

# MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF OMRO PLANNING COMMISSION

Omro Town Hall, 4205 Rivermoor Road, Omro, WI

April 14, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Town of Omro Web Page and the posting board at the Omro Town Hall. It was mailed to the Omro Herald and the Oshkosh Northwestern.

Present: Commissioners Bruce Roskom, Brian Noe, Barbara Meyers, Joy Schwarz, Larry Remer, Phil Ertmer, and Allen Silverthorn.

Chairman Bruce Roskom called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

## **Approve Minutes:**

MOTION: Larry Remer moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2022. Phil Ertmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **Announcements and Reports:**

No announcements or reports.

## **Public Comment Items**

None

## **Discussion/Informational Items**

### 1. Hwy 21 Corridor Study Update

Brian Noe reported that 65 people have responded to the Corridor Study. Paper surveys will be mailed as well to people living in an area one half mile on each side of the highway and between the East side of the City of Omro to the Town of Algoma/Town of Omro town line.

### 2. Parks and Recreation

The commissioners reviewed the current conditions and the ongoing needs in each Town Park. Brian presented a slide show of Schnyder/Wendt Park, which facilitated a thorough review of its topography, trails, and other features. The future upkeep needs of this park, who would perform the duties, and how it would be financed were discussed. Two items needing immediate attention are bench and boardwalk replacement.

Currently, Jeff Meyers mows and maintains the Schnyder/Wendt Park trails during the growing season and others contribute their time to maintaining other features in the park. This method has worked well, but the consensus among the commissioners is that a longer-term and more sustainable system of maintenance should be put into place. Barbara implored the PC to consider hiring a parks coordinator (as a long-term solution). She is concerned that neglecting the upkeep of the parks will lead to their eventual abandonment and existence altogether. The commissioners made several suggestions to address this larger issue, which included getting professional help with the mowing.

Priske Park was also discussed, using a Google map image for reference. Several concerns were addressed, including: boundary markings, discarded bricks along the eastern boundary, paths,

neighbors' grass clipping waste, and water draining into the park from sump pumps.

Phil Ertmer suggested that the Town Hall's phone number be posted at each park to facilitate a line of communication for visitors to utilize and report needs or problems that they encounter while using the park. The commissioners further agreed that more signs should be put into place in each park to clarify their boundaries. The mowing, trimming, and general maintenance of the parks was discussed along with the cost of hiring a contractor and what his duties should/would be.

**MOTION:** Phil Ertmer moved to recommend that the Town Board authorize the placement of signs at the trailheads and along the park boundaries which will include the Town Hall's phone number. Allen Silverthorn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Allen Silverthorn moved to recommend that the Town Board obtain bids (from outside contractors) for mowing and maintaining the Town parks. Phil Ertmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Barbara Meyers expressed her desire that the monies generated from the donation of Cans for the Parks be put to use in Priske Park. She suggested playground equipment or benches. Brian Noe has agreed to research further the liability, maintenance, and sustainability of such equipment.

### 3. Discuss Creation of a Property Maintenance Code

Brian Noe opened the discussion by informing the Planning Commission that property owners' complaints about their neighbor's property have been increasing. He attributes this to the natural growth of the Town (homes and people). He wants to see problems minimized by creating a clear maintenance code for homeowners to follow and to assist the Municipal Court in settling disputes. It was suggested that we research the maintenance codes of other similar-sized Towns for direction in this matter.

### **Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** Barbara Meyers moved to adjourn. Joy Schwarz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Minutes by

Cheryl Gardner/Recording Secretary