



*"In the Spirit of Town Government"*

**TOWN OF BUCHANAN, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.  
BUCHANAN TOWN HALL, N178 COUNTY RD N, APPLETON, WI 54915**

- 1) **TOWN CHAIRMAN - CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Chairperson 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.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:** Motion by Karen Lawrence/Ted Erdmann to approve the minutes. Motion carried 30 to 0 by raising of the hand.
- 5) **ANNUAL REPORT OF TOWN OF BUCHANAN:** Henry Veleker, Interim Town Administrator, presented a report of activities in the Town for 2022 and activities proposed for 2023. Presentation included information on Town growth and development, finance, taxes, the audit and department activity summaries. Engineer Keen gave a brief update on the road projects for 2023, the bridge construction project, projects for 2024, and passer ratings. Chief Mohr gave a brief update on the calls for Fire and EMS for 2022, various trainings completed, equipment purchased and the ISO audit.  
  
Henry Veleker, Interim Town Administrator, stated he would answer any questions on the Annual Report. The following individuals had questions:
  - John Sonnleitner, N254 Meadowbreeze Ct, Appleton asked how long before we lose the ARPA funds? Veleker, stated that he would have to look that up to get correct information but that he believes there has to be a commitment by December 31, 2024 and to spend no later than 2 years which would be December 31, 2026.
- 6) **ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** The audited financial statements were provided for review. Motion by Dorothy Dworshok/Ted Erdmann 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:
  - Bob Wahl, N1305 Outagamie Road, Kaukauna asked why the Town is not cutting the ditches any longer? Chairperson Sprangers remarked that we bought a tractor with a mower but asked Jim Burke to explain. Jim Burke stated that the Town Board had made the decision to have property owners be responsible for the mowing of the right of way. Bob stated "then why do I keep paying taxes but can't get my ditch mowed", Chairperson Sprangers commented well "more taxes, less service". Bob Wahl also asked why the Town is putting off filling potholes out by him as his granddaughter almost had an accident. Chairperson Sprangers shared that Outagamie Road is scheduled for reconstruction this year.
  - James Smits, N231 Lavender Lane asked if the attorneys could give an update on the TUF lawsuit? Chairperson Sprangers stated that Rich Carlson and himself just talked about this and the Town is hoping to have a decision in June. Chairperson Sprangers stated that the hope is to have a decision prior to the new Justice taking their seat as the outgoing Justice will rule on the TUF. Also, Pewaukee had a TUF and the court favored in their case. Rich Carlson stated that we lost in Circuit Court and normally you would file an appeal with Court of Appeals, both Wisconsin Town Payers and the Town joined for a joint petition to jump to the Court of Appeals. The petition was granted by the Supreme Court and the oral argument was held on March 16, 2023. Rich stated that Pewaukee and Town of Buchanan are not comparable. Rich stated that the oral arguments are available on audio and he believes that the Court should have a decision by end of June. Mr. Smits stated that he hopes the Town Board has a Plan B or will go for a referendum if needed for tax increase.

- Carolyn Grady, N338 Ridgewood Court, Appleton stated that she has only positive things to say about the Yard Waste Transfer Site and gives a thumbs up. She said the staff has been so pleasant and helpful during each trip and just wanted to say a thank you to each of them.
- Mark Burt, N135 State Park Road, Appleton stated that is he one of the workers who has started at the Yard Waste Transfer Site and wanted to share that he has noticed some bags still being put out at residents' homes along the road.
- Eric Schultz, W2637 Ruby Court, Appleton stated that the Yard Waste Transfer Site is behind his home and wanted to thank the Town Engineers for the drainage and piping they installed in his back yard. They did it fantastically well and now he can use an additional 20' of his yard now since the work has been done.
- Denise Jansch, W2819 Crestwood Ct, stated that she would like to know who approved TDS to do the work in the Town and allow the digging that they have done and when was this approved? Chairperson Sprangers asked Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer to give a reply Nielsen stated that the Town did approve the permit and that at some point it is likely the whole Town will have TDS.
- Tom Walsh, N320 Breezewood Dr, Appleton stated that he hopes that the Town Board does have a Plan B if the TUF fails, but he hopes it will come back. 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. The Town website and Facebook should not be the only way to communicate. A committee needs to be formed to help get information to the residents and improve communication. He stated that the Town has lost 200 lots of development, the Town Board should review the process. He is wondering if the Town is using the right type of model for developments or if a different type like other communities use. The Town Board decided to do drainage first and then fix the roads after, but would like to see the Town put a Public Information meeting not only for the Board but also for the residents on projects moving forward regardless of type of project.

**8) SET 2024 ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE THIRD TUESDAY IN APRIL 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.:** Motion by Joe Coenen /Eric Shultz to set next year's annual meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in April 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 31 to 0 by raising of the hand.

Chairperson Sprangers stated that before we adjourn he wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the opportunity to see how the Town is ran. He commented "It was quite a ride but all good things must come to an end." "We are in a good financial shape and moving forward I believe that Joe will do a good job and I have faith in him."

**9) ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Karen Lawrence/Ted Erdmann to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously by a standing vote.

Nichole Nielsen, Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer  
Dated: April 19, 2023

Approved: John Sonnleitner/Ted Erdmann, April 16, 2024