

TOWN OF IXONIA SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 1, 2016

TIME & PLACE: The special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ixonia was called to order by Chairman Perry Goetsch at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall located at W1195 Marietta Avenue pursuant to notice requirements of Wisconsin State Statute 19.84 Public Notice.

ATTENDANCE: Present with Chairman Perry Goetsch was Supervisors Carl Jaeger, Brian Derge, Jeff Taylor and Peter Mark.

ITEM #1: CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ITEM #2: READ NOTICE OF MEETING AND ROLL CALL

ITEM #3: PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ITEM #4: CLOSED SESSION – Town Attorney, Val Anderson stated that the Town received a letter from the Clerk/Treasurer, Donna Hann dated February 29 in which she requested that this hearing, pursuant to her rights under the statutes be held in open session rather than closed. Attorney Anderson asked if the Clerk/Treasurer still desires to have the meeting in open session. The attorney representing Donna Hann stated that they desired another open session be held so as to post the notice for public attendance. Attorney Anderson asked if the attorney was challenging the notice of the meeting. She said she was not challenging it, it speaks for itself. The meeting was noticed as closed. So the attorney is objecting to proceeding with the meeting. She was given notice that she has the opportunity for an open meeting which she has requested. The public notice issued to the public was for a closed meeting. Attorney Anderson stated that the challenge was noted, however in any situation where there is a closed session notice for this type of matter, the person who is subject to that, in this case the Clerk/Treasurer could upon the very night of the meeting notify that they would like an evidentiary hearing in open session and therefore would not need to be noticed. Attorney for Donna Hann stated that the public was not notified they could attend. Anyone who looked at the notice published would not come because it was posted as closed therefore the meeting should be posted as open session so the public is made aware that they can attend. Attorney Anderson said her objection was noted. The evidentiary hearing will proceed. In summary, the burden is on the Town to present its case first. The charges have been given to Donna Hann in a letter form previously. Once counsel for the Town has made its presentation, Ms. Hann and or yourself will have an opportunity to make a statement and submit proofs. At the close of the arguments or statements made the Town Board could proceed to go into closed session to deliberate, returning to open session o deliberate. Attorney for Donna Hann asked if there would be any evidence presented. Attorney Anderson stated that this is not a hearing, this is a presentation under the statutes regarding an officer. Attorney Macy gave his presentation. Ms. Hann's attorney and witnesses gave their statements. Perry Goetsch made a motion to adjourn to closed session. Seconded by Brian Derge. Roll call vote taken: Perry Goetsch, Brian Derge, Carl Jaeger, Peter Mark and Jeff Taylor

Upon motion duly made and carried, the Board may be convened in closed session under §19.85(1)(b), Wis. Stats., for the purpose of considering and conducting an evidentiary hearing regarding the possible dismissal of the current Town Clerk/Treasurer, and the taking of formal action on such matter.

ITEM #5: RECONVENE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AND ACTION CONCERNING THE MATTER CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION. Perry Goetsch made a motion to reconvene in open session, seconded by Peter Mark. Motion carried. Perry Goetsch stated that it was not an easy decision to start this process or carry through with it. This is something that needs to happen because there is no longer a working relationship with the Clerk/Treasurer. There always seems to be an argument about something and things need to change. Carl Jaeger stated that Perry was right, this was not an easy decision. He has worked with Donna for a long time and felt they had a good working relationship. The Board has dealt with a lot of issues in the Town and solved them. The issue with Donna keeps coming up. Carl has worked with the Fire Department and sees the animosity. He feels Donna should due as the department heads request and if a mistake is made it is their fault not hers. She seems to play the police officer and carried her position too far. There seems to be animosity between Donna and almost every department in the Town. Carl has been told that people will not come into the Town Hall if her car is here, this is not rumor, it's true. Carl had a problem with Donna involving the Transfer Site building and payment. She even had asked Carl if she would be written up and he said no. Situations like that are what irritated people. As a word of empathy Carl stated that was Donna's downfall. He stated she would be the perfect clerk if she could communicate properly with others and that a change needs to be made. Brian Derge agreed this is not easy. After the first meeting when she was asked to make some changes, Brian spent a lot of time trying to explain to her that she shouldn't get involved in things that are not hers. There is a fire chief, let him account for his department. If something goes down wrong, let him come in front of the Board and explain himself. There is a Highway Superintendent. If something is wrong with one of the guys in the department, let him come to the Board. If you don't have the paperwork you can't be held responsible. He has told Donna 100's of times that we have people that are responsible for different departments, let them come to the Board and explain the situation. Let them be responsible. Donna tried too many times to play out of a clerk's hand. Dealings with the Fireman's Hall involved members stating they deal with Brian but would not go down to the Town Hall. We can't have that. Brian has explained to her several times to let these other people do their jobs, it's their responsibility but she just doesn't want to. She argued with Brian for over a half hour over continuing the contract with the Fireman's Hall. Everyone was comfortable with the decision except her. You can have your own opinion but sometimes there are other people in charge for a reason and to handle things. I never walked in and told her how to handle her dollars as treasurer. She was responsible for it, it was her job and I let her do it. This has been a long time coming and the things mentioned tonight are just a small part of the picture. Jeff Taylor has been on the Board for about 2.5 years and stated his interactions with

Donna have not been a problem. Jeff works at Ixonia Bank and some of the people at the bank will ask what's it's like to work with Donna because they have had issues with her. She was often short with them and would prefer not to deal with Donna. Jeff's neighbor refers to her as Attorney Hann, since she feels like she is the town attorney or sheriff. Jeff feels the Town needs to have a Clerk/Treasurer who does not act as mayor or sheriff. Peter Mark is very impressed with the program of improvement the Town had given to Donna that occurred when Peter was not on the Board. He is also impressed with the way it was presented to Donna and the willingness of the Board to work with Donna, pointing out exactly what needed to be improved upon. One of the things talked about tonight was the efficiency and effectiveness to do her job. Peter has had countless times where people have come up to him and said they don't want to work with Donna. These are not anonymous no name people. Because of that she is ineffective in her job. That working relationship with the community is not there. Perry Goetsch made a motion to remove the clerk due to inefficiency and neglect of duty and remove due to malficiency in office. Seconded by Brian Derge. Motion carried. Perry Goetsch made the motion to remove the clerk/treasurer immediately. Seconded by Brian Derge. Motion carried.

ITEM #5: ADJOURN – Brian Derge made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Peter Mark. Motion carried.

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Chairman, Perry Goetsch

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Supervisor, Jeff Taylor

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Supervisor, Peter Mark

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Supervisor, Brian Derge

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Supervisor, Carl Jaeger