

MEETINGS DURING THE “SAFER-AT-HOME” ORDERS

As you struggle to meet your needs during these restrictive times, so, too, are the Town leaders struggling to get business done while trying to keep safety a top priority.

The Planning Commission met, with mixed success, on-line using ZOOM to allow participation at a distance. There was a quorum of Commissioners present while others participated through their computers at home. A developer also presented his case from home. Equipment issues lead to some dropped audio and no ability to project data while keeping the conversation live. The Board of Supervisors met 11 days later and chose not to use on-line participation.

Participants were provided separation throughout the room. The Town Chair had been warned that using ZOOM might bend the open meetings law too far.

The Annual Meeting was not held but has been moved to July 21st at 7:00 P.M.

VOTING

Primary elections were conducted on April 7 but with substantial issues for the Town Clerk. Several poll workers decided the risk was too great and had to be replaced. The materials had to be sanitized and spacing maintained and new poll workers getting some on-the-spot training. More than 500 absentee ballots were cast. Voters could have used <https://myvote.wi.gov> in order to request absentee ballots, check what would be on the ballot ahead of time, check their registration status or register, if needed, and find other helpful information. This editor tried to request an absentee ballot but had trouble affixing photo ID. So, he filled in the request, downloaded the document and then e-mailed that with an enlarged copy of his driver's license to the Clerk well ahead of the deadline. This avoided some of the problem with the postal service but the Clerk still needed to mail out the ballot and this editor had to mail it back. Apparently, some people had troubles with witness signatures on the outside of the ballot.

If enough candidates turn in nomination papers there will be another primary election on August 11, 2020, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. It may be possible that election authorities will turn that into an entirely mail-in election. The fall elections are scheduled for November 3, 2020, with the same hours.

BOARD ACTIONS

At the April 20 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a CSM at the corner of Highway 21 and Sandpit Road bounded on the north by Lacrosse Drive for Eric Wagner. The approval was conditioned on B2 zoning.

The Winnebago County Planning & Zoning Committee recommended to the County Board that B3 zoning be approved for that same property. The Town Board approved a resolution opposing that recommendation.

It would appear that property with a proposed use of public storage will be back before the Town, either Plan commission or Board, in May.

The Board approved A2 zoning for two parcels at the northeast corner of highway 21 and O'Reilly Road.

They adopted an ATV/UTV ordinance which created routes west and northwest of the City of Omro with an intent to review routes in one year.

The Board approved a Preliminary Plat for Ormand Beach Heights First Addition contingent on the resolution of engineering issues. It appears that the Final Plat for that proposed development will be up for review by the Plan Commission at it's May 7 meeting and the Board on May 18.

Supervisor Friess has done a survey of properties in the Town to validate the need for fire numbers. His results will be forwarded to the Fire Chief for comment and then the Board will proceed to implement placement of the numbers at all structures within the Town.

A session of the Board of Review is scheduled the night of the Board meeting on May 18. The Board intends to immediately adjourn that session to a time after the Town's Assessor has compiled all the data for the Board. Property owners who wish to make a case for changing their assessment should contact the Town Clerk for an appointment at the Board of Review. One should stop in at the Open Book session to check the assessment and/or talk to the assessor but this editor does not know when the open book is scheduled.

DUMP CLOSING

The Town Dump was closed on the afternoon of April 11 because of a fire in one of the dumpsters. The dump is normally open from 8 to 4 every Saturday. When that is a holiday the dump is open the day prior. The Town web-site lists the attendant as Jeff Meyers 685-6750.

The use of the garbage and recycling facilities is for Town of Omro residents only.

A pass is required for access to the garbage and recycling site on Wendt Road. The application can be obtained by downloading it from the Town of Omro website or by requesting one at the first visit to the dump.

GETTING OUT

You might be able to get out of the house safely by visiting one of the two Town parks.

Schnyder/Wendt park is at the east end of Wendt Road just beyond the dump off county FF. It inhabits 22 acres with walking trails and a pond. Priske Park is accessed from Fenceline Drive off Marquart Lane in the Sandhill farms subdivision. It is 10 acres with about three in meadow and the rest newer and therefore rougher than Schnyder/Wendt. Both parks prohibit motorized vehicles but do permit dogs. In Priske Park one needs to be mindful of poison ivy in season. Currently the town is working on building up a sledding hill from soil left over from a road project. Someone capable of moving a substantial amount of dirt is being sought.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

This is the third issue of the on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro.

Apparently people are not finding it on the Town's website so it would be useful if readers would forward it to others who might find it useful. Also the contact list for those to whom it is being sent directly is very short. It would be nice to have a long list of contacts so that the Town leaders could use that list for sending out other information that needs to get out quickly. There will be no print edition of this newsletter. Reader contributions will be appreciated.

Submissions can be sent to newsletter@townofomro.us as can requests to be included in the mailing list.