

TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 17, 2018  
MINUTES

Called to order by Chairperson Mike Schlobohm. Motion made by Bob Riege to approve the 2017 annual meeting minutes seconded by Art Mikkelson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report presented by Korby Holzhueter, Town Treasurer. Bob Riege had a few questions about what trucks the town has and if they were listed by the correct name on the Treasurer's report, Korby confirmed that they should be listed as freightliners. Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Art Mikkelson seconded by Bob Riege with the corrections. Motion carried.

Mike Schlobohm reviewed some of the road work projects including Liberty Road, Art Mikkelson agreed that Liberty Road is in bad shape. Al Pulvermacher, Hwy Patrolman was not in attendance to report which other roads the Town needs to work on. Jim Maple wanted to include North Fair Oaks on the hill there are driveways that get washed.

Equipment report: Mike Schlobohm reported that all the equipment is up and running, the Town needs to replace the mower which is cracked and are seeking to purchase a "Bush Hog" to replace it. Bob Riege asked about the status of the tractors and if it's time to update based on the hours. Jim Maple stated that Al Pulvermacher, Hwy Patrolman indicated that the tractor is a bit too small to handle the mower. Al Pulvermacher arrived and confirmed that at times the smaller tractor works in some areas and other times it's too small, and confirmed that by the end of the year the other tractors should be considered to be updated. Bob Riege suggested to coordinate purchasing new equipment with when the existing loans terminate to roll over the ongoing funding to purchase equipment.

Korby Holzhueter asked if the Fire Department had any equipment purchases in the future, Randy Behlke indicated that no purchases are being considered only repairs.

Town clerk position decision for keeping it elected verses making it an appointed position. Mike Schlobohm indicated he has heard differing opinions and he had a few people interested. Bill Roelofs explained the situation that the elected position has not been filled and that a fill in appointee has been in the position but going into the next elected term the Town may be in the same situation. Bill Roelofs indicated that the town electors cannot decide to make the position an appointed position without a referendum. Consideration to combine the position has been done in the past however that adds the cost of an annual audit. Bob Riege indicated that the required skill set needed for the position has changed significantly over the past 20 years since he was in the position and now computer skills are necessary to do the job. Discussed putting the option on

Motion made by Bill Roelofs, to direct the town board to set a referendum on the fall election to decide if the clerk's position should be an appointed or elected position, seconded by Kim Schmitt. Motion approved by majority vote, Mike Schlobohm voted "No", based on others statements to him, who would like to see it stay elected.

Jim Maple reported the varying wages of clerk positions and election workers throughout the state. Mike Schlobohm has stated that he has heard people are interested in the position, yet they don't show up to the meetings. Bob Riege indicated that elected position wages need to be set by the electors, Bill added that

the electors can give power to the Town Board to set the wages to the Town Treasurer and Clerk. At an annual meeting the electors can give the power to make those decisions. Kim Schmitt motioned to give the Town Board the power to set the wages for the Clerk and Treasurer, Loral Maple seconded.

Discussion on the motion: Bob Riege disagreed with the motion he feels it should stay the same so that wages can only be negotiated for that term and set by the electors so that the wages don't increase too frequently if the position changes hands a lot. Jim Maple has the same concern but if the Board is given the power the decision of wages should be determined at an open meeting. Vote of electors: in favor- 6, opposed-7. Motion failed. Setting wages by the electors stays as is.

Bob Riege stated that the Annual meeting is the place to set the wages by the electors for the next term. Bob Riege feels that the wages are terribly low and that the positions should be \$13K for the Treasurer and \$12K for the clerk based on a part time position. Jim Maple suggested \$14K for the Treasurer and \$13K for the Clerk. Mike Schlobohm feels the positions should be paid the higher suggestion because both the positions take time. Randy Behlke has always been in favor of an appointed clerk based on the need for skills that are needed and wages need to be raised significantly. Bill Roelofs agree that the wages need to be increased. Dan Kelly felt the wages should be doubled from what they are current.

A discussion about the Treasurer and Clerks role, work load etc. was discussed and Bob Riege explained how the positions and their current wages came about and that the jobs have changed significantly over the years in how they are completed; from hand written to computer based.

Jim Maple motion to double both the clerk and treasurer's positions and then equate them to the rate of \$15,000 annually, Bill Roelofs second the motion. Motion carried. The change in the wage will go into effect at the next term of office in April 2019.

Bill Roelofs felt it would be appropriate to have the electors set the salary for appointed clerk rather than the Town Board, because if the position does become appointed the task of setting the wage become the Town Board because the position becomes an employee of the town. It was unclear how to go about this. Art Mikkelson, was concerned that there needs to be more qualifications even before a candidate runs but the electors in attendance explained that there are no requirements to run for the position when it's elected.

Bob Riege asked if there are any other considerations for wage increases for other Town Board members. Current wages for Chairperson are \$5,500 per year and \$2,000 for each Supervisor. Jim Maple recognized that the Supervisors of the Board put a significant amount of work for the Town especially with issues such as the quarry. Art Mikkelson agreed the wages for the Town Board members should be raised. Bob Riege also feels that the Town Board's wages are woefully low. Jim Maple motion to increase the Town Supervisor's wage to \$4,000 each annually and \$8,000 annually for the Town Chairperson.

Oath of Office completed by Randy Behlke and Nick Brattlie who were elected at the April 2018 election.

EMS update given by Schlobohm: EMS services will be provided by Deer Grove to replace Ryan Brothers. Mike Schlobohm explained that Cambridge wanted to service a portion of the town but the calls would have mostly gone to Deer Grove due to coverage so the Town approved Deer Grove to cover all of the Town of Deerfield.

Mike Schlobohm reported that things are going well with the Fire Department with the new chief and have a good number of volunteers.

Korby Holzhueter motioned to set the date of the 2019 annual meeting as Tues. April 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the Deerfield Fire Station, seconded by Jim Maple.

Bob Riege also wanted to suggest to the board that when they review the Hwy Patrolman's wage that the Town be more generous, Jim Maple agreed.

Motion made by Jim Maple to adjourn, seconded by Bill Roelofs. Motion carried.

These minutes are unapproved at the time of posting. Any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings of the next meeting in which they are approved.

Town of Deerfield

Robin Untz, Town Clerk