

## DECEMBER 8, 2008 WHEATLAND TOWN BOARD MEETING

- Meeting was called to order by Chairman Butler at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in New Munster and opened with the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Town Board members present – Chairman Jeffrey Butler, and Supervisors Andrew Lois and Robert Herda.

Others present: Clerk Sheila Siegler, Treasurer Deborah Vos, Fire Chief Alan Kaddatz, and Jim Mirek.

Notices were posted in five public areas and *Kenosha News* and *Westosha Report* were notified. Clerk stated that due to requests for e-mailed town board agendas, a list has been created. People on the e-mail listing will receive all town board agendas as required by state law.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the November 24, 2008 Town Board meeting as printed was moved by Robert Herda and seconded by Andrew Lois. Motion carried.

- **Fire Dept. business** – Chief Kaddatz reported on the election of officers from the December 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Dept. monthly meeting. New officers effective January 1, 2009: Chief – Alan Kaddatz; Ass't Chief – Dennis Floeter; Sec'y/Treas. – Bob Rynkiewicz (Bill Foss retired), Co. 1 Capt. – Louis Denko; Co. 2 Capt. – Brian Kerkman; Co. 3 Capt. – Jerry Schuerman; and Co. 4 Capt. – Bob Rynkiewicz.

Chief reported that a “pictures with Santa” was held at the firehouse on Sunday, December 7. This was organized by the Fire Dept. Auxiliary. 49 pictures were taken with Santa (Jason Hammock). Cookies, hot chocolate, candy cane and pictures were provided at no charge.

Report was accepted on a motion by Robert Herda and second by Andrew Lois.

- **Old business –**

Chairman Butler brought up the room tax issue involving Chris Georges. He asked if there has been any resolution. Clerk reported Chris Georges did call on November 26<sup>th</sup> after the November 24<sup>th</sup> town board meeting when the matter was discussed. Mr. Georges said he would be following up with the town office and the zoning office and presenting information regarding the rental quarters that he owns. He stated he was completely legal. Clerk told him to put it in writing and we would proceed from there to resolve this matter. At the request of the town chairman, the zoning office was called to find out if Mr. Georges has met with them. He has not.

Chairman directed that a letter be sent to Chris Georges, with a copy to Kenosha County, that he must straighten this out and if there is no action, we will pursue this as a zoning violation. Chairman said the town is losing room tax money; either Mr. Georges pays room tax or there is a zoning violation.

An updated, Resolution 2008 – 007 was signed by the town board members. The initial resolution approved on November 19, 2008 stated the garbage/recycling costs to be collected as a special charge on the 2008 tax roll was \$116,960 and the garbage/recycling service fee to be collected for each real property, residential unit would not be more than \$89. The housing unit number was blank.

Clerk stated the housing unit number was blank because there was an error with the computer data for the housing information sent by Associated Appraisal to Kenosha County (new software revision) and the correct number of housing units was not verified. The information has been reviewed and the correct number is 1,318 housing unit.

This updated resolution states: the cost to be collected is \$116,960, the number of housing units is 1,318, and the special charge for each unit is \$88.74.

- **Presentation by Westosha Central High School representatives regarding the January 20, 2009 referendum election. The referendum requests approval to borrow money for the cost of constructing and improving facilities and infrastructure at the school.**

Chairman Butler stated school representatives cancelled for tonight because of the winter weather conditions. They will instead give their presentation at the January 12, 2009 Town Board Meeting.

- **Appoint two Recreation Board Members for the three year terms of Mark Karow & Don Degen**

Chairman Butler said Mark Karow has agreed to serve another three year term but Don Degen has declined. Chairman Butler spoke to Brian Kerkman and he is willing to accept an appointment to the Recreation Board.

Andrew Lois moved the re-appointment of Mark Karow for a three year term and the appointment of Brian Kerkman for a three year term to the Wheatland Recreation Board. Robert Herda seconded. Motion carried.

Board directed the Clerk to purchase a plaque to present to Don Degen for his years of service.

- **Cancel December 22, 2008 regular town board meeting**

Andrew Lois moved a motion to cancel the December 22, 2008 town board meeting. Jeffrey Butler seconded. Motion carried. The next town board meeting will be January 12, 2009.

- **Alcoholic Beverage Operator (Bartender) Original License applications:**

Board members reviewed the application of Jade M. Edmonds, W101 Tombeau Blvd., Genoa City, WI 53128 – *Sly Fox*. Edmonds has a current license from the V. of Twin Lakes and background check was clear.

Robert Herda moved approval of an alcoholic beverage operator license for Jade M. Edmonds. Andrew Lois seconded. Motion carried.

- **Public Comments –**

Jim Mirek stated he was pleased to receive town board agendas by e-mail.

Chairman stated he had a call from a *Kenosha News* reporter regarding the property assessments and the Lilly Lake complaints. Board agreed we should know what direction the assessments are headed. Chairman Butler directed a letter be sent to the assessors asking what they are looking at for the town revaluation in 2009.

- **Treasurer's report**

The treasurer's report listed \$80,637.53 for November income and \$676,248.77 for November disbursements. This included the road paving expense. Andrew Lois moved a motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed. Robert Herda seconded. Motion carried.

- **Building Inspector report**

Building inspector's report listed five permits, \$4,697 in fees, and \$1,857,390 for the value of the improvements. This included two new, single family homes at 5329 373<sup>rd</sup> Ct. for Nobilio and 34709 52<sup>nd</sup> St. for Cannella. Report was accepted as printed on a motion by Robert Herda and second by Andrew Lois.

- **Road report**

Board members agreed with Chairman Butler regarding a work order for trimming back some of the trees on 45<sup>th</sup> St. and 348<sup>th</sup> Ave. where we paved in October. Supervisor Herda will direct the Kenosha Co. Hwy. Dept. as to which trees we want removed or canopied. Kenosha Co. Hwy. Dept. will also be asked if they are able to cut the tree limb in Fox River Pines on 330<sup>th</sup> Ave. at the north end which is leaning in the direction of a building structure. The work order will be sent in to include this. Board members agreed the work order would be sent in now, in case there is time available between snow storms.

Andrew Lois moved a motion to send in a work order to Kenosha Co. Hwy. Dept. for the work discussed above. Robert Herda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman noted the "Honey Bear" Rd. was posted for weight limits on the south end by the Town of Bloomfield, at the intersection with "Z."

Snowplowing –

Chairman said he asked Brad Lois (Finishing Touches) to fax the snowplowing hours to this date. Clerk said they did not come today. Chairman said there were some complaints from Lilly Lake and the school bus did go off the road in that area.

Supervisor Herda said they have to make sure intersections, hills, and curves get extra attention with the salt/sand mixture. He suggested the night watchman call Brad Lois when the county goes out. Chairman said he goes out and checks the roads before he calls Brad Lois to go out but is concerned he is putting in more hours than are warranted. He said he would talk to Lois about contacting the highway department as to when they go out. He said sanders in Brad Lois' trucks are not working correctly yet.

Wheatland Center sent a letter to the Kenosha Co. Hwy. Dept. about the bus going off

the road and sent a copy of their school schedule. Board directed the clerk to respond to Wheatland Center School's concerns.

- **Other reports**

1. Clerk reported the Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant agreement and reimbursement application forms were received today. They need to be back in 10 days.
2. The Gypsy Moth Grant application was sent in for all the municipalities who are applying as a county application by Dan Treloar, County Conservationist.
3. Finishing Touches Certificate of Insurance with the Town of Wheatland named as an "additional insured" was received. The coverage is as we specified, \$4 million, per occurrence. Board members agreed Finishing Touches trucks should have oscillating lights on the cab along with the strobe lights that are now on the trucks. Chairman will tell Brad Lois.
4. There will be a staff meeting at the Town Hall at 2 p.m. on December 15 to discuss the process for the development of the land use plan map. Staff from SEWRPC and Kenosha County Planning and Development will attend as well as Town Planner Patrick Meehan, Chairman Butler and Clerk Siegler.
5. Mary Petersen, owner of the former Payne and Dolan gravel mining site on 60<sup>th</sup> St. wants to put fill on the property. She asked the county if she had to get any permits. Kenosha County said there are no large wetlands and it's not in a shoreland area. There is a small wetlands south by the tracks which cannot be filled in. Peters wants to place topsoil in the areas that were mined so that vegetation can be re-established. Kenosha County said no permits are required from them. Supervisor Andrew Lois suggested they make sure the fill is not contaminated. Board agreed there are no permits required from the town but to make sure they use clean fill and do not place any in the small wetlands.
6. Jim Winters, 4810 352<sup>nd</sup> Ave. is proposing splitting a 12.5 acre parcel from the 45 acre parcel he owns on "KD." The parcel has a large pond along the road. The zoning office asked whether the board has any strong feelings about changing from A-1 to A-2 zoning. Driveway access will be a problem and would likely require a combined driveway. The parcel butts up to the south side of the Hawksview Glenn Sub. Board members did not see problems with the proposal.

- **Announcements**

1. Christmas Eve falls on a Wednesday. Hours of 10 – 3 were suggested by transfer station workers. Board agreed that would work out well. New Year's Eve hours will remain at 12 – 5 p.m. unless the transfer station workers feel 10 – 3 works out better.
2. Tornado Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, December 10, 5 p.m. at the Town Hall.
3. A special Westosha Central High School Referendum Election will be held January 20, 2009, Polls are open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Town Hall.

- **Financial matters –**

1. Approval of non-elected employee wage rates for 2009, as approved in the budget - park workers and transfer station workers from \$9.75 to \$10.25 per hour; Building Inspector 5% salary increase from \$16,575 to \$17,405 annually, and town hall custodian a \$130 increase from an annual salary of \$4,620 to \$4,750.  
Andrew Lois moved a motion to approve the wage rates listed above for non-elected employees, effective January 1, 2009 and approved in the 2009 budget. Robert Herda seconded the motion. Motion carried.  
Clerk said the water patrol wage will be brought up in the spring.
2. The Board reviewed the Clerk's Itemized Report of Disbursements - November 1 – 30, 2008, checks numbered 18268 thru 18387 in the amount of \$676,248.77. Report was approved on a motion by Robert Herda and second by Andrew Lois.
3. Clerk gave the board an update of the DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant purchase - Tax Parcel #95-4-119-014-1160, 31633 71<sup>st</sup> St., Oakwood Shores. The owners have signed a purchase agreement for \$116,000. The Town has to pay the amount. We are then reimbursed by DNR and Kenosha County. The county will reimburse the day of the purchase using FEMA money held by Kenosha County. This money is used as our match for the grant. DNR will reimburse in several weeks.

4. Robert Stika owns a vacant lot in the Oakwood Shores Fox River Floodplain. He objects to the \$8,800 assessment and \$150 tax bill. He wants to give the lot to us or the county and not pay the tax bill. Clerk told him he could "quit claim" deed it to the town or county but the tax would show as delinquent if he doesn't pay it. He wants it so no one else can do any building on the parcel in the future. Clerk told him to place a deed restriction on the lot before he deeds it to the town or county.

5. Constable Bob Haas received a \$100 donation from the Tri-County Riders for directing traffic during their annual bike blessing and bike ride. Constable turns this over to the town.

6. Treasurer Deborah Vos fell at the Kenosha County Center on November 25th when she delivered the tax stuffers to the county for the 2008 tax bills. She slipped on some ice and damaged her glasses, hit her head and knee. The board received the report written by Treasurer Vos and which will be kept on file.

7. Andy Buehler, Kenosha County Planning & Development called to tell us the zoning office did an assessment of all the properties that were flooded recently. The Pleasant Prairie Assessor requested a copy of the information to aid in assessing those properties located in Salem. The board agreed Associated Appraisal should be contacted to see if they would like a copy of the Wheatland properties.

8. Clerk reported Lee Hill volunteered her time to work at the Presidential Election on November 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a generous donation and she did a fine job. Andrew Lois moved a motion to approve a letter to Lee Hill thanking her for the volunteer work she did at election. Robert Herda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Clerk handed out copies of a listing of the 2008 and 2008 property tax rates. Rates are as follows: \$15.72 – Westosha versus \$15.04 in 2007; \$17.09 – Wilmot versus \$16.07 in 2007. These are net rates per thousand dollars of assessed value.

10. The board approved ordering four, generic versions of the "10 Ton Weight Limit" signs to be used, if needed, this spring to close 368<sup>th</sup> and 376<sup>th</sup> Ave. on a temporary basis. Hwy "P" may be closed because of reconstruction.

- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Andrew Lois and a second by Robert Herda.

Respectfully submitted,