

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
April 4, 2024
2399-90TH AVE., BALDWIN, WI.**

Chairman Douglas Veenendall called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Present were Supervisors Don L. Johnson and Joseph Kusilek, Treasurer Tammie Curtis and Clerk James Harer.

Others: Chris Veenendall, Tom & Sandy Olson, Fritz Ebinger, Becky Brock, Cody Graf, Roxanne Gerhardt, Richard & Jennifer Koenig, Shelley Borgeson, Joe Gerhardt, Heather Zinda, Dave Niccum & Kay Harer.

Don L. Johnson moved to approve the agenda as printed. Seconded and carried.

The clerk confirmed proper posting.

The minutes of the March 2024 board meeting were read by the clerk. Motion by Joseph Kusilek and seconded by Don L. Johnson to approve as read. Carried.

April bank statements and town books were reconciled. Vendor payments were reviewed. Joseph Kusilek moved to pay vendor checks number 11959-11992 for \$31,363.37. Seconded by Don L. Johnson, carried by voice vote.

Consideration of Conditional Use Permit CUP-2024-008 for a 15-megawatt solar facility on parcel #002-1072-95-000 Town of Baldwin referenced as Mill Pond Park LLC. Fritz Ebinger was present to answer any questions. A concern was safeguards if storm damage and end of life cleanup. He stated that there is money held by the county and updated every 10 years to insure proper amount. Another question was how vegetation is controlled and he stated goats or sheep have been allowed to graze in these areas.

Planning Commission Chairman Joseph Kusilek stated that they had met and voted to recommend board approval of CUP-2024-008 based on the area is in none productive agricultural land and solar power tends to be the future.

Supervisor Don L. Johnson moved to approve the presented CUP-2024-008 for Parcel #002-1072-95-000 with the same rational as outlined by the Planning Commission that this site is not currently in productive agricultural use and renewable energy is viewed as the future of electric production, thus serving the local community. Seconded by Supervisor Joseph Kusilek. Carried by voice vote.

Shelley Borgeson was present at the meeting to request approval of her 3-acre CSM in Section 5 Town of Baldwin prepared by JB Surveying LLC.

Joseph Kusilek Chairman of the Town Planning Commission stated that they had reviewed the CSM and voted to recommend approval by the town board.

Don L. Johnson moved to approve the presented CSM-2024-020 for parcel #002-1010-50-000 again with the understanding that any remaining open land be kept in agricultural use. Seconded by Joseph Kusilek. Carried by voice vote. Copies were signed by the chair and clerk.

Resolution #2024-4 was presented to the board for final approval. This resolution and the attached "Fee Schedule" were reviewed by the board, Planning Commission and town attorney and will be in effect from time of posting April 4, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

Motion by Don L. Johnson to approve Resolution #2024-4 and "Fee Schedule", seconded by Joseph Kusilek. Carried by roll call vote.

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Monthly building permits were reviewed: All Croix Inspection has started a quarterly newsletter and will be emailed to board and commission members. There have been several inquiries, by email, about solar farm and CSM procedures in the town. The county has written letters to several residents in the town concerning county zoning ordinance violations.

The clerk presented the final 2023 Actual and 2024 Budget Financial Report. Don L. Johnson moved to approve the report for distribution at the annual meeting. Seconded by Joseph Kusilek. Carried.

There was no update on town road projects. Patrolman Joe Gerhardt asked the board to consider using his tractor and trailer for more efficient road patching this summer with compensation undetermined. This will be discussed at future meetings and in the meantime will check with our town insurance carrier. The patrolman has cut a lot of trees and brush this winter and the board asked that he apply stump treatment to discourage regrowth.

Excel Energy has approved paying for paving 300 feet of 230th St. from CTH DD to substation driveway in lieu of road postings. Work would be done by St. Croix County Highway Department and payment would be made by a third-party vendor Pine Bend Paving. The town clerk and treasurer will work out the procedure for billing when work is completed.

Joseph Kusilek moved to approve the stated arrangement with Excel Energy. Seconded by Don L. Johnson, Carried.

The chairman gave a report on United Fire & Resue activities. Hammond truck has been delayed with possible summer delivery. The cost of trucks has doubled in price since the last order. The amount of state shared revenue has been increased by action of the state legislature and signed by the governor, but along with that has come a filing of "Maintenance of Effort" report by the local Fire Chief and town clerk. The final form of this report is not yet available.

The clerk stated a contractor from Spring Valley, AMP will be doing the sidewalk mud jacking and the 50% down payment of \$400 has been sent.

Ordinance #2024-4-1 revising the Town of Baldwin Inspection and Permit Ordinance #2023-1-5 was reviewed by our Planning Commission and they voted to recommend approval by the town board. The document was also reviewed by the town attorney with his approval also given.

Don L. Johnson moved to approve Ordinance #2024-4-1 replacing the Town of Baldwin Inspection and Permit Ordinance #2023-1-5. Seconded by Joseph Kusilek and carried by roll call vote. This ordinance will become effective 30 days after posting and publication. The ordinance was signed by board members.

Ordinance #2024-4-2 Relating to Issuance of Citations for Violation of Town Ordinances was presented. The Town Planning Commission has reviewed this document and recommended approval. The town attorney has reviewed and signed off.

Motion by Don L. Johnson to approve Ordinance #2024-4-2 as presented. Seconded by Joseph Kusilek. Carried by roll call vote. This ordinance will become effective 30 days after posting and publication. The ordinance was signed by board members.

The Hilltop Bar is requesting an operator license for Tracy Hakala.

Joseph Kusilek moved to grant the operator license to Tracy Hakala. Seconded by Don L. Johnson, carried.

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(continued)**

Chairman Douglas Veenendall has appointed Joseph Kusilek and Heather Zinda to a three-year term on the Town of Baldwin Planning Commission starting April 30, 2024.

Motion by Douglas Veenendall to confirm those appointments. Seconded by Don L. Johnson. Carried by voice vote. Oaths of Office were taken by the appointees and board members signed the appointment confirmation.

The chair informed those in attendance that a fire call with EMS is now \$1,075.00 and that April 15th is Open Book with the assessor present, April 16th is the Annual Meeting, April 30th is Board of Review and town cleanup is May 4th from 8-noon.

Future agenda items: Town insurance policy renewal from Rural Mutual Insurance, patrolman use of equipment reimbursement.

Don L. Johnson moved to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7 PM due to conflicts on the Thursday date. Seconded by Joseph Kusilek, carried.

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

(Minutes were approved and signed below at the May 9, 2024, board meeting)

Douglas Veenendall, Chairman

James Harer, Clerk

**Special Zoning Meeting
April 9, 2024
Baldwin Ag. Center**

Notice was posted that the Town Board would attend this meeting to ask questions and gain information about zoning, building permits, inspections and state building codes. No board action would be taken.

Community Development Director Jason Kjeseth called this meeting to order at 9 AM. Present were Town board members from Springfield, Cady, Eau Galle & from Town of Baldwin were Doug Veenendall, Don L. Johnson, Joseph Kusilek and Jim Harer. St. Croix Community Development personnel. Large number of the Amish Community. Various Building Inspectors and some members of the public.

Jason led the discussion which centered on: Sanitary Permits, religious waivers, plumbing and construction standards, permit procedures, inspection scheduling, State laws and regulations, county zoning and town permitting. Sawmills presently have to be rezoned but a Conditional Use Permit will be explored.

Some topics included the Amish desire to pass their type of living onto the next generation. Questions about privy permits, black water and gray water handling.

Several members of the meeting thanked the county for having this meeting and hoped that better cooperation between the parties involved would result.

Mr. Kjeseth stated that there was no threat intended but noncompliance as it relates to permitting, inspections or ordinance standards will result in fines and forfeitures against property owners.
Dismissed at Noon. James Harer, Clerk

