

**MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
JULY 19, 2021**

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

Present: Supervisors: Prudhon, Ruzek, McCune; Attorney: Lemons; Town Clerk: Christopherson; Town Planner: Riedesel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Ruzek moved to approve the agenda as amended with the supplement for 5D 2021 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising Quote. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS: Ruzek moved to approve the payment of bills. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2021: Ruzek moved to approve the Town Board meeting minutes of July 7, 2021, noting a minor spelling correction on page 2. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: McCune moved to approve the amended consent agenda as follows, noting that the Town Planner has the second application for 5B Deer Hunt:

5A) Construction Report – Receive; **5B)** Deer Hunt Request – Approve; **5C)** Commercial Video Shoot – Bellaire Beach; **5D)** 2021 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising Quote; **5E)** Connexus Permit Application Peterson Road; **5F)** South Shore Boulevard Watermain Replacement – Authorize Plans and Specifications. Ruzek seconded. Ayes all.

2105 STILLWATER BLVD – DEMOLITION: Ruzek moved to reopen the public hearing. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

The Town Building Inspector was present to report on this agenda item as well as answer any questions. The Town has a long history with this property. It has been vacant now for 11 years. On April 4, 2018 there was a gas leak to which the Fire Department, Ramsey County Sheriff and the Town Building Inspector responded. At that time the building was declared unfit for human habitation and the utilities were disconnected. On November 18, 2019, the Town held a public hearing to consider

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demolition of the property. The neighbors were present at the public hearing and their consensus was if the Town could work with the owner that would be great, but that the property was also an eyesore and would like it rehabbed. The owner, or representative of the owner, James Lopez, was given a list of items to complete within 6 months.

Six months from November 2019 was the beginning of the Novel Coronavirus pandemic, which took precedence as the Town made necessary adjustments. The Town most recently called another public hearing on July 7, 2021 to again consider demolition of the property, though during the past year and a half since November 2019, Lopez could have obtained a permit and finished the repairs as requested.

Ruzek moved to reopen the public comment portion. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

James Lopez, 3872 Elmwood Street, Vадnais Heights, was present to ask questions and address the Board's concerns. Johnson was on vacation at the last Town Board meeting, so Lopez requested an additional 2 weeks to obtain the permit. He also had the list that the Town Clerk gave him, and the Town Attorney went through the list with him. The complete list is located on page 53 in the packet. Lopez answered that he had the first item (removal of dilapidated storage sheds, tires, lawn mowers, snow blowers, plastic container, dilapidated furniture, file cabinet, barrels, plastic bucket, bath tub, and all scrap metal and machinery) "mostly done". He has dates from the utility companies by which the electric, gas, sewer, and water could be restored upon completion of getting the house to livable condition. The rest of the items (restoring the heating, lighting, and sanitary conditions; replacing overhead garage door, repair or replace garage door trim; repair/replace building soffit and fascia, paint or restore as needed; repair or replace deteriorated window trim and window components; replace rear entry door; replace all deteriorated exterior siding; paint/refurbish all exterior surfaces; repair or replace all dilapidated fence sections;) he has either started and not completed, or needed a permit to complete but hasn't obtained the permit yet. On July 13, 2021, Lopez paid for the permit and inspection, but scheduled the inspection for July 30th. The Board was frustrated about the miscommunication between staff and Lopez, i.e. simply paying for a permit is not obtaining the permit, and therefore the application process should have been completed prior to the July 19th Town Board meeting. There was some discussion of this, and while Lopez ensures the Board that the work will get done, the Board does not believe it will due to the facts of the matter (the property has been vacant for over 10 years; there was a gas leak and utilities were shut off years ago; Lopez stated that he would get the work done 6 months from November 2019; Lopez has had several years to rehab the property).

The Town Board decided that they would give Lopez until the August 2nd Board meeting to have: the inspection completed on July 30th, the physical permit, the list of things (which may have additional items from the inspection), and some of the items completed (proving he's working on rehabbing the house as he's stated he wants to do).

The Town Attorney explained the process of what happens after August 2nd if Lopez does not fulfill the requirements. He will have to answer the complaint filed by the

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Township with the district court. The court may grant him additional time. But on August 2nd, the Town will proceed as previously decided if the house is not in the process of rehab.

Ruzek moved to continue the public hearing until August 2nd. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING – PETITION TO VACATE PARTS OF BALD EAGLE BOULEVARD EAST: The Town Clerk introduced the Board to this agenda item. The public hearing is scheduled at least 60 days out for DNR notification.

Ruzek moved to call for a public hearing to vacate parts of Bald Eagle Blvd East (5466 and 5468) on September 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

RFP RESULTS – REFUSE COLLECTION/PUC RECOMMENDATION: The Town Clerk reported that the Utility Commission has a recommendation after deliberation on the RFP process. The proposals from Highland, Republic, and Walters were discussed for 2 whole Utility Commission meetings. The majority of the discussion focused on ensuring that the vendors had equipment availability, familiarity with the Township’s needs, reliability of service, and a high level of customer service. The Commission took into consideration that out of 16 potential haulers, only 3 sent in RFPs. The Commission also took the high customer service reviews into consideration.

There were questions of the comparisons and whether there were any glaring charges.

The negotiation process will begin after the Town Board approves a proposal.

Bobby Stewart, 1865 Cherry Lane, Newport, was present to give the Board more information about his family’s company Highland Sanitation. He went over his proposal briefly and focused on a main consideration for choosing Highland would be the weekly recycling bids allowing seniors and smaller needs to have smaller can sizes. The Board noted that in 5 years they will review the RFP process and consider changing vendors at that point again.

McCune moved to approve the recommendation made by the Utility Commission on retaining Republic Services as the Township’s chosen refuse hauler for a three (3) year contract, subject to negotiation. Ruzek seconded. Ayes all.

OPEN TIME: No one was present for open time.

CLOSED SESSION – ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE: Ruzek made the motion to enter into closed session at 7:55 p.m. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: There were no added agenda items.

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RECEIPT OF AGENDA MATERIALS / SUPPLEMENTS: Ruzek motioned to receive all Agenda Materials & Supplements for tonight’s meeting. McCune seconded. Ayes all.

McCune moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Ruzek seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Christopherson
Town Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as Official Meeting Minutes

Town Board Chair

Date