Richardson could get to the Town Shop to begin clearing roads. Bill Nelson was also hired to cut overhanging trees and brush off the roads and has been doing so for over a week. There were some complaints about the condition of the roads being still quite icy. It was explained that we would be working to scrape the roads as conditions allowed and also to wing the snow back further as well. It was also explained that if salt and sand are placed on a hard icy surface during cold temperatures, the first traffic over the road blows most of it into the ditch and it is wasted.

There was a comment by one person that he felt the town had done an excellent job opening roads and another person stated that Sampson's roads were in good shape compared to some of the other area townships. Chairman Jerabek stated that from Wednesday through Saturday of the week of the storm, no less than four people were out with four different pieces of equipment trying to open up roads. All roads were currently open except for Rattlesnake Hill and that would be opened up as soon as weather and manpower allowed.

The hiring of an auditor to audit the town books for 2022 was tabled until the next meeting.

The wage rate for part time snowplow operators was discussed. Currently the town pays \$24.50/hr. with no benefits. It is extremely difficult to find reliable drivers who possess a CDL license and can pass a drug screen. It was decided to raise the rate paid to \$29.50/hr. with no benefits. This is the same as what Patrolman Richardson receives though he receives benefits in addition to his hourly wage. Supervisor Butterfield made a motion to approve the new rate, Chairman Jerabek seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion passed.

Discussion/approval of contracting with the Humane Association was tabled until February due to the absence of Supervisor King.

Discussion/approval of an employee evaluation form was tabled until February due to the absence of Supervisor King.

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The financial impact of the recent snowstorm was discussed. Thus far bills from outside contractors for tree and brush removal total about \$15,000 and another \$10,000 is anticipated. This does not include the excess fuel that was used by the town's equipment or extra wages paid to part time employees as well as overtime paid to our full time employee.

The town's assessor, Prochnow Assessing, has proposed April 7th from noon until 2 p.m. for open book and May 18th from 9 until 11 a.m. for Board of Review. Chairman

Jerabek moved to accept the proposed dates, Supervisor Butterfield seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- Road work
- Discuss/approve contracting with the Humane Association
- Discuss/approve employee evaluation form
- Discuss/approve employee evaluations
- Discuss hiring of an auditor
- Discuss progress in correcting town financial records

OTHER BUSINESS

- Next Board meeting **Monday, February 13th at 6:00 P.M.**
- Examine and approve payment of bills. A motion was made by Supervisor Butterfield to approve and pay the bills as presented, the motion was seconded by Chairman Jerabek and all voted in favor. Motion approved.
- There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was then made by Chairman Jerabek, the motion was seconded by Supervisor Butterfield and all voted in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Susan Gehl, Clerk/Treasurer