

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 16, 2015

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Notice of the meeting was posted at Town Hall, the park at 4539 American Way, Gaston Road at Brown Thrush and US Hwy 12 & 18 at County Road BN, and on the Town's web site. Town Chair Kris Hampton and Supervisors Mike Fonger, Steve Anders, Mike DuPlayee and Kristi Williams were present, along with Clerk Kim Banigan, Treasurer Debra Abel, Highway Superintendent Jeff Smith and Deputy Brian Biwer.
- B. Hampton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
- C. Minutes of previous meeting(s): **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 Town Board meeting with a correction to the makers of the motion under item II. D. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- D. Finance Report and Approval of Bills:
 - 1. **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Anders to approve payment of bills corresponding to checks #23411-23464 as presented, and voiding of check #43405. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
 - 2. Treasurer Abel asked that March per diem reports be submitted by April 3rd.
- E. Public Concerns: None.
- F. Road Right of Way Permits: None.

II. BUSINESS:

- A. Review February Police Activities: The report provided by Captain Teuscher showed there were 188 calls for service and 113 citations in March. 70 of the citations were for speeding, and Deputy Biwer noted that not all of these had been issued by our contracted deputies, which is evidence of greater presence of the Sheriff's Office overall than prior to the dissolution of the joint police department. Other than the arson at 4721 Gaston Circle, there were no other major incidents in March.
- B. Discuss/Consider approval of purchase/lease of a computer for 2011 Crown Vic squad car: Deputy Biwer said that the Town has two options to consider: 1) purchase the computer/software for \$4,700 or 2) lease the computer from the County on a 6 year depreciation schedule, which would include software and maintenance for \$66/month. Board members did the math and determined it would add up to an additional \$52 over 6 years to lease, which was worth it to have the County take care of the maintenance. **MOTION** by Anders/Williams to approve leasing the mobile computer and software from the Dane County Sheriff's Office for a total of \$4,752 over six years. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- C. Discuss/Consider approval of an Agreement with Dane County for the Intersection Improvement of CTH BB and Vilas Hope Road: This work was done in 2014 and the agreement showed the Town's portion of the cost not to exceed \$12,000 as expected. **MOTION** by Anders/DuPlayee to approve the Agreement with Dane County for the Intersection Improvement of CTH BB and Vilas Hope Road as presented. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- D. Discuss/Consider proceeding with a razing order for 4721 Gaston Circle: Building Inspector Tom Viken had provided a letter to the Town Board declaring the house a 100% loss and recommending that it should be torn down. Attorney Connie Anderson had provided a memo summarizing the applicable laws and advising the board. Hampton had made attempt to contact the property owner to find out his intentions, and is awaiting a return call. **MOTION** by Hampton/DuPlayee to direct Attorney Anderson to proceed with a razing order if the

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property owner has not made a commitment to raze the building by March 24th. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.** Smith noted that town roads are currently posted with a 10 ton weight limit for the spring thaw, which would prevent any heavy construction traffic for the time being.

- E. Discuss/Consider adoption of a Resolution Opposing County Assessment: The Wisconsin Towns Association had provided a model resolution. **MOTION** by Williams/DuPlayee to adopt as Resolution 2015-02 with correction of one typo. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- F. Discuss whether to pursue an ordinance allowing for alternative forms of Board of Review testimony: A model ordinance was provided at a recent WTA meeting. After a brief discussion, the board decided to take no action on this matter.
- G. Discuss/Consider direction for renewal of lease for the former Town Garage at 4091 County Road N: Dale Huston has indicated to Hampton that they do want to renew the lease that expires in May for another three years. The Treasurer had prepared a comparison between what the Hustons are currently paying the Town to rent 4091 County Road N and what the Town currently pays the Hustons to rent 2560 Nora Road. **MOTION** by Fonger/Anders directing Hampton to present an annual cost of \$18,564 for the first year, with 1 1/2% increases for years 2 and 3. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- H. Discuss/Consider whether to become a Participating or Cooperating Agency with the DOT on the 1-39/90 and US 12/18 Interchange Project: Hampton and Smith attended an informational meeting today. The Town is only eligible to be a participating agency, and is mainly interested in the County AB interchange. **MOTION** by Hampton/Fonger to become a participating agency with the DOT on the 1-39/90 and US 12/18 Interchange Project. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- I. Discuss/Consider petty cash needs for the Town Office: The Clerk said that petty cash is mostly needed early in the year to make change for dog license payments. Smith does have a petty cash fund that he uses for miscellaneous public works expenses. **MOTION** by Anders/Williams directing the Clerk and Treasurer to obtain a cash box and work with Smith for a \$250 petty cash fund shared between the office and public works, reconciled monthly by the Treasurer. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
- J. Discuss/Consider items for the Annual Meeting Agenda: **MOTION** by Hampton/Williams to include the following items on the annual meeting agenda: update on I39/90 and County AB/US Hwy 12 & 18 intersection improvements, update on policing by the DCSO, progress report on the comprehensive plan update, update on regulation of sex offenders. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

III. CLERK'S REPORT: None.

IV. BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Hampton:

- 1. The DOT sent a noise notification and evaluation for the I-39/90 improvement project. This is intended to be used to prevent future traffic noise impacts on currently undeveloped lands.
- 2. Hydrite sent a new emergency response plan, which was given to DuPlayee for the Emergency Government Committee.
- 3. Hydrite has submitted a request to the DNR for a modification to their plan of operations. This will be forwarded to the Fire Chief.

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V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Emergency Government Committee: The new computer is back and is now working after a hardware repair. The Village made a formal announcement of hiring their new Police Chief and Public Works Director. A new attendee from Paul Davis Restoration promises to be a valuable addition with knowledge of disaster remediation and 11 years of emergency government experience.

VI. Adjournment: **MOTION** by DuPlayee/Anders to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**. The meeting ended at 7:53 P.M.

Kim Banigan, Clerk
Approved 04-06-2015

**COTTAGE GROVE TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION 2015-02**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED COUNTY ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) proposes to change from municipal assessment to county assessment that requires 100% assessment of every property every year; and,

WHEREAS, this proposal will cause an unfathomable waste of taxpayer dollars through extraordinary cost increases; and,

WHEREAS, citizens will only be able to access a few Board of Review proceedings throughout an entire county, which significantly decreases the ability of local knowledge to create accuracy in the assessment process; and,

WHEREAS, towns, cities, and villages are no longer in control of their own costs because the county will just send them a bill; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal is an unprecedented intrusion into local government by requiring the state to suggest a salary range for their assessment director and work with the county to set a county budget and number of employees; and,

WHEREAS, the DOR has cited assessor problems as part of their rationale, but has never revoked an assessor license despite having the authority; and,

WHEREAS, over the last five years the DOR has already required additional work and detailed information from assessors to improve the process; and,

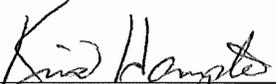
WHEREAS, this proposal kills private sector jobs and grows public sector jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the DOR cites that Wisconsin is one of few states that has municipal assessment, but forgets to note the strong leadership of Wisconsin citizens, our state's dedication to local input, and the simple lack of town government in many states;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cottage Grove, Dane County does hereby oppose the implementation of county assessment in Wisconsin and asks for the proposal to be removed from the budget; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Towns are and have always been willing to work with the State of Wisconsin, fellow local government groups, and other stakeholders to continually improve the assessment process.

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Kris Hampton, Town Chair

Attest:



Kim Banigan, Town Clerk

Adopted 3/16/15
by a vote of
5 in favor
0 opposed