

**TOWN OF MCMILLAN
M403 ELM STREET
TOWN BOARD MINUTES
January 13, 2014 7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Opitz.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Debbie Derfus, Dave Swenson, Carolyn Opitz, Rick Duerr – Present. Geoff Engel was absent

Visitors -

Rebecca Frisch and Kirk Lanquest, Marathon County

- Farmland Preservation: Consideration of Town of McMillan Participation in Agricultural Enterprise Area

Marathon County is working on their Farmland Preservation Plan and they are currently working with all the towns on this. This is a program that allows landowners to get tax credits for keeping their land in farming. Rebecca and Kirk were at the meeting tonight to see if the board would like to host a program for landowners to discuss participation in this program. The program is strictly voluntary. Property owners would need to petition the state, and the board would have to pass a resolution stating that they want to participate in the program and they agree to be a part of this group.

AEA - Agricultural Enterprise Area – neighboring towns have mapped out areas that are in the AEA because this allows the landowners even more tax credits.

Kirk showed three maps that show the areas that are currently designated as AEA's and which towns are currently participating. (Five towns in the county are already participating in the program.) McMillan is the keyhole. There are other towns (Eau Pleine and Day) to the east of us that would like to get in and they need McMillan's participation. The entire town need not participate. Any part of McMillan participating would allow Day to participate.

How would this affect our tax collections in the township? No affect – It is an income tax credit, not a property tax credit. Basically this would help farmers to receive a higher tax credit on their state income taxes (from \$7.50 to \$10 per acre).

Time table for meeting? Rebecca would like to have us host a meeting in early February. It would have to be posted as a regular Town Board Meeting. There would not need to be any action taken at that meeting. The landowners could sign the petition at this meeting. The county provides the template letter and the mailing list. If we wanted to go forward with this, we could do the resolution at the March meeting.

Meeting should be about 1 ½ hours, at a time that works well for farmers.

There could be as many as 20-40 landowners showing up with lots of individual questions.

The board agreed to aim for a meeting on February 11 or 12.

Tim Vreeland – Not Here

Comments from Audience -

None.

Approval of Minutes -

Town Board Meeting 12/9/2013

Special Town Board Meeting 12/30/2013

Deb/Rick moved to approve the minutes from 12/9/2013 and 12/30/13. Roll Call: Debbie, Dave, Carolyn, Rick – All ayes. Minutes approved.

Swearing in of Fire Department Officers:

The board has to vote to approve the Assistant Chief and Chief. We will need to put this on the agenda for next month.

Lieutenant, Jason Domres, took his Oath of Office.

Reports -

Plan Commission –John Bujalski was not present to give a report tonight. The Plan Commission has not met since the last Town Board Meeting.

There will be a joint meeting with the Board on Monday, January 27, primarily for the discussion of the Allar Snow Removal business.

Fire Department – Kevin Schmidtke

Kevin presented a year end breakdown of calls for the year.

Updated roster – Steve and Christine Mickel retired. Mike Martin rejoined the roster.

F.D. started using a program called “I am Responding,” a computer program with Marathon County. This is another tool for responding to calls. The county is paying for the program for three years.

The debit card did not work well because it’s simply too hard to do the bookkeeping. Denise concurred that the bookkeeping is difficult. Kevin requested a credit card again. The board discussed various options for online purchasing. Deb suggested paying online using the bank routing number/account number.

Kevin proposed having a resolution to make fire inspections once a year. That will be on the agenda for next month.

Library – Ruth Voss

Ruth will post on the bulletin board the long list of programs that the library will be offering; including adult reading programs, cooking classes, numerous speakers to discuss books, music programs, etc.

Supervisors:

Geoffrey Engel – Website - Absent

Rick Duerr – Library – Nothing to report.

Carolyn Opitz – Garbage & Ordinances-

Garbage calendar – There was a little confusion on the garbage pick-up days because the calendar was changed for 2014 and, with the cold weather last week, they missed a day of collection.

Carolyn received a complaint from a biker about the speed on St. Joseph’s Ave. She told him that we would like to get some bike trails developed along that route, but it won’t be tomorrow. If he has a complaint, he needs to get it in writing.

Carolyn asked Dave for a list of bids that we will need to put out. Contractors are already calling and asking about our bidding process.

Rick mentioned that the accessor's contract is coming due, and we will need to get bids for that too. That will be in June.

David Swenson –

Dave extended his compliments to the guys on the plowing.

Dave gave a reminder that snow can not be pushed across a public road. Carolyn commented that she had a conversation with a chairman from another town, and he stated that their town has adopted a resolution stating that a homeowner would get one warning for pushing snow across the highway. After that, the Sheriff's Dept. would call on them and assess a \$250 fine.

Debra Derfus – Buildings & Grounds - Nothing to report.

Brian Hopperdietzel asked if the emergency lighting in the pavilion had been repaired. Deb asked Pat to take care of this; don't know if he's done it or not. Carolyn will check with Pat.

Clerk – Approval of Checks and Financial Report

Financial Report for the month of December 2013 –

The beginning cash on hand was \$648,969.36. We had receipts totaling \$4,128.35 and disbursements totaling \$98,248.15. Also, we added back voided check #11995 for \$29.85, which was reissued in December. The ending cash on hand balance was \$554,879.41.

Tax collections in December were separated out of our receipt total. The total tax collections in December were \$1,609,163.26, including \$33.93 in interest on the tax savings account.

Denise is getting things up and running on QuickBooks. The Custom Transaction Detail Report represents the checks that have been written since the last meeting, which is also the 2014 year-to-date total. Checks numbered 12500 through 12534 totaled \$1,312,295.23.

If anyone is familiar with QuickBooks and knows how to print a more detailed report, that would be good. Deb said that she would come in and help Denise to come up with another report.

Debbie/Dave moved to approve the checks numbered 12500-12534. All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer –

Ann reported a checking account balance of \$343,500.35, minus outstanding checks of \$51,572.73, plus \$262,951.79 in C.D.'s and savings accounts for a total cash on hand of \$554,879.41 as of 12-31-2013.

Tax Savings Account - 12/31/13	\$1,390,059.73
Deposit Received 12/31/13, Deposited 1/2/14	\$219,103.53
Tax Savings Account – 1/2/14	\$1,609,163.26

Debbie/Dave moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Approval/Disapproval of 2013 Auditors

Carolyn/Rick moved to approve the hiring of Schenk to perform our financial audit this year.

Deb suggested that we call a couple other accountants and get some bids.

Carolyn agreed to get some bids from other accountants.

Carolyn/Rick amended their motion as follows: Move to get quotes from other auditors to bring back to next meeting.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business -

1. Public Works Replacement Apparatus CD (\$20,034.71) – Renews 1/18/14

Deb/Dave moved to renew for six months.

There will be money added to this CD.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Fire Department Replacement Apparatus CD (\$30,266.09) – Renews 2/05/14

Deb/Dave moved to renew for six months.

There will be money added to this CD too.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval/Disapproval of Beverage Operator License

Eric Leffel has applied for a beverage operator license to work at the Belvedere Supper Club.

Carolyn mentioned that there were several concerning issues found in the back-ground check.

Denise explained that, per a conversation with the legal- council at the WTA, a license cannot be denied simply because someone has a felony on their record. A license can only be denied if that felony relates specifically to the job.

Deb/Dave moved to approve the operator's license.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave/Deb moved to adjourn. All Ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Barg, Town Clerk