

UNAPPROVED - TOWN OF CENTER - UNAPPROVED

**TOWN OF CENTER 2025 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING,
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ELECTORS FOR THE 2024 TAX LEVY
COLLECTED IN 2025, and
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

November 11, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Timm, Pete Hofacker, Gary Blank, Ron Klemp, David Vander Bloomen

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Brown, Logan Farrell, Justin Schumacher, Norb Dargelies, Steve Schmeichel, Mike Grunske, Mike Manteufel, Gus Weber, John Baum, Bill Rathsack, Tom Schupp, Ron Comer, Lorrie Hofacker, Joe Hofacker, Elizabeth Kositzke, Eric Kositzke, Al Kramer, Pat O'Brien, Isaac Stille, Tom Shambeau

Chairman Timm called the 2025 Budget Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Supervisor Hofacker said a prayer.

Chairman Timm asked if anyone wished to address the Board on the 2025 Budget as proposed. Nobody came forward to be heard. Supervisor Vander Bloomen moved, seconded by Supervisor Klemp to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay

Chairman Timm called the Special Town Meeting of the Electors for the approval of the 2024 Tax Levy to order at 7:02 p.m. Chairman Timm asked if anyone wished to address the Board on the 2024 Tax Levy to be collected in 2025 as proposed. Nobody came forward to be heard. Supervisor Blank moved, seconded by Supervisor Vander Bloomen to approve the 2024 Tax Levy of \$606,924 to be collected in 2025. Motion carried.

Supervisor Hofacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Blank to adjourn the Special Town Meeting of the Electors at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Chairman Timm called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Supervisor Vander Bloomen moved, seconded by Supervisor Klemp to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Supervisor Hofacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Blank to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2024, Regular Town Board Meeting. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Public Comment Period –

Ron Comer lives on County Road O and questioned the progress of a noise ordinance for the Town. Chairman Timm indicated the Board has not been discussing a noise ordinance. Ron provided a copy of the City of Appleton's noise ordinance for reference and asked the Board to consider adopting one like it. He is concerned about noise issues that could arise with new businesses entering the town if a noise ordinance is not adopted.

Al Kramer reported the NRCS Grant for the Bear Creek Watershed is continuing to move forward – the next meeting should be scheduled soon.

New Business

The board was approached last month to allow exceptions to not cut ditches if the homeowners do not want cattails cut. There was agreement with the board that all ditches should be cut to maintain proper water flow and keep the process consistent throughout the town.

Eric and Elizabeth Kositzke requested an exception to exceed the 36' long maximum culvert length allowed in the town. They would like to install a 46' long culvert on Center Valley Road where their event venue entrance will be located. There was a discussion between the Town Board and Tom Brown on whether it would be appropriate. Supervisor Klemp moved, seconded by Supervisor Vander Bloomen to allow the 46' long culvert for their entrance on Center Valley Road. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Bill Rathsack would like the board to reconsider his request to rezone his two properties on Devine Lane from General Agriculture to Residential. Chairman Timm mentioned there were concerns about spot zoning from the Planning Committee and Town Board previously. Supervisor Vander Bloomen pointed out that the rezone would be more restrictive for the property so it shouldn't be an issue. Steve Schmeichel is the Planning Committee Chairman and stated another concern for them was not having a future road right of way designated. Supervisor Klemp would like the reconsideration process clarified before proceeding.

Pat O'Brien requested the Board to consider lowering the speed limit on Mayflower Road to 45 mph between Center Valley Road and County Road S, and possibly north to Krueger Road. There are families who walk this road and they are concerned about the high speed of traffic. The Town will check with Ellington since this is a border road.

Borree Appraisal Services has been providing assessments for the Town for 37 years and Justin Schumacher has been the Assessor for the past 18 years. Justin proposed a new 5-year contract extension of \$21,000 per year and an additional \$71,300 in 2026. A full revaluation will be required by state law in 2026, requiring an outdoor inspection for every property in the Town. Supervisor Vander Bloomen moved, seconded by Supervisor Klemp to approve the 5-year contract extension for Borree Appraisal Services. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Joe Hofacker provided quotes from United Raynor Overhead Door Corporation for \$6,290 and Freedom Overhead Doors for \$8,000 to replace the fire station garage door openers. Supervisor Hofacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Vander Bloomen, to change the overhead openers in the fire station and go with United Raynor Overhead Door Corporation. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay. If anyone on the Fire Department wants the old openers, Joe Hofacker will let them know they can take them.

Supervisor Hofacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Vander Bloomen to approve the new Chapter 27 Ordinance – Prohibiting the Use of Holding Tanks for New Construction. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Supervisor Vander Bloomen moved, seconded by Supervisor Blank to approve the Town's 2025 Budget totaling \$1,343,421. Motion carried - 5 aye, 0 nay.

Reports

Roads Report – Tom Brown reported the branches were cut back on Highview Drive by the Town's Public Works team. The hydraulic valve stack cracked again on the tractor from the boom mower – the Public Works team fixed it. Tom explained the boom mower is not working out properly with the tractor and would like the Board to consider moving on from it. The Board suggested explaining the issue to the Town Attorney to see if there are any legal options that can be pursued. Supervisor Blank suggested contacting the manufacturer to explain the problems. The salter carriages are working well – Matt Hofacker fabricated the carriages and Brad Nettekoven sandblasted and painted them.

Tom received a quote from Kevin Hawley for renovations to the pavilion. The specs from the quote were reviewed. Supervisor Vander Bloomen asked for at least one other quote for a comparison.

Steve Schmeichel reported that the Ball Diamond was officially closed as of November 1st.

As Emergency Management Officer, Steve Schmeichel mentioned the Outagamie County Emergency Management Department is requesting a resolution from each municipality to accept the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Town may have already completed this, but the Clerk will confirm.

Supervisor Vander Bloomen and Tom Brown will be pursuing fundraising efforts for the ball diamond fencing. They already have some donors interested. They will work with Steve Schmeichel to determine the distances.

Citizens' Concerns – Supervisor Vander Bloomen received a complaint from Jennifer Shepard regarding the culvert for the event venue on Center Valley Road. Supervisor Vander Bloomen also received a complaint from Jerry Lingnofski about one of the candidates for the 56th Assembly District, who lives in Center, making a Facebook post showing her and her family wearing her campaign shirts outside the Town Hall on Election Day. He has filed a complaint with the County District Attorney and the State about her violating electioneering laws. Chairman Timm received a complaint about Harter's not picking up their garbage. Also, someone hit a number of garbage cans on Twelve Corners Road with a truck. Steve Schmeichel shared a positive experience with one of the Harter's drivers going above and beyond by getting out of the truck and turning around garbage cans that were blown the wrong way. Supervisor Hofacker and Chairman Timm also witnessed a driver picking up a can that tipped over and cleaning up loose garbage. There was a complaint on Highview Drive about the new home being built and leaving a mess of mud on the road. Tom Brown has been out there before and will reach out to an officer. Supervisor Klemp noted the Outagamie County Development and Land Services Department also has authority to enforce compliance with these issues.

Clerk's Report/Correspondence Received – There was a 93.93% voter turnout for the November 5, 2024 election for a total of 2,615 voters, with 1,167 of those voters voting early by absentee.

Liquor License and Bartender License Approval/Denials – Supervisor Vander Bloomen moved, seconded by Supervisor Hofacker to approve the bartender license applications for Jennifer Shepard, Amanda LaBrec, Alex Jazinski and Aubree Konrad. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Building Permits – Supervisor Hofacker noted the new homes were listed in the wrong column on the report provided by the Clerk. Supervisor Hofacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Vander Bloomen to approve the building permits submitted by Paul Hermes. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay. Chairman Timm mentioned a letter was sent last month to a resident on Glenn Street building a shed without a permit – a permit has yet to be applied for.

Financial Reports – Expenses for October 15, 2024 – November 11, 2024 were \$77,593, Revenue was \$15,732. The current checking account balance is \$101,319. Supervisor Klemp noted the ARPA Fund balance will need to be spent or designated by year-end. Supervisor Vander Bloomen moved, seconded by Supervisor Blank to accept the financial report as submitted. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Payment of Invoices – Supervisor Klemp moved, seconded by Supervisor Blank to approve payment of invoices, checks #17793 through #17850, plus ACH Payments. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Tom Brown put together a contract with Freedom to assist with winter maintenance. There was a question about who would be responsible for fuel. Tom explained this was factored into the pricing.

Future Agenda Items – Supervisor Blank inquired about Phase 2 of Autumn Hills. The Clerk will provide a report for next month on all expenses incurred by the Town for Autumn Hills to date.

Supervisor Hofacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Klemp to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried – 5 aye, 0 nay.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Olson, Clerk-Treasurer