

BLUE SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 16, 2024, 6:00 pm via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order— Roll Call

Bob Soukup, Rob Martens, Jim Hochman, John Kannard, Emilia Twelmeyer, Staci Griffiths, Dick Natrop, Greg Twelmeyer, Brent Miller were present.

Public present: Gerald Gerndt, Lucas Twelmeyer, Lauren Schauer, Rodger Igielski, Paul and Caroline Curtis, Ryan K, Greg Bauer, Lacey Twelmeyer, Jamie Gabb, Paul and Lori Cannestra, Ryan Tobiasz.

Public Comments were offered pursuant to Wisconsin State. Statute. 19.84(2).

Secretary's Report — Emilia Twelmeyer

a. Agenda- Approval of agenda for September 16, 2024 Board Meeting

Dick Natrop moved to approve, 2nd Mark, motion passed.

b. Minutes from August 24 Annual and Post Meeting

A discussion took place with regard to the minutes from the Annual Meeting. Jim shared comments from Laura Mathis regarding the Minutes needing more detail and asked the board if the Minutes should be adjusted based on her suggestion. The consensus was that the essence of the tone of the meeting was captured. It was noted that we left out a timeline for the committee from the last meeting. The timeline for the committee will be the following: 30 days for the committee to meet, 60 days to have recommendations for the board. September 28 is the committee's first meeting and the board will look for recommendations no later than November 28. Another suggestion by Rob was made that minutes should not be posted until they are finalized and Bob Soukup and other members agreed. Emilia Twelmeyer moved to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes, 2nd by John Kannard, motion passed.

Post Annual Meeting Minutes: Jim H commented that he did not care for the first sentence Emilia put in. Jim suggested a change to the wording of the sentence and asked for thoughts from board on his proposed changes. Jim moved that the minutes be amended to substitute Jim's change. Bob doesn't recall hearing Jim say that Emilia needed to resign from the board. Jim moved to amend the first motion to change the 2nd sentence wording to, "Jim offered the option of resigning as secretary", 2nd by John Kannard, motion passed.

c. Status on seeking an admin assistant to replace Staci:

We are still looking for someone to replace Staci. Emilia and Bob have a scheduled zoom meeting tomorrow with a potential candidate. After talking to Emilia about candidates, Jim circled back and talked with Staci about possibly staying on.

d. Possible change of documenting minutes:

Discussion of potentially posting videos of meetings instead of written minutes.

1. Benefits of moving to posting videos vs written minutes: Not biased, you don't miss anything from the meeting and quicker turn around. Currently the DNR does this. They post their filmed meetings on youtube.
2. Jim will look into statutory requirements for posting minutes and whether or not written notes are needed.
3. Emilia suggested someone should look into recording meetings in regard to open meeting laws.

e. Designation of Secretary for the Board

Emilia discussed her feelings and recollections about the discussion that took place at the post annual meeting about being secretary and shared she was being put in a position as a secretary where it felt like she was part of a good old boys club and was only capable of taking minutes. At the post annual meeting she had requested to be operations assistant and the discussion had been tabled due to Mark Nicholson's absence. She then shared that Jim Hochman stated that the operations department has had a process for the past two years and Dick Natrop had been training Mark for the operations position, and he did not recommend a change at this time. He offered an option to be involved with operations by working with Greg Twelmeyer in the sewer operations and helping to prepare sewer reports that have been requested. Emilia continued to share that she felt that Jim had again suggested a job that would stereotypically be viewed more as a "woman's" job. Emilia stated she could do the job of operation assistant and takes offense that she cannot be considered for the operations position when she lives on the lake full time and is very capable of doing the job.

After sharing her recollections from the post annual meeting, Emilia stated she will continue being secretary.

President's Report — Jim Hochman

a. Ballast Boat Committee: additions, notices to committee members

-Add Mark Nicholson and Brian Randall to the committee members

-Lucas Twelmeyer and Mark Nicholson are going to put a draft agenda together for the meeting. Minutes will be provided and they will ensure open meeting requirements are followed.

b. Schedule for Open Meetings Training

-The board is going to schedule an open meetings training through Jefferson County.

c. Bank signature card status

-The bank signature card status was confirmed completed.

Treasurer's Report — Bob Soukup

-Bob suggested outsourcing bookkeeping to a local firm in Whitewater and upgrading to Quickbooks online.

-Bob has spoken with the broker about our insurance renewal. He has looked at the application and he feels that some of our declared replacement values are significantly understated. He has asked Greg to look at the values with the supplier. Values for the building and the equipment at the compost site should be revised. Deductibles could be raised as well. Bob will share the insurance quote with Staci to circulate to the board for informational purposes.

Operations — Dick Natrop

-Trapper has been cutting weeds on Mondays and been getting very few weeds. Weeds are being picked up from piers on Saturday mornings.

-Compost site is going well

-The harvester will be pulled from the lake around October 15.

Operations Report- Mark Nicholson

-Mark is going to touch base with Brent about the harvesting of trees. Tree harvesting needs to be done when it's cold out, November/December.

Sewer Report — Greg Twelmeyer

-We have not received the pumps because Flygt said the pumps have not arrived

-Visusewer said we signed the contract but they had not yet received the 50 percent downpayment from us. They will complete their service when they receive payment. Staci will send payment out immediately.

-Greg requested a signed hard copy of the sewer contract which Bob will provide to him.

-Greg requested permission to get bids for generators on Hwy H and lift station 3. He will start gathering bids to give to the Board.

Public Comment: Greg Twelmeyer stated he felt like zoom meetings are run as continuous public comments asked if we have rules for how the public can speak suggesting people need to speak under the section marked public comments on the Agenda. He mentioned meetings should be more formal and structured. Public comments need to be more structured and we should avoid having the public make comments throughout the meeting to help keep the meetings more condensed.

Town Report- Rob Martens

- a. Wake Boats: board members were forwarded an opinion by Mike Sullivan saying the board does not have authority to enact an ordinance, but that authority remained with the town.

- b. We are currently working on the budget for 2025. The town board is meeting the next 3 out of 4 Wednesday nights. The week of Nov 11 they will have the annual town meeting where the budget is voted on.
- c. Bob Soukup asked if the town board has the final say in a proposed ordinance. The committee is going to come up with recommendations, the board/property owners will vote on what they want to do, go to DNR for review and if DNR approves it, it will be voted on by the town board.
- d. Research has shown that other townships have followed popular votes on ordinances. (ie Ottawa).

County Report - John Kannard

- a. County Report: John looked into land/water conservation if there are other regulations coming around. The Wisconsin Counties Association has an annual convention and a resolution is on the table from Bayfield county urging the State legislature to enact a 700 ft from shore with 30 feet of water/depth mandate. Blane Poulson, our representative from Palmyra is going to the Counties Association meeting to represent Jefferson County and has been directed to vote in favor of this resolution.

Public Comment: Mike McCrea asked who ever thought it was a good idea to invite Fox 6 news owes everyone an apology. They are spinning the story as the as it being Neighbor vs neighbor and it is being aired at 9pm on Wednesday.

Dick moved to go into closed session.

Closed session items were discussed.

Dick moved to return into open session. The motion passed.

Mark had a question about the upcoming committee meeting asking if since there is only one board member present on the committee, are open meeting rules in effect. Jim will speak to District counsel on the matter to clarify.

Dick Natrop moved to adjourn, 2nd by John Kannard, the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1) (c), the Board may enter closed session to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of employees.

This agenda is subject to modification prior to said meeting pursuant to the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Please be advised that the agenda items may be taken in an order other than which appears here.

Members of the Palmyra Town Board may attend the above noticed meeting in order to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibilities.