

**Meeting Minutes of the Town of Dewhurst Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 6:30 PM (CST)
Town of Dewhurst – Town Hall**

Board members present: Bill Kolve, Chairman; Bruce Delaney, Supervisor 1; Troy Wyss, Supervisor 2; Kelly Errthum, Clerk; Todd Schultz, Deputy Treasurer

Town of Dewhurst Employees present: Chris Holt; Rollin Opelt

Citizens present: Steve & Barb Kunes, Dave Baumeister, Randy Nichols, Gene O’Brien, Paul Sullivan, Jean & Nate Vandeberg, Paul & Robyn Stearns; Chuck & Marie Kaufman, Ralph Johnson, Barb Deml, Duane Gjerseth, Steve Errthum, Marilyn Grace, Sally Wipfli, Barney & Laura Adams, Lorri and Richard Johnson, Dan Kohls, Scott Zenz, Neil Czarnecki, Ted Janicki, Rollin Opelt, Barb & Jeff Hagenbrock, and Steven Wertz. (Note: if you did not sign in, your attendance will not be documented.)

Call to Order: Bill Kolve called the Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting to order at 7:42 PM (CST). Immediately following the call to order, several vehicles’ alarms began to “honk”. There was approximately a three (3) minute delay in getting the meeting started. 😊

Approval of Agenda:

*Motion to approve the agenda by Troy Wyss; second to the motion: Bruce Delaney

*Motion carried: 3/0

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes from 11/12/2024 – Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting minutes from 11/25/2024 – Special Board Meeting

*Motion to approve the minutes from the 11/12/2024 Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting and the 11/25/2024 Special Board Meeting by Troy Wyss; second to the motion Bill Kolve

*Motion carried: 3/0

Treasurer’s Report

Todd Schultz indicated that currently there are only two (2) signers on the Money Market account (Kelly Errthum and himself). He clarified that no checks are written from the account and that it would be beneficial to have additional signers on the account. He recommended adding Bill Kolve to the list to ensure that there are three (3) signers on the account. Todd asked if Kelly Errthum would get new signature cards from the bank and she agreed.

*Motion by Troy Wyss to add Bill Kolve as a signer on the Town of Dewhurst Money Market account; second by Bruce Delaney

*Motion carried: 3/0

Todd proposed adding an “overdraft” protection account to the Town of Dewhurst accounts. This would prevent any overdraft fees if something would happen. It is a \$10 fee per transaction (regardless of amount) which is transferred in increments of \$100. For example, if a transfer of \$100,000 was needed to cover funds, it would be a charge of \$10. This is significantly less than an overdraft charge. Bill asked if there was a charge for this service. Todd indicated that there was not a charge associated with the service. Todd also stated that he did have the form and it would need Bill Kolve and Kelly Errthum to sign. Todd asked if Kelly would return the form to the bank and she agreed.

*Motion by Bill Kolve to add the overdraft protection service to Town of Dewhurst accounts; second by Troy Wyss

*Motion carried: 3/0

Todd stated that we have two voting machine components that need to be taken to Neillsville for new batteries at a cost of \$422.00. The components have to be taken to Neillsville by the end of the year.

Todd then provided the treasurer's report as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$215,205.35
Deposits:	\$34,087.75
Interest:	\$186.30
Disbursements:	(\$29,859.43)

Ending Balance:	\$219,619.97

Todd stated that in October they put \$25,000 in a seven (7) month CD that is yielding over 4% in interest. Bill asked regarding the \$219k balance that maybe additional funds should be earmarked for another CD for equipment or a bridge on Bachelors. Troy asked if Bill wanted to do that prior to the close of the calendar year or after the final bills are received/paid? Todd stated that the township will collect approximately \$1M in funds that we will "sit on" for a couple of months so there wouldn't be any cash flow issues. Another approximately \$1M will be collected again in January before the system closes for access February 7th. We don't pay the schools until March. He didn't have any issues with moving \$25k now.

*Motion by Bill Kolve to move the additional \$25k into a CD now so it is done; second to motion by Troy Wyss

*Motion carried: 3/0

Bill asked Todd if we should earmark additional funds now or later? Todd stated that the township would be flush with money over the next few months. Worst case scenario would be that a penalty would be incurred if the money was needed prior to the maturity date. Bill asked the board for opinions. Troy Wyss would like it tabled for another month until after the bills are paid.

Liquor License Requests:

Mocha Mouse, LLC – Bruce Mound Snack Shop (Class B Beer; Class B Wine) – fees have been paid, paperwork submitted

Just One More and I Gotta Go LLC dba Deerview (Class B Beer; Class B Liquor; Class C Liquor) – fees have been paid, paperwork submitted, incorporation papers also included.

*Motion by Troy Wyss to approve the licenses as brought forward; second to the motion: Bruce Delaney

*Motion carried: 3/0

Bruce Delaney asked if there would be any refund of pro-rated fees that were paid for licenses in July. Bill Kolve had no issues. Bruce explained that the board has the option to refund a portion of previously paid license fees or keep and charge full amount for new licenses. Board

approved to pro-rate a refund of 5 months of license fees to Just One More and I Gotta Go LLC dba Deerview.

Ambulance Contract: Bill Kolve introduced the Ambulance contract for the Black River Falls EMT service. Black River Falls wants to charge \$8,850.00 for ambulance service. They do not have enough EMTs to keep them on staff 24/7. They want to use these funds to keep EMTs on staff 24/7/365. There is no way around it for ambulance service. Bill indicated that he did reach out to Neillsville and they are dealing with the same situation. Without the contract, they are not required to come service our area. Troy Wyss stated that Alma Center has the same issue. Bruce Delaney stated that Alma Center, Adams, and Melrose are also experiencing the same thing. Bruce asked if the contract allowed for change/cancellation if something else were to arise? Bill confirmed that the contract would allow this change with a pro-rated return of funds. Bill stated he talked to Neillsville and Black River Falls told them they should not “cross the river”. Troy indicated that it was expected to be much higher (\$30k) so, it was much lower than expected. Bill then opened the floor to citizens input regarding the contract.

Citizen Comments:

Steve Wertz – introduced himself and stated how happy he was to be in the community. Ralph Johnson stated that his understanding was that our own ambulance couldn’t transport? Bill Kolve clarified that they can just assist. They can arrive at a call and assist. Black River Falls would then need to come to the call in order to transport the patient. Diana Laufenberg asked if that amount of money was in the budget. Troy Wyss responded that it was just added to the budget. Paul Sterns asked why Hatfield EMT cannot transport? Bill clarified that it is because there is not a licensed EMT to transport. Bill stated while it is an added expense but, it is a service that is needed. Other communities are paying more as the cost is based on the size of the township. Marie Kaufman said it’s bad if we don’t have a contract signed with someone. Years ago, there weren’t enough people on call and, we would have to sit for hours with a patient because we weren’t able to transport. Sometimes the patients never came out of it. That happened several times so we really need to have those EMTs and paramedics.

Bill then asked the attending citizens to have a show of hands on who would be in favor of the service. Over 80% of citizens present, raised their hands to show their agreement to move forward with the contract.

*Motion by Troy Wyss to approve the ambulance contract at \$8,850; second to the motion:
Bruce Delaney
*Motion carried: 3/0

Road Report: Rollin Opelt had nothing to report at this time.

Dump Report: Chris Holt had one issue at the dump by a business owner that was bringing in large amounts of yard waste. Chris had indicated that the dump was not to be taking “business” refuse/garbage. The party involved was going to attend the meeting but, was not present. Chris was looking for guidance and Bill confirmed that the township does not take business garbage. Bill told Chris they could follow up and Bill would get the phone number and he would talk to him.

Social Media (Facebook/Website): Kelly Errthum introduced the fact that discussion was had to create an “official” Town of Dewhurst Facebook page. Kelly will get with the webmaster (Jack) to get that created and linked to the township webpage. The new page has not been named and once it is, it will be published and broadcast to the citizens. Kelly told the citizens present if they have a suggestion for the name, they could submit their ideas.

Bruce Delaney pointed out that the “Town of Dewhurst - Community” Facebook page is not an official Town of Dewhurst as it is a private Facebook page. The township is looking to have an official Facebook page so that there is no confusion. Bruce asked Barb Kunes if she runs the current “Town of Dewhurst-Community” Facebook page, she confirmed. He asked if she would be interested in a name change as it is confusing to people as it is not an official township page. She stated she would not be interested in changing her page. He asked why she would want to call her private page “Town of Dewhurst-Community” as it is confusing to some. She indicated that it is a name she chose. She did not want to change and indicated that people could just ‘unfollow’.

Diana Laufenberg asked if this was going to be a “page” or a “group”.

Bill asked Kelly to get the clarifying details and get back to everyone. Kelly said she would once she has met with Jack (webmaster).

Citizen Concerns: Bill opened the citizen concerns with a notice that if there is any foul language, please leave the building and the citizen concerns will be done for the meeting.

Steve Wertz apologized for interjecting his introduction earlier. He was again welcomed to the community.

Paul Sterns asked if there was a date set for the January caucus. Kelly Errthum stated that a date had not yet been selected.

Robyn Stearns asked if Bill Kolve is going to run again and if Bruce Delaney was going to run again. Both Bill and Bruce responded that they intend to run again. How come minutes were not provided on the “special meeting”. Troy stated that it was missed and we will get them posted.

Jean Vandenberg wanted clarification for the social gathering meeting in January. Bill confirmed that they were approved to continue their meetings for 2025. Bill stated that the confirmation to continue the meetings is as long as they sign the “sign-up sheets” that are located next to the door. Please sign in and leave it on the table. The board will pick it up and file it. If that is not completed, the board will revisit the situation. Jean indicated that people do not sign the paper. Bill stated that if it is blank, the board will talk about it. He didn’t think it was too difficult to ask people to sign in. Please, sign the sheets as asked.

Duane Gjersestet asked if the sign in sheet pertained to all groups. Bill Kolve confirmed that included the Lake Association and all groups.

Steve Kunes wanted to clarify what Jean was asking. The first of the month is Wednesday in January. So, the first of the month is Wednesday, January 1st. The group is asking to move the meeting from the holiday to January 8th to avoid the conflict with the holiday. Bill Kolve stated it was not a problem.

Bernie Adams asked if the citizen concerns could be moved to after the Chairman’s report. He stated that if something is stated during the Supervisor/Chairman reports, then the citizens don’t have the opportunity to ask questions/comment on those topics. Bill Kolve indicated that he would take that into consideration.

Diana Laufenberg is asking for the budget to be posted on the website even if in “draft” and publish as much as possible on the website. Also wanted to know that process for replacing the treasurer/clerk. She stated that in the past, the position for treasurer was advertised in the newspaper. She thought the most recent situation was done fast and inconsistent with how they have done this in the past. One issue she has brought up in the past is the even if she doesn’t agree with the board, as long as they are things are done consistently, she’s fine. She brought up that ordinances have been approved four different ways. She never knows what version is going to be approved. She would like to see consistency from the board and discipline for how business is conducted. Has anyone been following up on the local improvement grant that would be compensated from the state at 50%. Bill Kolve stated that he has been swamped with a lot of things so that he has not followed up. Diana stated that she would not do anything without express permission from the board. She would be willing to do the legwork and “fish” to get some information. She will not make decisions or do anything other than gathering information. She knows of communities that have received funding. She will not gather information without all three (3) of the board members approving in an open meeting to avoid confusion on what is being asked. She would like to see this done proactively rather than wait until summer when it’s hard to get people to act on it. She indicated if the board wanted to talk about it etc. that would be fine. Bill asked that it be put on the next meeting agenda to discuss the topic. Nate Vandenberg wants the minutes from the last meeting. Troy Wyss indicated that they will be posted very soon.

Ralph Johnson commended the board on the budget and the work that was done. He thought it looked good and was glad we didn’t go over the budget. Asking about AED for the townhall. He’s been here for over 47 years and the community has changed. He feels that there is so much anger and greed going on now and much of that is directed at the board. But it is in the public in general. He felt that the board is doing great. Would like the community to look inside themselves and figure out where all the hate, anger, and bitterness is coming from.

Jean Vandenberg that is why the gatherings were started.

Ted Janicki asked if talked to forestry department about getting paid on Gorman Ave? Bill Kolve indicated that he did leave a message and he is waiting for them to call back.

Supervisor’s Report:

Bruce Delaney spent time working on the ordinance. He reiterated the statement by Ralph about the community. He was disheartened about some comments on Facebook that were inappropriate. He would like to see people enjoy the area as there is a lot to do and enjoy. He said that we get side-tracked with things that shouldn’t need to be addressed. He stated the board would like to have more time to do grants etc. however they are busy putting out fires. This is a small town/small community and would like to see things calm down. The board is doing the best they can.

Troy Wyss has had several calls over the last month/month and a half that is woven into what has been discussed. Troy also shared that he will not be running for re-election. He wasn’t asked like the other board members but, wanted to share.

Bruce restated that phone numbers are published and if you have an issue, please feel free to call.

Chairman’s Report: Bill wanted to state again as he promised to say it three (3) times over, please sign the sign in sheet. He stated it again, please, sign the sheets. He asked the ordinance

committee to lock down on the junk ordinance and a couple of others. There is money for you to get paid. Bill has attended all of the meetings. It's a great thing and we need to get back to it. If you know someone looking to get on the ordinance committee, please have them call me (Bill Kolve) my number is on the door and all of the boards. Finally, with the TV at the front, we are looking to get a web camera so that it can be out on the web and people won't have to sit and record the meetings. This would allow the meetings to be out on the web for everyone. Bill is still working on the cameras for the outside parking lot.

Approve and Sign Checks:

*Motion by Bruce Delaney to approve and sign checks; second to the motion: Troy Wyss

*Motion carried: 3/0

Once checks are approved/signed, the meeting will be officially adjourned.

Adjourn:

Bill Kolve officially adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM (CST)

Minutes submitted by: Kelly Errthum, Interim Town of Dewhurst Clerk