

Town of New Glarus

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

MINUTES

Qualified Town Residents Attending: Chris Narveson (Chair), Sara Beth Hahner (Deputy Clerk), Harry Pulliam, Craig Galhouse, Nancy Galhouse, Frank Grenzow, Robert Elkins, Tammy Narveson, George Marotta, Kelly Ruschman, Jason Neton, Ashley Haffner, Mark Pernitz
Non-Residents Attending: Tara Bast (departed at 6:32 PM): Audit Partner with Johnson Block, Tim Schleeper: Vierbicher

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Narveson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
2. **Proof of Posting** – Deputy Clerk Hahner attested to the proper proof of posting by Clerk-Treasurer John Wright (April 3, 2024) and publication (April 11, 2024).
3. **Present 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Chair Narveson noted that the minutes from the April 19, 2023, meeting were approved by the Town Board at its May 10, 2023, meeting. No one in attendance had any objection to the minutes as presented.
4. **Financial Report Presentation** – Tara Bast presented a summary of the *Town of New Glarus Financial Statement Overview for the year ended December 31, 2023*. Bast explained that because the clerk and treasurer positions are combined for the Town of New Glarus, an annual financial audit is required. Bast referred to the balance sheet on page 2. Total assets were \$2,547,889. The current unassigned fund balance was \$370,582 which is 21.16% of the 2024 budget and is a healthy fund balance, according to Bast. On page 4, Bast reviewed the General Fund Expenditures totaling \$1,361,613. Bast also reviewed the General Fund Revenues on page 6, highlighting a spike due to the sale of the farmette on Hwy 39. Total revenue was \$1,898,397. Bast reviewed the debt analysis on page 8 and stated the Town was using 20.29% of its debt capacity.

Chair Narveson described continued plans to build a new Public Works facility on the Town's property on Hwy 39 and stated there is the potential of building a new Town Hall on the same property. Narveson stated the Village is interested in purchasing the current Town Hall property. Narveson stated the revenue from the current Public Works and Town Hall properties would be reinvested and that the Town of New Glarus Master Park Plan is an investment in the Town's future.

Chair Narveson opened the floor for questions and comments about the financial report. Town resident and Plan Commission member Craig Galhouse (W5130 Kubly Road) asked for more details on the timeline of the building plans and if the park plan and the building of Town buildings will coincide. Narveson stated they are still working on the timeline, but priority should be given to begin building the Public Works facility. Narveson stated the Town Board has not entertained quotes. Town Resident Harry Pulliam (W5120 County Road W) introduced himself as Chair of the Town Parks Commission. Pulliam stated the park plan

is on the Town website as Concept #1 and he encouraged people to look at it and make comments on it. Pulliam stated the Parks Commission will review Concept #2 at its next meeting (May 15, 2024). Pulliam further stated many people attended public input nights and the concept plan mirrors public input. Town resident Jason Neton (W5725 County Road H) introduced himself as a member of the Parks Commission. Neton stated the Park Commission is prioritizing prairie restoration to help prevent the spread of non-native species. Neton encouraged people to look at the plan on the website to review the proposed trail plan. Chair Narveson commented that the Board is aware the Town has other expenses, including the Town's portion of a new fire engine and the need for an additional Town plow truck. No questions about Town finances were posed by the public present.

- 5. Introduce Town Board Supervisors Elected on April 2, 2024** – Chair Narveson announced that Robert Elkins (W5720 County Road W), who was in attendance, has been re-elected for another two-year term as 4th Supervisor, and Mark Pernitz (N7827 Valley View Road), also in attendance, was elected to serve as 3rd Supervisor in an open seat after Supervisor Jim Hoesly did not seek re-election.

The Clerk-Treasurer is required by State Statute to administer the oath of office to those elected within five days of their notification of election, a process that was completed earlier this month.

6. Updates Regarding W6599 STH 39 Property

- a) Sale of buildings and 10.3 acres of land for sale – No discussion.
- b) Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant application results – Narveson reported the Town was not selected; however, there will be future grant opportunities.
- c) Update on Master Park Plan and trail to Durst Road – Narveson stated efforts continue to create a trail to the property, but so far, the Town has been unable to secure all necessary easements on private property. The \$45,000 matching grant agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a Town deadline for completion (trail constructed and proof of all bills paid) on June 30, 2024. Town resident and Park Commission member Jason Neton asked if that was the same grant as the CTY HWY NN trail grant. Narveson confirmed it was, and that the Town received an extension and applied it to the Durst Road trail project. Narveson stated the Town will keep the plan as is, in the event the easements can be secured in the future. Narveson stated the DNR will be contacted about the project's status.
- d) Site Preparations for future town garage – Town resident and Park Commission member Jason Neton directed Deputy Clerk Hahner to display the park plan on the monitor. Hahner displayed Concept Plan #1 – Overall Plan, located in the Parks Commission's April 17, 2024, meeting packet. There followed a page-by-page map review of potential building sites and trail sites. Neton suggested the Town explore the possibility of creating event space at a new Town hall on the property. Narveson stated the property continued to be farmed and winter wheat is planted to deter weed growth. There was a discussion about the placement of buildings and driveways, and if a cul-de-sac bulb at the entrance road was necessary. Narveson stated funds have been earmarked for constructing drives on the north end of the property. Town resident Ashley Hefner asked for more information on the road plans and raised

concern about traffic flow, as she and her family live at the farmette on the property. A discussion followed about curving the entrance road to the west instead. No further questions were posed by the public present.

7. **Old Business** – Town resident and Plan Commission member Craig Galhouse asked if the Town has heard from Village of New Glarus personnel on its position on use of Village roads by ATVs, now that the Town is slated to include a binding referendum on the November 5, 2024, Presidential Election ballot. Narveson stated it is his understanding that the Village will review the results of the Town’s referendum. Galhouse stated that the Town and the Village should be working together, because if the referendum passes, ATV traffic would be restricted to Town roads with no access to the Village. There followed a discussion about current ATV regulations at the Green County level, and regulations at the town level for those Towns that currently allow ATV traffic. No additional items were posed by the public present under Old Business.
8. **New Business** – Motion to have the Town Board explore selling the current Town Hall made by Town Resident and Parks Commission member Jason Neton. Second by Town resident and Parks Commission Chair Harry Pulliam. Discussion – Narveson stated if there is a vote on the motion, it is advisory only. Pulliam referred to statements made earlier in the meeting about the potential benefits of building a new Town Hall on the Hwy 39 property, as well as the potential benefit of leasing it out for events. Narveson reiterated that the Village of New Glarus is interested in the current Town Hall property. Chair Narveson called the question. Deputy Clerk Hahner reminded the public present that only those registered, or who meet the criteria, to vote in the Town of New Glarus can participate and asked for a show of hands. The vote was 8 in favor and 1 opposed. Motion carries.
9. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn made by Mark Pernitz, second by Jason Neton. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Approved: May 8, 2024

S B H

Minutes by Sara Beth Hahner, Deputy Clerk