

TOWN OF IXONIA ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 21, 2016

**TIME & PLACE:** The Annual Town Meeting 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 Deputy Clerk Jodi Jaeger. Absent was Peter Mark. Also, in attendance were about 35 citizens.

**ITEM #3: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES** – Curt Pernat made a motion to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vic Karaliunas. Motion carried.

**ITEM #5: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT** – Perry Goetsch reported that the Town Finances have been audited. A final audit meeting has not been held at this time.

**ITEM #6: COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT**

**A) BUILDING INSPECTOR** – Archie Stigney, building inspector, thanked the Board for allowing him to provide services to the Town. The total for 2015 building permits came to \$60,531, an increase of \$9051. Electrical permits totaled \$12,890, down by \$89. Plumbing permits totaled \$14,262, an increase of \$1765. HVAC permits totaled \$8455, an increase of \$821. Erosion Control Permits totaled \$1500, down \$375. House numbers totaled \$990, down \$135. The large increase in the building total was due to the addition to Create A Pack in the Industrial Park. Total Town fees collected was \$19,191, an increase of \$2297. Total of 1 & 2 Family homes was 22, down 3. There were 10 additions/sheds, an increase of 7. One permit was issued for a garage, down 4. 14 remodels, an increase of 1. 10 decks, a decrease of 3. 8 Commercial/Industrial projects, down 4. 5 Ag buildings, an increase of 2. 5 fences and 1 pool. The Town has an average of 36 single and two family homes built per year.

**B) TRANSFER SITE** – Vic Karaliunas reported that in 2015 the recycling center took in 234 tons of recyclables which represents an increase of about 20 tons from 2014. In 2015 the site started collecting latex paint, not oil based paint. It gets sent to Milwaukee to a company that uses it for making gutter materials. The site also started collecting plastic bags and plastic film. It is taken to Roundy's for use in making products. Beginning in 2015, E-Waste is no longer free to dispose of. TVs and computers now cost the site to recycle. Currently it costs the site 14 cents a pound for TVs and 5 cents a pound for computer monitors. There is also a \$170 transportation fee every time the E-Waste is picked up from the site. Consequently the fees for TVs have increased to \$20 for TVs that are 27" or larger, \$10 for 27" and under and \$5 for each computer monitor. In 2015 as a responsible unit we did meet our per capita collection standard of 82.4 lbs. of recyclables per person, therefore we should receive our full compliment of recycling grant monies in July of this year at around \$9500 as it has been in the past unless the legislature makes changes to the grant money. In 2015 the site remained in their \$76,406 budget. Again, no tax payer money was needed to fund the site. It is run exclusively on user fees and grant money received from the State of Wisconsin. In 2015, as in 2014, the site was selected by the DNR to produce statewide training materials for E-Waste and Universal Waste best collection practices. Vic stated that as always, the site attendants are the best. They do an exceptional job of keeping the site clean and user friendly. The committee would also like to thank all those who have helped the site run efficiently and smoothly. Carl Jaeger thanked Vic for all his hard work and dedication to the Transfer Site.

**C) FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Fire Chief, Dave Schilling gave the following report. The Town of Ixonia Fire Department consists of 39 dedicated members. 22 are firefighters, 13 are EMTs and 9 are members of the Ixonia Volunteer Support Services. Of the 39 members, 5 are crossed trained as Firefighter/EMT. We also added 5 members in 2015, and hope to add more in 2016. The department also had the resignation of Chief Matt Petrie, and saw David Schilling appointed to be the departments 13th Chief. The Department operates a 1986 Pierce Arrow Pumper which is being replaced this year, a 1997 Piece Saber Pumper, a 2004 Peterbilt/Central States Pumper-Tender, a 1989 Mack/Welch Tender, a 2012 Ford/Lifeline Ambulance, a 1986 Chevrolet Brush Truck (Military Surplus Truck), a 2001 International/Horton Squad Truck (converted in 2013 from ambulance), and a 2010 Polaris 6x6 Ranger ATV. All units are professionally maintained and undergo an annual service, as well as a DOT inspection. The Ixonia Fire Department responded to 101 calls, which is up 6 calls from 2014. 46 of these calls were in Ixonia, 29 in the Town of Concord including 1 structure fire, 10 were in the Town of Watertown, and 16 times we provided mutual aid. We provided mutual aid to the Watertown Fire Dept. 7 times, Oconomowoc Fire Dept. twice, Johnson Creek Fire Dept. twice, Jefferson Fire Dept. twice, and once each to Waterloo, Stone Bank, & Lake Country Fire Departments. The Ixonia EMS responded to 169 calls, which is down 6 calls from 2014. 95 calls were in the Town of Ixonia, 36 calls in the Town of Concord, 23 calls in the Town of Watertown, and provided mutual aid to City of Watertown 6 times, and 9 times to the City of Oconomowoc. As a department, we have multiple training opportunities throughout the year. For in house training, the Fire Department conducted 23 trainings in 2015, averaging 12 members per session, logging more than 950 hours combined. The EMS conducted 18 trainings in 2015, with an average of 8 members per training, logging more than 450 hours combined. The department also sends members to annual conventions, both on the state and national level. The Department held its annual fundraiser breakfast, and utilized funds to purchase a Reverse Osmosis Water System for washing vehicles, which is also shared with the highway department. All in all it was a busy year for the Ixonia Fire and EMS. We look forward to meeting the ever changing needs and challenges of the communities that we serve. We would also like to thank the community, the Town Board, and the Town Highway Department for all your help and continued support over the past year! Perry Goetsch thanked the Fire Department for their commitment to the Town.

D) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – Highway Superintendent, Dennis Lillge reported on the road projects completed in 2015. 1800 ft. of Wiley Road had a 12” gravel lift on it. 400’ was pulverized for a total of 2200’ which then got a 4” overlay and shouldering for approximately \$85,072.00. River Road east of Hustisford Road, 1200’ was pulverized and 4” asphalt and shouldering at \$40,388.00. Oosty Ct had 400’ pulverized and 4” asphalt and shouldering at \$13,346.00. Hustisford Road from County Highway P to US 16, approximately 1.63 miles and from Gopher Hill Road to CTH CW, approximately 1.18 miles was crack filled and chip sealed at approximately \$70,000. Circle, Green Tree, Lakeview and Oosty approximately 1.4 miles was crack filled and slag sealed at approximately \$39,125.00. Woody, Forest, Timber Ridge and Fallen Leaf, approximately 1.6 miles crack filled and slag sealed at \$85,640.00. Per mile this is more costly because those streets have a 36’ wide surface. Approximate total of road work for 2015 was \$333,571.00. We received approximately \$26,000.00 through the TRIP Program for the work done on Wiley Road. A new Western Star plow was put into service in May. Dennis thanked the Board and Jodi for all their help and good working relationship. He also thanked the employees, Jeff, Rick, Brian and Ralph that help get everything done that is expected of the Highway Department.

E) IXONIA UTILITY DISTRICT #1 AND #2 – Brian Genz gave the annual report for Utility District #1 and #2. I would like to thank the Town Board, Jodi, Dennis, Rick and Lee for all the work they have done this year for the Utility Districts. We now have 907 users. We have had 21 new hookups in Utility #1 and no new hookups in Utility #2. We have replaced the sand on half of our existing recirculating sand filters at the treatment plant. We have done a rate study in #2 and have increased the monthly rate from \$43 to \$47. This took effect starting in 2016.

F) PLANNING COMMISSION – June Herman reported that the Town of Ixonia follows Jefferson County Zoning. Any time residents make a request for rezoning or a land split they come to the Town of Ixonia. The Town prepares the documentation needed for the Planning Commission to review the request. The Planning Commission members are Perry Goetsch, Mary Rupnow, Don Lopnow, Curt Pernat and June Herman. The request is reviewed to be sure it meets the current zoning requirements and are mindful of the affect their decision will have on the neighbors and Town in general. If the request is approved it is sent to the Town Board for approval and if approved here is sent to Jefferson County for their approval. In 2015 the Planning Commission acted on 18 requests, 4 were land splits, 5 were variance or conditional use requests, 4 rezoning requests and 5 building/business expansions in the Industrial Park. Of those 18 action items, 2 were sent back to the Planning Commission for further review and 1 request was rejected because of the inappropriate use for the current location of the property. The Planning Commission works closely together and provides a good service for the residents.

G) PARK & REC COMMITTEE – The Park and Recreation Board would like to thank the Town of Ixonia’s past clerk and Jodi Jaeger for the work they did on behalf of the Park and Rec Board. Questions were answered by those wanting to schedule events at the parks and reservations were made. That along with working with the various groups that need keys for the buildings and bathrooms for their activities. Reservations for all park rentals began on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There are a number of new youth groups requesting to rent our baseball field for their games this year, as well as the already established groups of Ixonia Youth Baseball and Oconomowoc Youth Football. Residents are also reminded of the exercise program that is offered and run by Shirley Wiedenhoeft. More information on that program can be obtained by calling the Town Hall. Thanks to Dennis Lillge, Highway Superintendent, and the rest of the Highway Department workers for their help throughout the season. Town equipment is often needed, and is a must for trucking and moving material needed for upkeep. They fix and do repairs on the equipment needed in maintaining all the needs of our 3 parks, and keeping them at the highest level possible. Brian Genz sprayed our parks in an effort to control the dandelions and weeds that can often get out of control, especially around rocks, trees and fences. Thanks also to Carl Jaeger, one of our Town Supervisors, who regularly attends our monthly meeting, representing the Town. His presence keeps the Town informed on what events take place at the parks as well as any problems or concerns that may arise. His input at our meetings is welcome and appreciated. The park system is a vital part of the health and wellbeing of the community. We receive many compliments on the appearance of our parks and there are many opportunities for people of all ages and activity interests to utilize our parks. Our goal as the Park and Recreation Board is to maintain that high level of care for that most valuable asset for the residents of the Town of Ixonia.

H) TOWN ASSESSOR – Town Assessor, Mike Grota submitted the following report. The Assessor is responsible for discovering, listing, and valuing all real and personal property. We also inspect and value all of the building permits taken out for such things as new homes, additions, garages, remodeling, decks and other improvement projects. Other duties include the mapping and valuation of all new lots. The Assessor’s office completed the viewing of properties where building permits and land divisions were filed in 2015 and also viewed properties with permits from previous years where the projects were not complete. All of the information collected was data entered onto the Market Drive assessment software. As of April 18, 2016 the Preliminary Assessment Roll was completed and any property with a changed assessment was mailed a Notice of Assessment. Also anyone who sent in a Request for Property Review was sent a Granted or Denied Letter and a Notice of Assessment regardless of whether the value changed or not. Statement of Personal Property forms were due March 1. We data entered these forms as they were received. If any late Statement of Personal Property forms are received at the Town Hall, please forward them to Grota Appraisals as soon as possible. A Preliminary Personal Property roll will be given to the clerk on April 19, 2016. The Clerk should review this roll for accuracy looking for any new business owners or those that may have gone out of business. If there are any changes, please contact Pam Feavel at Grota Appraisals as soon as possible so she can make any changes before the Board of Review takes place. Dates have been set for the Open Book and Board of Review. The Open Book will be held on April 19, 2016 from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM at the Town Hall. Grota Appraisals mailed the Notice of Assessments 3 weeks prior to the Open Book date. The Clerk was notified when the Notices were mailed. The Preliminary Assessment Roll will be brought to the Open Book. The Board of Review is scheduled for May 17, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Town Hall. While the Town is in compliance with 70.05 of WI State Statutes, the last revaluation was performed in 2007. Over the years properties in a diverse community do not go up, or down in the same manner and minor inequities do grow larger over time. All of the Town of Ixonia property files are kept at the office of Grota Appraisals at N88 W16573 Main St. in Menomonee Falls. If you have any questions regarding property assessments or personal property feel free to contact the Assessors office at (262) 253-1142 or fax questions to (262) 253-4098. Mike Grota can also be reached via email at [mike@wi-assessor.com](mailto:mike@wi-assessor.com).

ITEM #7: COUNTY SUPERVISOR’S REPORT – County Supervisor, Amy Rinard gave the following annual report. There’s a County Board meeting this evening. My goal is to get to the town annual meeting before it’s over. But, if Jodi is reading this, it means the county board meeting didn’t end in time for me to make it back to Ixonia. I’m sorry, if I’m not there. For county government this year, budgeting issues continue to be most important. The dilemma is how to pay to continue the

level of services our residents expect while the cost of those services go up and state funding for many programs goes down. That being said, Jefferson County is in good shape financially. We have very little debt; a total of about \$18 million that was borrowed to pay for construction of new highway department shop facilities. And we continue to be careful and conservative in our spending. For 2016, the county board adopted a budget that had a tax rate cut of 7 cents per \$1,000 of equalized value from the previous year. That was due to careful budgeting plus some staff reductions, an uptick in county equalized values, an increase in new construction around the county and greater than expected sales tax revenue.

Another big issue this year is the proposed reorganization of the UW-Extension service brought on by state funding cuts. The county now pays 40% of Extension staff costs plus additional costs of operating the Extension office in Jefferson. Extension leaders in Madison want to move to a regional model for providing services. Under their plan Jefferson County would be combined with Rock and Walworth counties to share Extension agents and services.

Many of us feel this regional model could mean Jefferson County would end up paying the same or more money for less service. County officials have expressed their views on this model to Extension leaders in Madison and we're closely watching the progress of this reorganization. As always, please feel free to call me with any questions, concerns or problems related to county government. I would be my pleasure to talk with you. Sincerely, Amy Rinard, Jefferson County Board Supervisor District 9

ITEM #8: ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION – Resident, June Herman spoke about high speed internet service in the Town. June is asking the Board to work with her on forming a committee or task force to explore how we might be able to expand broadband internet service to the rest of the Town. She thought that she could get signatures from residents and present in to Charter in the hopes they would work with the residents. After contacting Representative John Jaglar's office and having someone from there contact Charter, they said they do not have any plans to expand service in Ixonia because it is too costly. June was referred to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission said the only option would be to try and apply for a grant. These grants are usually difficult to get which is why June is looking to form a task force.

Resident, Janet Foust spoke about community involvement with the DNR and talking with Tammy Baldwin's office regarding what can be done about Tag Lane Farm. This group of citizens would like to work with the Griswolds regarding their farm operation. A meeting was recently held between the concerned citizens and the Griswolds. Janet would like to voice her concerns and is asking if anything can be done together as a community. First of all, why does one farm have the right to pollute the air and everything around us. There are trucks whipping back and forth sometimes all day, and they do not drive slowly. She is concerned about what this is doing to the roads and the cost involved in repairing these roads. The referendum to repair roads was turned down last year. According to Tammy Baldwin's office farmers have the right to farm and that is a 100 year old law which is fine however when that law was written there was not the heavy semis hauling back and forth, back and forth. She is concerned about the safety on the roads as these semis go whipping by. That being said, when the meeting was held with Kevin Griswold, his father, and John Pernat these concerns were voiced but not so sure they understood what was being said. Currently there are approximately 2000 cows there and they are hoping to raise it to 4000 in the near future. This causes concern for our roads, safety and pollution to both water and land. It affects all of us. By choosing to expand this farm they have also made a choice to be considerate to the neighbors. Janet is asking the Board, as a person who pays taxes in Ixonia, what can possibly be done with the safety issue, with the roads, with anything.

Resident, Diane Pasno thanked Janet and the neighbors for trying to work with Tag Lane Farms. In listening to the committee reports tonight we heard about the concerns for the quality of life in Ixonia. Tag Lane Farms is negatively impacting the quality of life for those within 1 to 2 miles of the farm. Pasnos thought they would enjoy living in the country but can barely open their windows due to the smell. In the summer we can only stand to be outside for a short time and are unable to entertain guests due to the strong odor. We knew when we moved out here that it is a farming community but at that time Tag Lane Farms had not expanded to what they are now or to what they hope to become. It negatively impacts residents of the Town of Ixonia.

Resident, Mary Frankowicz spoke about the constant noise, day after day, from morning until night. The noise of the trucks at the farm, banging and clanging starts at 6 in the morning and continues all day. Mary also agrees with everything said by Janet Foust.

ITEM #9: SET DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING – The next annual meeting will be held on April 18, 2017.

ITEM #10: ADJOURN – June Herman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vic Karaliunas. 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