

**Town of Amberg Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday Feb 11, 2020, 2019 – 7 pm**

Chairman Mattison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with Mattison, Supervisor Holmes, Supervisor Werner, Clerk Boshen, Treasurer Suzawith and fourteen citizens present. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Dave Behrendt from the Coalition to Save the Menominee River spoke on the efforts of the coalition (a 501C3 nonprofit organization) against the state of Michigan approving the mine permits for the Menominee River mine at the hearing in Lansing MI. Michigan is one of several states that can write their own mining permits. All sulfide mines have been known to pollute river and surrounding land. He further stated that the sulfide deposits when exposed to oxygen and water makes sulfuric acid which is hazardous when leaking from tailing ponds. It is their objective to bring people together to fight this open pit mine. Fifty-two organizations are already involved against the open pit mining process. He closed by requesting everyone who is interested should attend the March 24 public hearing at the Stephenson HS against the Town/County/State abandoning River Road to facilitate the open pit mine.

Jarod Deschane, High School Principal/Administrator of the Wausaukee School District presented the annual school report to the residents. He brought a slide show showing the current financial position of the District as it has changed since the referendum was passed as well as highlighting the positive changes in both the elementary school and high school even though enrollment is declining.

During open floor *Dave Behrendt mentioned the pfo contamination in the Marinette, Peshtigo and Menominee areas.*

Clerk Boshen read the minutes of the January meeting into the record. Passed unanimous. Treasurer Suzawith reported the following: COH \$166,292.04, Tax money market \$580,194.29, money carried over from 2019 \$78,415.02, checking account balance of \$45,323.68, health savings account of \$33,361.20, and equipment cd of \$127,837.21. Vouchers paid were in the amount of \$31,747.06. Both reports were approved on a motion by Supervisor Holmes with a second by Supervisor Werner

**Under On-Going/Continuing Business**

Plan Commission Report- Regular monthly meeting of the Amberg Plan Commission took place Jan 2 2020 in the Amberg community center at 6:30 pm. The first order of business was to look at the variance request for after it was modified from last month. Members agreed it was ok and approved it. Next a change in the building permit application was looked at and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:30. Regular monthly meeting of the Amberg plan commission was held Feb 5 2020 at 6:30 pm in the community center. The order of business for the night was to have a written policy on how we handle variance requests. After much discussion it was decided to look at again next month. Meeting adjourned 7:35.

Fire Department Report is on file in the clerk's office for review.

Supervisor Holmes reported that the Wausaukee Rescue Squad is meeting next week to install a new board consisting of Jamie Vandenburg as next president with three squad members and three to four town members making up the rest of the board. Some of the NWTTC EMT students from Wausaukee are riding along. A decision has been made to start charging \$50 for lift assists.

Chairman Mattison provided the Road Department Report stating that:

- \* the new plow needs to be sent back and redone to correct the current problems. (It needs to be reconfigured in that it should not have to be lifted into place to attach it to the truck.) He also mentioned that a burke plow was available when the board decided to purchase the current one but no one knew about it at the time.
- \* Not as many complaints have been received about the road conditions since the last meeting.
- \* Citizens are calling both the town and GAD about problems with garbage pickup. It was decided to publish the garbage pickup criteria on the web site and post it around town so there is less confusion about how many bags of garbage will be picked up and the total weight of individual bags.
- \* Chairman Mattison stated that he had talked to Melvin Smiley about the gravel pit contract but needs to follow up with Melvin's wife Rosie who is the property owner.

Supervisor Holmes brought in information including prices on a Ford 2019 and 2020 diesel truck chassis with a v-plow with trip edge, sander on back and a stainless steel box liner for a dump box for the board to consider. He also stated that the town qualifies for state/government rates. Clerk Boshen will enlist the help of the Clerk/Treasurer from the Village of Wausaukee in writing a grant when appropriate.

### **Under new business**

Treasurer Suzawith asked the board how much time and effort should be put into collecting minimal amounts of unpaid taxes (example out of state entity with no real property to put a judgement against.) After a brief discussion Supervisor Holmes suggested the Town should write small amounts off. Treasurer Suzawith suggested bringing Assessor Litptack into the discussion. The subject was tabled until next month's meeting.

The board adjourned into closed session to discuss the Road Crew wages. A survey comparing the wages from the surrounding towns showed that they were seriously underpaid. After a brief discussion the board voted unanimously on a motion made by Supervisor Holmes to increase both workers' wages by \$2.00/hour to begin the process of bringing them into line with the surrounding town workers.

The ordinance hearing and opening road work bids originally scheduled for February will be rescheduled for March.

All vouchers were paid and Supervisor Werner with a second by Supervisor Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm.