

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 08, 2008

- I. The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Kris Hampton at 7:00 P.M. Town Clerk Kim Banigan recorded the minutes, and Attorney Connie Anderson provided legal counsel. A list of other attendees is available in Clerk's Office.
- II. Flag Pledge
- III. The minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting were attached to the agenda in printed form. There was no reading of the minutes at the meeting. **MOTION** by Virgil Schroeder/Silvin Kurt to approve the minutes as printed. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

Hampton suggested that voting on issues on tonight's agenda be accomplished by those in favor or opposed standing in turn, then counting off as they sit down. There were no objections to this method.

- IV. Additions to the agenda by electors: Dave Morrow asked that the following be added:
 - A. A Resolution Urging United States Federal Transit Administration to Reject Dane County Application for Rail Transit Funding.
 - B. A resolution supporting Town comprehensive plans as the means of determining future land use.
- V. Presentation of 2007 Annual Report: **MOTION** by Virgil Schroeder/Leroy Ebert to dispense with the reading of the 2007 Town Annual Report. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**
- VI. Hampton read Resolution 2008-03 Authorizing the Town Board to Borrow Money in Case of Emergency. **MOTION** by Virgil Schroeder/Karen Kessenich to approve the resolution as read. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**
- VII. Hampton read Resolution 2008-04 Designating Public Depositories. **MOTION** by Virgil Schroeder/Deborah Simonson to approve the resolution as read. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**
- VIII. Hampton read the agenda item regarding possible purchase of the former "The Farm Golf Course" and asked if there were questions or comments. A lengthy discussion followed. Major topics included:
(Randy Margenau of the Village of Cottage Grove was present and answered many of the questions about the property and grant applications.)
 - Questions and concerns regarding the appraisal of the property in January of 2008 at \$35,000/acre – many thought this amount to be too high.
 - Discussion about the 59 acres of conservancy was that it could be used for passive recreation only, with a possibility of a dog park on part of it. The Village has an easement on it for sewer and possible future road.
 - What would be an acceptable use of the 43 acres that do not qualify for conservancy? Hampton suggested that some of the cost of purchasing it could be recouped if the Town were able to develop it as residential at a density similar to the Meadow Grove subdivision. There was also talk of using it for sports fields, and a suggestion that soccer clubs, for example, might offer grants that could assist with the purchase price. The majority of opinions expressed, however, were that it should all remain as green space. Funding from private conservancy groups could be further explored for this portion of the property, although it would mean giving up control over the land.

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 08, 2008

- Those who spoke against the purchase of the property expressed concern over how accessible the conservancy would be to residents not living nearby, and the fact that due to Village ETJ and County zoning, the Town has little control over what can be done with the property. Hampton stated that before the Town would enter into the purchase, a partnership agreement stating how the 43 acres could be used would need to be in place. There were some who felt that this property was not of any benefit to the Town, or asked if this would set a precedent for future purchases to protect green space adjacent to other Town subdivisions.
 - Arguments in favor of the purchase included the desire to protect the natural state of the property for future generations, and a need for green space for sports fields.
 - Some residents were concerned about how they will know when further discussions about this matter are to take place. Hampton said that funding of any purchase will require a referendum, which would be preceded by an informational public hearing. The clerk advised residents that all agendas are posted on the Town's web site as well as the regular posting boards around the Town. Some residents suggested keeping each other informed by word of mouth.
- A. Should the Town and Village purchase all or part of the property for general recreational use by the public? **IN FAVOR: 40, OPPOSED: 14.**
- B. If both grants are awarded, should the Town split the remaining purchase price of the 59 acres of Conservancy with the Village of Cottage Grove? **IN FAVOR: 41, OPPOSED: 0**
- C. Should the Town participate with the Village in purchasing the remaining +/- 43 acres? **IN FAVOR: 40, OPPOSED: 13.**
- IX. Should the Town participate financially with the Village in development of a community library? Hampton stated that the Town will always have to pay the County library tax, regardless of any contribution to a Village library. Kristi Williams, who was formerly on the County Library Board, explained how the County Library tax is used. Diane Wiedenbeck from the Village Library Board said that they are looking at a downsized library, and there will be open houses followed by a Village referendum. Peggy Jensen suggested that the Town contribute \$500,000 to the Village's library, and sited technology that could be purchased with the Town's contribution. There was general consensus that this matter should be tabled until the Village makes a definite commitment to a library. The matter will be reconsidered at next year's Annual Town Meeting.
- X. Should the Town participate financially with the Village in development of a community recreation center? Randy Marganeu from the Village explained that a phased \$14.5 million expansion of Firemans Park would include a recreation center with gymnasium and wellness center, competitive baseball fields, and a swimming pool. Partnerships with other organizations are possible. The initial phase would be the recreation center at a cost of \$4.5 million. Open houses and a Village referendum are planned. There was discussion that Town residents will want to use the facilities, and by participating financially, the Town will purchase a voice in the planning and operational discussions. There was general consensus that this matter should be tabled until the Village makes a definite commitment. The matter will be reconsidered at next year's Annual Town Meeting.

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 08, 2008

- XI. Should the Town Board pursue development of a Town logo to be used on letterhead and other printed materials? There was general consensus that rather than paying for development of a logo, a contest should be held among Town residents.
- XII. Set Date for Next Year's meeting: **MOTION** by Virgil Schroeder/George Ball to have the next Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.
MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.
- XIII. Other Business:
- A. A Resolution Urging United States Federal Transit Administration to Reject Dane County Application for Rail Transit Funding: Hampton read the resolution.
MOTION by Karen Kessenich/Jeff Smith to approve the resolution as read.
MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.
- B. A resolution supporting Town comprehensive plans as the means of determining future land use. Hampton read the resolution. **MOTION** by Silvin Kurt/Virgil Schroeder to approve the resolution as read. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**
- XIV. Presentation of Stormwater Management Educational Video: *Dane Waters – a reflection of us all.*
- XV. Adjournment: **MOTION** by Karen Kessenich/Deborah Simonson to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.** The annual meeting was adjourned at 9:52 P.M.

Kim Banigan
Clerk

Approved 4-14-2009

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

4058 County Road N
COTTAGE GROVE, WISCONSIN 53527

RESOLUTION 2008-03 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN BOARD** **TO BORROW MONEY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the electors of the Town of Cottage Grove being duly assembled at the Annual Town meeting on April 08, 2008 do hereby authorize the Town Board of the Town of Cottage Grove to borrow money in case of emergencies.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats., within 30 days of the below noted adoption date.

Passed at a duly held meeting of the Electors of the Town of Cottage Grove on the 80th day of April, 2008 by a vote of _____.

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

ATTEST:

Kristopher Hampton, Town Chair

Kim Banigan, Town Clerk

Approved as to form this
_____ day of _____, _____.

Constance L. Anderson, Esq.
Cottage Grove Town Attorney
Gregory D, Murray, Esq.
Cottage Grove Assistant Town Attorney

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

4058 County Road N
COTTAGE GROVE, WISCONSIN 53527

RESOLUTION 2008-04 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES

BE IT RESOLVED until further action by the Town Board:

1. That all prior resolutions by the Town of Cottage Grove designating depositories for the public funds are hereby canceled and withdrawn.
2. Pursuant to Section 34.05, Wis. Stats., the following institutions, all qualified as public depositories under Chapter 34 of the Wisconsin Statutes, shall be and are hereby designated, as public depositories for all public moneys coming into the hands of the Treasurer of the Town of Cottage Grove, Dane County, Wisconsin.
 - a. Wisconsin Community Bank, 580 North Main Street, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin 53527;
 - b. Cottage Grove Banking Center, 449 West Cottage Grove Rd., Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, 53527;
 - c. The local government pooled-investment fund, administered by the Wisconsin State Treasurer's Office, at whatever address it may use from time to time.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats., within 30 days of the below noted adoption date.

Passed at a duly held meeting of the Electors of the Town of Cottage Grove on the 8th day of April, 2008 by a **UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**.

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

ATTEST:

Kristopher Hampton, Town Chair

Kim Banigan, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

4058 County Road N
COTTAGE GROVE, WISCONSIN 53527

RESOLUTION 2008-05 URGING UNITED STATES FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION TO REJECT DANE COUNTY APPLICATION FOR RAIL TRANSIT FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Town of Cottage Grove has learned that Dane County, together with the City of Madison, intends to submit an application for funding to continue to pursue development of a rail transit system serving a corridor between Sun Prairie and Middleton; and

WHEREAS, even the most optimistic estimates of the ridership of this transit line indicate that it will serve less than 2% of the commuters in Dane County, and will not even blunt the growth in traffic; and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Town, the recommendation to pursue rail transit reflects an arbitrary preference for rail over a more realistic bus-centered expansion model; and

WHEREAS, proponents of the rail system have indicated that they believe it will be necessary to fund the rail system with a new tax source, most likely a one-half percent sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cottage Grove has reviewed information concerning the benefits and costs of a sales tax, and has determined that even the remote and indirect benefits of a sales tax would not even approach the cost to the Town of the sales tax that would be collected;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Cottage Grove does hereby urge the United States Federal Transit Administration to return the application of Dane County and the City of Madison for planning funds to the City and County with the direction that they plan for a system based on bus expansion.

Passed at a duly held meeting of the Electors of the Town of Cottage Grove on the 8th day of April, 2008 by **UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

ATTEST:

Kristopher Hampton, Town Chair

Kim Banigan, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

4058 County Road N
COTTAGE GROVE, WISCONSIN 53527

RESOLUTION 2008-06 SUPPORTING TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLANS AS THE MEANS FOR DETERMINING FUTURE LAND USE

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law now requires every Town which chooses to exercise any land use regulatory authority to adopt a comprehensive plan under section 66.1009, Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive plan is meant to be a long-term vision of how each community should grow and develop, and reflects the preferences of the residents of each community; and

WHEREAS, Dane County has also adopted a comprehensive plan, which reflects the views of what the County believes is appropriate for the rural part of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Board is dominated by representatives of urban areas, particularly the City of Madison, who are adopting land use policy for the Towns, even though they are not subject to the will of the electors of the Town; and

WHEREAS, there is an on-going controversy between the County and the Towns as to whether or not the County is required to follow, or even to consider, Town plans if the County's comprehensive plan differs from a Town plan; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Cottage Grove, assembled in their annual Town meeting, wish to affirm that they believe the residents of the Town are in the best position to determine their own future, and to adopt the only comprehensive plan which should be given effect in determining the future development of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE THAT:

1. The residents of the Town support the process of formulating Town comprehensive plans as the appropriate means by which the Town can determine its future; and
2. To the degree that there is any conflict between the Town's comprehensive plan and the County's comprehensive plan, the Town's comprehensive plan should control because it reflects the wishes of the community that has to abide by it.

Passed at a duly held meeting of the Electors of the Town of Cottage Grove on the 8th day of April, 2008 by a **UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE

ATTEST:

Kristopher Hampton, Town Chair

Kim Banigan, Town Clerk