

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF MARION
FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

1. **Call to Order:** Steve Peer, Chairman, called the regular Board meeting for the month of February to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Present at the meeting were: Steve Peer, Chairman; Jerrod Waterman, Supervisor; Todd King, Supervisor; Judi Boughton, Clerk and Laurie King, Treasurer.

Citizens who were in attendance of the meeting were Lonny and Laurayne Fischer, Tiffany Waterman, Jonathan Knowles, Galen and Peggy Freymiller, Tom Haile, Nathan Napp.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Jerrod made a motion to keep the agenda items in the order posted. Todd seconded the motion.
4. **Proof of Publication of Meeting Notice:** The notice of meeting was published February 9, 2023, in the Boscobel Dial. The agenda was posted February 9, 2023, at the town shop and on the town web site.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the January 9, 2023, board meeting were distributed to all who were present and, after everyone had a chance to review the minutes, a motion was made by Jerrod to approve them. The motion was seconded by Todd.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was prepared by Laurie King and read by Laurie as follows:

Checking	\$	285,453.84
Equipment fund savings		61,656.10
Red school house restoration		2,570.95
People's Money Market		59,906.86
ARPA Funds		35,283.39
Local Gov't Inv Pool		<u>23.17</u>
Total:	\$	444,894.31

Loan Summary: Regarding the loan with Peoples State Bank, the terms of the loan are 2.49% fixed annual rate until 2025. The current loan balance is \$156,224.30. Payments of \$16,500 are due to continue quarterly until a final payment is made in June 2025.

7. **Citizen Input:** None.

8. Old Business:

- **Update on Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding (FFY 2022-2026). (Travis Kramer – Tower Road Double Seal Coating Project.):** Steve said he hasn't talked to Travis Kramer yet. Travis had said he would check on seeing if Tower Road would qualify for this funding and Steve will follow up on this.
- **Update on Tower Road – Quit Claim Deed:** We have not received a certified survey map from Austin Engineering for the portion of Tower Road where the road was moved. Judi will contact Austin Engineering to check on the status of the survey map.
- **Update on Salt Shed:** No update on the salt shed and nothing currently happening on this.
- **Winter Road Mix Update:** Steve said we should be sitting pretty good on the winter road mix. There is road mix piled up along the road and three-fourths or more of shed still full. Steve said, considering calendar date, could probably in another 3 weeks put on just road gravel and not need to use what was in shed, although may be a problem with sharp rocks, which is hard on tires.

9. New Business:

- **Review Truck Bids (Bob Frey):** Bob Frey was not present at the meeting and no truck bids were available. Steve stated the reason the two agenda items, "Review Truck Bids" and "Financing Options" under new business are listed here is because last month three to four residents were complaining of roads not being kept up on Riley Road and recommending the purchase of a new truck; however, none of these residents have returned tonight to the February meeting for followup regarding the same. Steve checked on what a truck would cost. He talked to Jerrell Sazama, who runs a truck repair shop. Jerrell advised against buying a new International as the newer ones tend to have a lot of problems. He would recommend Peterbilt or Freightliner. Peterbilt is expensive and all set up to go down the road would be close to \$300,000. Steve had talked to him today. He has been looking for used trucks, and he found one that would be around \$30,000 with approximately 80,000 miles and is a 2012, which Steve didn't think was a bad deal.

Steve did some comparison of Marion's roads with neighboring townships and was happy with the way our roads looked in comparison. He also checked with residents and asked what they thought of the condition of the roads. The mail lady said she thought we were doing an excellent job. Tyler Staskal hauls hay on the roads all the time and said he was satisfied with the roads. Steve hasn't had any complaints from the bus barn or any residents. Laurie said she has talked to

people who are from the city and say the roads are treacherous but those from the rural area think they are normal.

- **Financing Options (Laurie King):** Steve said people he has talked to recommended paying off the old debt from the 2012 seal coat project before taking on a new debt for a new truck but, as requested, Laurie talked to Ben Price from People's State Bank on options if the township were to borrow money for a new truck now. Laurie presented 3 options for financing she received from Peoples State Bank for a loan amount of \$67,000 with \$33,000 down on a \$100,000 truck.

Option 3 is looking at payments starting right away, 5-year term with 4.85% interest fixed. Principal and interest due quarterly in the amount of \$3,795/quarter (\$15,180/year x 5 years for a total of **\$75,900**).

Option 1 has a lower interest rate at 4.80% fixed until January 2025, interest only, then restructure to payments/new rate when we would then be in a better position to have other payments. The seal coat loan will be paid off in June of 2025. We would be paying \$800 quarterly until January 2025, so 7 quarters of payments totaling \$5,600 interest only and then restructuring loan.

Option 2 has a 4.85% fixed interest rate for a 5-year term with interest-only payments until December 2024 at \$800 quarterly (\$800 x 7 quarters = \$5,600); then \$6,050 quarterly for 3 years (\$24,200/year x 3 = \$72,600) for a total amount of **\$78,200**, OR \$800 quarterly (\$800 x 7 quarters = \$5,600), then \$8,850 quarterly for 2 years (\$35,400/year x 2 = \$70,800) for a total amount of **\$76,400**.

Steve asked those present what the citizens and voters would like to see should happen. Galen says off-season is when we should look at buying a truck. We have \$12,000 [\$11,000] for the recently damaged truck plus \$5,000 for the old truck just sold, so \$50,000 give or take that would give us a nice downpayment on a good used truck. Galen strongly recommends doing before next fall as we need a vehicle that will get us through the winter without breaking down. Todd suggests maybe having more than one truck. Steve said even buying a truck for \$100,000, you are taking a chance of breaking down or an accident; \$35-\$40,000 to buy truck until loan is paid off and then buy 2 trucks for \$75,000 to \$80,000 a piece. Steve wants the loan paid off. Tractor will be paid for in 2024 at around \$40,000. Right now, we could buy a \$30,000 to \$40,000 truck and still have the tractor and be able to keep up the roads. Todd recommends getting the truck Jerrell has found now and getting a nice one when we borrow. Jerrod thinks we need a good operating used truck now and wait for more until we get this seal coat loan paid off. Steve said there are people around that will help plow snow if it comes down to it.

- **2006 International Dump Truck Update:** The 2006 International was sitting in town for sale and was sold in as-is condition for \$5,000 to Alex Cupp from Muscoda. Nathan Napp assisted in the sale.

- **1996 Ford Dump Truck Update:** The 1996 Ford truck was insured for \$12,000 through Rural Insurance and a claim was submitted because Nathan Napp was turning around and backed up into one of the deep ditches along the side of the bank and had the box up slightly, backed up and hit the bank and tore the box loose from the truck. After the insurance adjuster looked at it, she called and said as far as they were concerned, it was totaled and were going to pay the full \$12,000. Steve had Nathan call up and bid \$2,000 on the truck. He did that and it ended up we purchased the truck for \$2,000. He called the adjuster and she said that she would send the title back to the township; otherwise, if she had to hang on to it and process the whole thing she would have to salvage the title. She is sending title back and took \$2,000 off the \$12,000 so the township will get a check for \$10,000. Steve said it can still be used to plow snow, needs hose or two and some hydraulic fluid. If we need to, we could plow with the truck and town can use it until season is over and if they want to sell it, Steve said he would like to buy it at the end of the season for \$2,000. Steve said the truck is fine to plow with; he raised it with skid steer and straightened the box some. Steve will still give \$2,000 for the truck after the winter season if the town wants to sell it. He said we could put liability insurance on it. Judi asked if this is unconditional in case there was further damage to the truck in the interim. Jerrod recommended the township be able to use it through the snow season, at which point Steve would pay \$1,000 and that it would be unconditional at that point, as is. A motion was made by Jerrod to sell Steve the 1996 Ford Dump truck at the end of the snow season in May for \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Todd.

Steve thought maybe we could get a tandem snow plow truck if we get another truck this year, said you could haul salt from Lancaster, go to Pardeeville to get black top -- they charge \$300 a load to bring that. With a tandem truck, you put chains on all four back tires and add weight and will probably plow as much as 4-wheel drive. Jerrod thinks it is a good idea. Steve said, whichever truck we buy, we will have one we can trade in on a better truck, so not like just throwing money away. Tandem truck is a lot cheaper than 4-wheel drive, although harder to find with a snow plow and it's what the county uses.

- **2022 Election Security Subgrant:** Judi said the Wisconsin Election Commission gave clerks the opportunity to apply for a \$1,200 grant for election security that she decided to apply for at the last minute in December. All compliance documents to WEC are due February 28, 2023. The funds can only be used for election security related expenses such as antivirus for the township computer. Nothing can be used for election equipment. Unused funds will need to be returned. Judi mentioned the things that would qualify for purchase would be to purchase antivirus support for the town's computer and purchase a locked storage cabinet to store the election equipment and wanted the board's approval to make these purchases with the grant funds. A motion was made by Todd to approve purchases using this grant. The motion was seconded by Todd. Judi asked if

anyone had any recommendations for IT support as she preferred not using the local service they had used in the past because she was getting billed randomly even after service was stopped. Laurie mentioned CSP Computer support plus from Prairie du Chien on Highway 18.

- **Boscobel and Rural Fire Department Update:** Per Steve's request, Judi submitted an email question to the Wisconsin Town's Association on whether the fire department board can make decisions to borrow millions of dollars or do they need to put it up for referendum. This issue was raised because the fire department is currently in the process of looking into building a new fire station. The answer from WTA was as follows: "If the town is just being "assessed" a certain dollar amount by the joint district for the cost of the building and your town won't have any ownership, it would really just be a town board vote at a board meeting (or a fire board decision if your bylaws for the joint department give the joint board this power) and the electors would not need to give authorization at a town elector meeting since it won't be a town-owned building under s. 60.10(2). Also states, under state law, the town board decides how to pay for fire protection under s. 60.55, Wis. Stat."

Todd and Steve attended a special meeting of the Boscobel Fire Board addressing the building of a new fire station. The fire board voted in favor of paying an engineering firm \$10,000 to look for options in grants for the building project. This was discussed for quite a while at their meeting and voted on. Todd and another fire board member were the only ones voting against spending the \$10,000. They estimate the building cost to be between \$7 million and \$10 million and will be looking for grants. Steve said even if they get grants, the grants can sometimes only pay around half the cost and the rest would have to be paid by the municipalities, which would still be a large tax burden. Steve said they need to be pinpointed if they need a referendum or not.

- **Elections Update:** Jerrod recently learned he will likely be moving out of the township but unsure when. He is unopposed on the ballot and, if he moves out of the township, the board will deal with it at that point.
- **Grant County Hazardous Mitigation Plan:** There is a drop-in meeting between 3:30 and 6:30 on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at the Boscobel Fire station that representatives from the township need to attend to go over the Grant County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Attendance at this meeting is required in order to be eligible for FEMA funding. The county will be updating the 2018 plan. Judi passed out literature and invited anyone to attend. Judi and Steve will plan on attending.

10. Future agenda: Update on grader oil leak. Update on finding plow truck. Look at seal coat/gravel bids to be put on agenda for April.

11. Patrolman's Report: Discussed sending CAT grader to Jerrell Sazama to be worked on at \$77.50 per hour. Labor may be \$1,500 possibly. Board wants him to look at it so they have a little idea what it will cost.

Tom said tire chains are fixed up pretty good. Steve said he wore out a set on the International. Nathan said the ice chains we got new last year need to be rebuilt because they will stay on truck. Nathan said he worked on ford truck, cleaned gravel out and drove over to Steve's and they put box in place with skid steer.

12. Correspondence: Judi asked if we will be making any changes in licensing for Cozy Acres. Also reminded board, anyone working in the township making over \$600 needs to fill out a W-9 form so Judi has the information needed to fill out a 1099 form at year end. The future plan will be not to cut checks until a W-9 is on file. Also need a certificate of insurance from anyone contracting road work. Thank you notes written out to Wilma Rounds for donating to the red school house fund in the amount of \$75 and to Rich and Melissa Uselman for \$50.

13. Approval of Invoices: A motion was made by Jerrod to approve the February invoices. Todd seconded the motion.

Additional checks written out after the February 2023 board meeting and before the March 2023 board meeting are:

- 2/16/2023, #14774, USPS, clerk stamps, \$63.00.
- 2/16/2023, #14775, Boscobel Senior Dining, Election worker lunches, \$26.50.
- 2/24/2023, #14776, Judi Boughton, reimburse locked cabinet, \$327.03.
- 2/24/2023, #14777, Applied Micro, antivirus and patch mgmt 2-yr, \$499.80.
- 2/24/2023, #14778, WEC, return remainder of grant, \$373.17.
- 2/24/2023, #14779, Laurayne Fischer, chief inspector, \$155.00
- 2/24/2023, #14780, Tiffany Waterman, poll worker, \$115.50.
- 2/24/2023, #14781, Peggy Updike, poll worker, \$115.50.

14. Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Todd. Jerrod seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The March board meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Boughton, Clerk