

Town of Merton  
Town Board Meeting  
Minutes of February 13, 2023

- Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Klink @ 6:30 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Klink
- Minutes- Minutes of January 23, 2022. A motion was made to approve the minutes was made by Fleming/Olson. Motion carried.

Present: Chairman Klink, Supervisors Herrick, Olson and Fleming, DPW Director Griffin and Clerk Hann.  
Absent: Attorney Murn, Treasurer Kempen & Supervisor Morris  
Also, in attendance: Michelle Gibbs, Scott Rohlfs

Citizen Comments and Concerns: None.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Consider/Act on request from Attorney Tobolt to waive Plan Commission Fee of \$175 for Conceptional Review for North Lake Rec to Separate off a Parcel for the Firehouse Building Tax Key MRTT 0352-980 held on January 3, 2023. There was a request on the plan commission application that requested the fee to be waived because they are a Non-For-Profit organization. Chairman Klink stated that North Lake Rec wants to split off the old Firehouse however that would create a non-conforming lot. Chairman Klink stated that the town would like to work with North Lake Rec and make sure it stays a park and possible use it as a fire station again. Supervisor Fleming asked if the Town charges other non-for-profit groups. Clerk Hann stated that yes, the Town does charge to cover the costs associated with the request. A motion to approve waiving the \$175 fee based on pending on future negotiations with North Lake Rec and the Town was made by Fleming/Olson. Motion carried.

Consider/Act on Joint Powers Agreement with Waukesha County 9-1-1 Emergency System. Clerk Hann reviewed the paperwork sent from Waukesha County. A motion to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with Waukesha County 9-1-1 Emergency System was made by Fleming/Herrick. Motion carried.

Consider/Act on Stone Bank Road Bridge Grant Writing Opportunity. Chair Klink talked about the grants that are being offered by the state that was talked about at the last Town's Association meeting in Juneau last week. DPW Director Griffin reviewed a grant writing opportunity that could be used to improve Stone Bank Road Bridge. The grant application would be written by Strand. He also talked about the rating of the bridges in the town. A motion to approve writing the bridge grant application for Stone Bank Road Bridge was made Fleming/Herrick. Motion carried.

Discussion on charging Fire Service Fee to all Properties in the Town of Merton rather than a tax and reducing the Town Levy according to Wisconsin Statue 60.0602(2m)(b) Payment in Lieu of Tax for vital services. Clerk Hann reviewed an option for the board to help cover the increased costs the town has been incurring from the Fire Departments. According to Wisconsin Stat §66.0602 the town could charge a fee to cover cost associated to pay for Fire Protection in lieu of taxes. The town would reduce the levy by the fire cost from 2013 and then determine a fire service fee based on today's costs and could be increased as the annual costs increase. The fire fee formula must be fair and it is not a tax because it bears no relation to the taxable value of a property. Assessed value is not considered in a fire emergency. Clerk Hann is recommending a formula based on acreage and square footage of improvement. Supervisor Herrick suggest using the number of tax bills to determine the fee. Clerk Hann stated that would not include the exempt properties that should have to pay for fire protection. Clerk Hann is working with the assessor to get information from the assessor on the existing properties that get tax bills and looking at hiring them to get information on the exempt properties. Clerk Hann is recommending setting up some dates for open house and future notices to send out. Chairman Klink stated that this is just the start and more meetings/discussion will have to happen.

Clerk, Board, Highway, Treasurer and Attorney Reports. DPW Director Griffin talked about the truck that was ordered in December 2021 and stated that it is not coming. They are not honoring their fleet orders with the Town and he will see what we can find and what is available for the town. Clerk Hann talked about the listening session with legislators at the Town Hall Library on February 22 and that there is an election on Tuesday, February 21. Polls open at 7 am and close 8 pm. Chairman Klink talked about the town associations that he and Supervisor Olson attended in Juneau.

Vouchers as Presented - A motion to approve the vouchers as presented was made by Herrick/Olson. Motion carried.

Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was made by Fleming/Herrick. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Donna Hann, Town Clerk