



*"In the Spirit of Town Government"*

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**TOWN OF BUCHANAN, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.  
BUCHANAN TOWN HALL, N178 COUNTY RD N, APPLETON, WI 54915**

- 1) **TOWN CHAIRMAN - CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Chairperson Greg Sprangers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A sign-in sheet was completed as those in attendance entered the meeting. Handouts and an agenda were provided.
- 2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge recited.
- 3) **INTRODUCTION OF TOWN BOARD AND TOWN OFFICIALS:** Chairperson Sprangers provided an overview of the meeting, allowable annual meeting actions, and thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting. Sprangers introduced Town Board members, Town Staff, Town attorneys, Town engineer, public safety personnel, and other Town officials present. Sprangers gave a brief overview of the guidelines for the meeting.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:** Motion by Ted Erdmann/John Sonnleitner to approve the minutes. Motion carried 31 to 0 by raising of the hand.
- 5) **ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN OF BUCHANAN:** Maggie Mahoney, Town Administrator, presented a report of activities in the Town for 2021 and activities proposed for 2022. Presentation included information on Town growth and development, finance, taxes, and department activity summaries. Engineer Majkowski gave a brief update on the road projects for 2021, 2022 and 2023, the bridge construction project, and passer ratings.

Administrator Mahoney stated she would answer any questions on the Annual Report. The following individuals had questions:

- Eric Schultz, W2637 Ruby Ct, Appleton asked about the passer rating maps for the east side of town. Engineer Majkowski stated they are available and they will be posted on the Town web site. Mr. Schultz stated that it would have been helpful to have them in the presentation.
- Mark Lamers, W300 Feldkamp Rd, Kaukauna stated that his road is forgotten. There is a four-foot culvert that runs under the road and the right side has a sink hole that no one knows about. He stated that if someone hits it they will go off the road. The road has lot of pot holes and is in really tough shape.

- 6) **ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** The audited financial statements were provided for review. Motion by Ted Erdmann/Jenny Rottier to accept the annual financial statements as presented. Motion carried 32 to 0 by raising of the hand.

- 7) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Chairperson Sprangers called for public comments, the following individuals had questions or comments during the public comment period:

- Matt Bruckner, W2487 Fieldside Ct, Appleton stated that the soccer field at Hickory Park is used by the U11, U12 and U13 girls' soccer teams. There are 4'x4' posts flush with the ground in front of the goal and along the side. He would like to see these dug out below the surface of the ground for safety reasons. The area behind the soccer field is a volleyball court, this area is wet most of the time. He would like to see a fence put up behind the soccer field so the soccer balls don't go in the mud.
- Tom Walsh, N230 Breezewood Dr, Appleton stated that he notices primarily during the election cycle a real problem with communication. He would like to see an ad-hoc committee formed to improve communication from the Board to the residents and from the residents to the Board. Facebook is not the Town and the Town is not Facebook. There needs to be a better way to communicate with the residents and the Town website needs to be easier to use. He stated that a committee of residents to head this up would be useful.
- John Sonnleitner, N254 Meadowbreeze Ct, Appleton stated that at the meetings he would like to see more communication as to why a Board member voted a certain way rather than just a yes or no vote.
- Eric Welhouse, W2646 Buchanan Rd, Appleton asked how the debt service interest was calculated. Administrator Mahoney stated that it is 3.5% which is calculated by Baird.

- Eric Schultz, W2637 Ruby Ct, Appleton mentioned that he seconds that the communication concerns could be improved. He would like to see a place on the Town website for the candidates for the election to post a statement on why they want to be elected and what issues they are concerned with.
- Karley Musil, N313 Pinecrest Blvd, Appleton stated that she would like to see the meetings live streamed. The website communication could also be improved. She mentioned that there would be enough residents that would like to form the communication committee that Tom Walsh mentioned.
- Dennis Reinke, W2553 Buchanan Rd, Appleton stated that when Maggie Mahoney was hired she had to take a drug test. He would like to see a drug testing policy for staff, Board Members, Plan Commissioners and any other Commissioners for random drug testing.

*Motion by Dennis Reinke/Ted Erdmann for a random drug testing policy for Board Members, Plan Commissioners, other commissioners and staff. Motion carried 20 to 5 by raising of hands.*

Before a second was made, Mr. Sprangers asked the attorneys for advice on preceding. Rich Carlson stated that Ashley Lehocky was the one who worked on the policy. Clerk Sieracki added that the policy does include staff.

Mr. Carlson stated that he would need to look into this and that the motion is just advisory. He added that for the candidates to have a statement on the Town website may create a legal issue for the Town and he would need to look into that also.

- Mr. Reinke stated he would like all members to turn off cell phones and set them aside as he has witnessed Board members turning on their phones during meetings and in closed session.

*Motion by Dennis Reinke/Tom Walsh to have all phones turned off and set aside before all meetings for all Board Members, Plan Commissioners and Board of Appeals. Motion failed 12 to 14 by raising of hands.*

Before the second was made Mr. Sprangers asked Rich Carlson if there were any legal issues with this motion. Mr. Carlson stated that he didn't think so.

After the motion and before the vote there was discussion on why some of the residents would like to have their cell phones on.

- Mr. Reinke read the post that Mr. Sprangers posted on the Buchanan Cryer about the \$250 that the Stormwater Utility Commissioners receive. Mr. Reinke stated that the word each was left out. Mr. Reinke stated that is \$15,000 per year and \$150,000 in ten years. \$150,000 could be used to help with the road financing. He would like to see the \$250 divided by five per meeting per commissioner.
- Mr. Reinke read a post that Mr. Sprangers put on the Buchanan Cryer. "Do me a favor and vote me out this is the worst job I ever had" Mr. Reinke stated this isn't a job it's a public service. He added that if this is the worst public service job you ever had then why wait, step down now.
- Jenny Rottier, W2876 Emons Rd, Appleton asked about the parks committee and if any decisions have been made regarding that committee. Administrator Mahoney stated that item will be on the next Town Board meeting. The committee would be an advisory committee. The Board will need to decide how many members are on the committee and would work within the parks budget.
- Paul Knuppel, W2455 Block Rd, Appleton asked about the operating revenue and the debt utilization. Administrator Mahoney reviewed the slides from the presentation.
- Carolyn Grady, N339 Ridgewood Ct, Appleton asked about the debt and what is happening to drop from 18% in 2025 to 13% in 2026. Administrator Mahoney stated that if the Town would issue more debt then the percentage would increase. Ms. Grady asked about the passer rating for the roads with a rating from 6-10. Engineer Majkowski stated that the Town looks at them and for roads with a 6 or 7 they would do minor maintenance like chip seal or patching to extend the life of the road.
- Karley Musil, N313 Pinecrest Blvd, Appleton

*Motion by Karley Musil/Jenny Rottier to add additional public comment to the end of the agenda for community involvement. Motion carried 15 to 5 by raising of hands.*

Before the vote was taken there was discussion. Ms. Musil mentioned that residents would like to comment on items after the Board decision. Rich Carlson stated the public comment is normally at the beginning of the meeting. The Board can suspend the rules as needed on certain agenda items.

- Tom Walsh, N320 Breezewood Dr, Appleton stated that he feels what Ms. Musil is asking for would be helpful to have a communication committee to help with this involvement.

*Motion by Tom Walsh/Janet Sonnleitner for the Town to adopt a Communication Committee with residents and minor participation from the Board and Staff. Motion carried 22 to 0 by raising of hands.*

- Joe Van Thull, W2253 Block Rd, Appleton stated he would like to see something better at Block Rd and State Park Rd. Many drivers don't stop for the stop sign and just go through the intersection and he is worried that something bad may happen as the road is dark at night.
- Joe Coenen, N1657 Outagamie Rd, Kaukauna stated that according to State Statute 60.10 he stated that this was an appropriate motion to make:

*Motion by Joe Coenen/Eric Schultz to pay the Storm Water Utility Commissioners \$40 per meeting that they attend. Motion carried 21 to 5 by raising of hands.*

Before the vote was taken, Ms. Grady asked about the Board Compensation for the Town Board meetings.

- Karen Lawrence, N233 Eastowne Ln, Appleton stated that she is a retired teacher and one thing they did not tolerate was bullying. She stated that is one of the reasons she doesn't communicate on Facebook because her reputation means a lot to her. She told Mr. Sprangers that she has told him this before and that he is the number one culprit in her book. "You are giving out false information, you are ripping on people and calling them names, like Ms. Cynthia Sieracki who works harder than anyone I know. You ripped Tom Walsh, and Tony Brown who was a great administrator." She stated that as a teacher she would not put up with it, she is not sure why you have to call people names, grow up and start acting like an adult. Do you hear me Greg? Ms. Lawrence mentioned that she has had her first meeting with Outagamie County Board, she feels her experience on the Town Board will help her with her position on the County Board. She will not go on the Facebook pages but she is available for all the residents and they can call the Town Hall for her cell number if they want to reach her.
- Eric Schultz, W2637 Ruby Ct, Appleton asked that in future elections that the residents would not talk about Staff. Staff do not have any real say in the things that happen. The Staff current or past should not be insulted or marginalized as some type of evil entity that is trying to take over the Town. It's absurd when Town Board members are doing this. Mr. Schultz stated that as a manager I would never ever publicly shame someone I am supervising. He hopes going forward this doesn't happen again.
- Dennis Reinke, W2553 Buchanan Rd, Appleton stated that when a Commissioner misses the Stormwater Utility meeting they don't get paid. If a Board member misses a Board meeting they still get paid. Mr. Reinke stated that the Town Chair has missed more meetings in two years than the other four members put together. Mr. Reinke finished by asking Greg how many he plans on missing this year.

**8) SET 2023 ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE THIRD TUESDAY IN APRIL 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.:** Motion by Tom Walsh /Karley Musil to set next year's annual meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in April 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 32 to 0 by raising of the hand.

**9) ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Karen Lawrence/Ted Erdmann to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by a standing vote.

Cynthia Sieracki, Clerk  
Dated: April 21, 2022

Approved: Karen Lawrence/Ted Erdmann, April 18, 2023