

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING TO BE EARLY

The September Board meeting will be on September 13, 2021, which is one week earlier than usual...the second Monday of the month instead of the third. Starting time is still 6:00 P.M.

## LAWSUIT DECIDED

Judge Scott Woldt issued a bench decision in the Ross/Wagner lawsuit against the Town of Omro. He decided for the plaintiffs who alleged that the Town wrongly refused to change the zoning on property located between highway 21 and Lacrosse Drive west of Sand Pit Road which was planned to have public storage units. Here is a link that should take the reader to that case on the Winnebago County website. [2020CV000438 Case Details in Winnebago County \(wicourts.gov\)](https://www.wicourts.gov/cases/2020CV000438) Once there the user needs to click on CAPTCHA to prove they are human. If the link doesn't work the reader could go to Winnebago County's website home page and go to the "Public Safety, Courts" tab and choose "Courts". On the new page choose "case search" from the menu to the left of the clerk's picture. This should open a new tab. If you click on "I agree" you will get to a page that allows you to search for the case. Perhaps the easiest search is to enter Ross, Harve and then click on "search". Alternatively entering the case number provides many choices to sift through. Here is the whole title of the case: Winnebago County Case Number 2020CV000438 Harve C Ross et al vs. Town of Omro et al

## AUGUST 16, 2021, TOWN BOARD MEETING

During public comment there were several comments made from two distinct groups comparing and contrasting the zoning of two properties that might each be destined to have public storage facilities. Some wanted the Town Officials to appeal the court decision mentioned above and others wanted the Town to just move forward in light of the decision. In light of the fact that there is the appearance of the Town not having a final say in zoning it was suggested that the Planning Commission be dissolved. The final comment was a call to open up all Town roads for ATV/UTV usage.

The Board had a short discussion about how stormwater should be handled as it comes off the property as it might be set up for public storage units. No action was taken, leaving the solution up to the engineers involved from both Town and developer.

The site plan approval for the new Mechanical Services site was laid over at the request of the owner.

An ordinance was adopted reducing the speed on Reighmoor road north of highway 21 to 45 miles per hour.

The Board approved a request to fully pave Ormand Beach First Addition's road.

The Board took no action on opening up the Town roads to ATV/UTV usage, instead waiting for a viable group to propose some limited set of specific routes that connect logically.

The Board repealed and recreated three ordinances to agree with changes in state regulations: 1- Illicit Discharge and Connection Ordinance; 2-Site Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance; and 3-Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance.

The Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement to satisfy eligibility for a Recycling Consolidation Grant.

They approved an ordinance adopting the Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule and then approved a revised Notice of Public Records.

The chair discussed progress in codifying Town regulations asking the other Board Members their opinion on how the sections should be numbered and titled.

They approved the content of a letter to County leadership objecting to decreasing the number of County Board members.

One operator's license was approved.

The Board agreed to have a budget workshop at the end of the September 13 Board meeting unless that agenda got too busy. Then they would set another time for the workshop.

The clerk announced that she has sent out Requests For Proposals (RFP's) to various accounting offices in anticipation of having a professional audit for 2020 and, if the price is feasible, for 2019.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

This editor had been planning to do an article on the Planning Commission. It is just coincidental that the suggestion to dissolve the Commission came at this time. But it would seem timely to set out some information about the PC. So as not to be overwhelming, the information will be spread over more than one issue. This time the content will be a quick history and intent.

In the last few years of the twentieth century the Wisconsin legislature, possibly because of the efforts of realtors, pushed hard for controlling urban sprawl. They produced a plan which was referred to as "Smart Growth" which called for municipalities to create plans for growth in their communities. At first a Comprehensive Plan was a requirement and therefore an agency to handle the composition of a plan was essential. Later the rules were changed so that Comprehensive Plans were required under certain conditions. By that time many communities, including the Town of Omro, had bought into the value of such planning. In 1996 the Board sent out a survey to property owners trying to assess the desires for how growth in the Town should be guided. That survey was the touchstone for much of what was included in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. That Plan was in process from the time survey results were being sifted until adoption in 2004.

In 2001 the Town Board adopted an ordinance establishing a Planning Agency. Doug Gunz was the first to head up the planning agency. That ordinance should be attached with the distribution of this issue. The reader who is finding this issue from the Town's website might wish to request a copy from the editor by using the address in the last article of this newsletter.

In 2004 the Town Board repealed the Planning Agency ordinance and created the Planning Commission. That ordinance should be attached with this distribution. About that time Tom Tuschl became chair of the new Planning Commission until retirement in April of 2019. Then Rich Kern took over and now Bruce Roskom is in charge.

Although details can be found in reading the ordinance, in the simple version the Commission is to review land divisions, conditional uses, variances and zoning changes and then make recommendations to the Board. The commission cannot, by itself, make any decision that is considered "final".

How this happens should be discussed in a future article of the *Omro Town Crier*.

## **REDUCTION IN COUNTY BOARD**

The Oshkosh *Northwestern* reported that the Winnebago County Board voted not to change the number of Board members. However, some residents may still find a change in the district from which they are represented. Since the new census data is available it is incumbent on the County Board to redraw district boundaries to equalize the representation as nearly as possible.

## **OMRO PANTRY**

Sherry Seaman sent a note to this editor asking that a call for help to the Omro Pantry be included. So, here is the info as provided by Sherry:

Town of Omro Residents, the Omro Food Pantry is in need of donations. They recently had two freezers go down and needed expensive repairs, they were forced to purchase a new freezer, along with painting of the building which was needed as well. They could use our support by giving a monetary donation to assist with these costs. Any amount, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off or mail your donation to:

Omro Food Pantry  
310 N. Webster  
Omro, WI 54963

The Pantry does have a drop off slot for your convenience after hours. Please, let's show our community support. Thank you so much!

## **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

This is issue 8 of volume 2 of the on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Previous issues can be found on the Town of Omro website: <https://www.townofomro.us/town-newsletter.html>

If this editor does not know of an event it won't be included in the enewsletter. Please share your questions or thoughts for additional articles.

Reader contributions (articles, not money) will be appreciated and can be sent to [newsletter@townofomro.us](mailto:newsletter@townofomro.us) as can requests to be included in the mailing list or requests for ordinance copies.

Please share this with friends and encourage them to add their e-mail address to the distribution list.

The editor is Tom Tuschl.