

**TOWN OF HOLLAND
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

July 21, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT	Chair Steve Michaels, Supervisors Ben Filter, Jeff Herlitzke, Steve Mieden, Jerome Pedretti
STAFF PRESENT	Clerk Marilyn Pedretti
OTHERS PRESENT	Lukasz Lyzwa & Kyle Wedel of GEC, Andrew Dobkoski, Robert Stupi

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michaels called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Notices were posted.

STORMWATER UTILITY

Chair Michaels reported on his meeting with General Engineering Corporation (GEC) last Tuesday. He explained his desire for the Town to implement a stormwater utility this year and invited the engineer to explain the process tonight.

Lukasz Lyzwa, project engineer with GEC, gave a presentation on stormwater utilities. He gave an overview of stormwater utilities in Wisconsin and explained how to create and regulate a utility. Lyzwa summarized that there are 130 stormwater utilities in Wisconsin and the funds can be used for MS4 permitting and for drainage and stormwater related projects. He noted rates are typically based on percentage of impervious area and noted unreasonable rates can lead to appeals. He provided ordinance examples, state statute regulating stormwater utility, and a listing of other municipalities in the state that utilize a stormwater utility.

J Pedretti expressed concern with rural areas and farmers paying for something that will be used in residential areas and noted the resentment in the Town of Onalaska with the utility. He also noted the timing may not be right for raising taxes during the COVID pandemic. Discussion followed.

Herlitzke stated the Town has work to do, like creating a capitol plan, and did not want to rush the process. Lyzwa explained the process of holding several Town hearings and approving an ordinance. Discussion followed.

Lyzwa discussed the various options for delegating the work to either forming a special committee or having the Plan Commission do the homework. He noted it could also be handled by the Town Board directly. Discussion followed.

Bob Stupi, N7577 County Road XX, noted the handout which listed the 130 municipalities in the state using the special charge, only 12 are towns and only three have a population under 5,000. Lyzwa noted that list was from 2014 and additional towns have been added since. Stupi also noted that the Town should have a plan for using the money before something is implemented and noted that a stormwater utility appears to be a residential problem paid for with the help of the rural areas.

Michaels noted that during the flood two years ago, a farm field flooded Pedretti Street. Filter noted the utility fees could be used to pay for ditching, shouldering, culverts and retention pond maintenance and some of these would be in rural areas. Lyzwa noted the ERUs can be adjusted to weigh more to residential and less to farmers. Discussion followed.

Andrew Dobkoski, W7704 Van Dunk Place, suggested a special committee would be helpful as they could take their time and bring more “heads” to the issue.

Mieden suggested we hold a public hearing and go from there and that the Town needs to do this right the first time. Discussion followed concerning timing of board action and public hearings.

Motion by Filter/Mieden to have a public hearing on stormwater utilities on August 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

Discussion followed concerning hearing protocol during the COVID pandemic. Michaels instructed the clerk to set up a virtual option for residents to participate and that he will limit the attendees in the hall at any one time.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mieden/Filter to adjourn. **MOTION** carried unanimously. Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn J. Pedretti
Town Clerk