

TOWN OF HOLLAND BOARD MEETING

January 10, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT	Chair Bob Stupi, Supervisors Nikole Hauser, Jeff Herlitzke, Michael Hoffman and David Weber
STAFF PRESENT	Town Crew John Frauenkron, Clerk Marilyn Pedretti

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stupi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Notices were properly posted.

MINUTES

Motion by Hoffman/Herlitzke to approve the minutes of December 13th. **MOTION** carried.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Kevin Olson, W6688 Casberg Coulee Road, asked how he can obtain details concerning the 2024 budget and was informed the line-item budget is on the Town's web page.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT

Matt Nikolay, County Supervisor, reported the City of La Crosse and County have formed a homelessness plan but funding is yet to be determined. He reported \$14.8 million has been budgeted for 2024 road work, they are working on a 5-year strategic plan and solar panels are being installed on County buildings using ARPA funding.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL

Francis Schelfhout, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, introduced himself and gave a presentation. He explained the advantages of designating the Great River Bike Trail that is within the Town of Holland as part of the Mississippi River Trail and he discussed the role of the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission. Schelfhout answered questions. It was the consensus to support the resolution. Clerk Pedretti read the resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION 2024-1

MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL DESIGNATION

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF HOLLAND

WHEREAS bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is a national bicycle route, along the length of the Mississippi River, through ten states, from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail was designated as one of only 16 National Millennium Trails which honor the past and imagine the future by preserving and commemorating major events and aspects of America's history and culture; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail provides access to and promotes the scenic, historic, archaeological, cultural, recreational and natural qualities of the Mississippi River and its amenities; and

WHEREAS the Mississippi River Trail is located primarily on the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road National Scenic Byway (WIS 35)

between Prescott and Illinois State Line, but also routed on other state and county highways, local roads or alternative routes for bicycling; and

***WHEREAS** the Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission and the Town of Holland, with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders, have proposed a specific route to be designated as Mississippi River Trail; and*

***WHEREAS** the Mississippi River Trail implements Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 1.11, 84.01(35), 84.60, and 85.02, 349.23 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter Trans 400 which required that “due consideration to establishing bikeways and pedestrian ways in all new highway construction and reconstruction projects”; and*

***WHEREAS** the Mississippi River Trail adds value to existing roads and trails; and*

***WHEREAS** the Mississippi River Trail is largely ready to sign and market, and many suggested improvements are already planned; and*

***WHEREAS** the Mississippi River Trail will contribute to sustainable economic development in 33 Wisconsin Mississippi River communities; and*

***WHEREAS** the proposed route for the Mississippi River Trail comes through the Town of Holland and can therefore provide a benefit to our residents and businesses; and*

***WHEREAS** the Mississippi River Trail will provide increased recreational and transportation choices for individuals to enjoy the outdoors as well as provide health, economic, and quality of life benefits; and*

***WHEREAS** the Mississippi River Trail continues Wisconsin’s tradition of honoring and enhancing the Mississippi River by offering multiple bicycling experiences, each in a unique river landscape; and*

***WHEREAS** we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be a suitable route, and desire that the route be designated so that it can be mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area; and*

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Holland, in order to receive full benefit of the Mississippi River Trail, hereby expresses its approval and support for the development of the Mississippi River Trail, and requests that the appropriate officials see to it that the route is officially designated along the following segments within the limits of the Town of Holland:*

***SOUTHBOUND:** Great River State Trail from the north town line south to the south town line.*

***NORTHBOUND:** Great River State Trail from the south town line north to the north town line. (map attached)*

Dated this 10th day of January, 2024.

Motion by Weber/Hoffman to approve Resolution 2024-1 a resolution to support the designation of the Mississippi River Trail within the limits of the Town of Holland. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

PLAN COMMISSION

5-year road plan: Hoffman reviewed the draft 5-year road maintenance plan and noted this plan will assist with any grant applications the Town submits. He pointed out that Taube Road and Red Cloud Road are in the worst condition and has been designated for

replacement in 2024, with the roads in New Amsterdam slated for 2025. Kevin Olson asked how the Town determines the worst roads and Hoffman reported the Town conducts annual PASER ratings. Discussion followed.

Report on 1/3/24 meeting: Hoffman reviewed the minutes.

STORMWATER COMMISSION

2024 maintenance plan: Hoffman reported they discussed options for conducting maintenance in the 2024 designated areas: Country Estates and the neighborhood to the north. He noted a conversation with the stormwater engineer, who indicated a possibility of contracting out for the maintenance service. Members reviewed information provided by Lukasz Lyzwa, General Engineering Company (GEC) from similar projects in a neighboring town. Discussion followed. Motion by Herlitzke/Hoffman to proceed with working through Lukasz for the project work. **MOTION** carried unanimously

Report on 1/3/24 meeting: Hoffman reviewed the minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Herlitzke reported the calls were down from last year. He reviewed the minutes from December 19th meeting. He noted they are discussing hiring a consultant to conduct a feasibility study of the fire house. Paul Olson, W6602 Casberg Coulee Road, was concerned with service in the Town of Onalaska area and Herlitzke noted they have been in discussions but nothing proposed yet.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ford 150 truck tires: John Frauenkron, Town Crew Supervisor, reviewed the quote to replace the tires on the Ford 150. Stupi asked why a 2-year old truck with 18,000 miles needs new tires. Discussion followed. It was the consensus to have Frauenkron do further research on the tire life expectancy and possible need for alignment.

Snow pusher: Stupi explained he received a suggestion to purchase a snow pusher that would be attached to the loader tractor. He noted the pusher would assist with cul-de-sac and corner clean-outs. Discussion followed concerning the feasibility and process with crew limitations. It was the consensus to study further and discuss in the fall.

Brine tank: Frauenkron reported the brine tank has been installed after a few hiccups. He noted they are waiting for a speed sensor to help regulate the application. Stupi reported they were able to apply brine to all the town roads within one day and using only 2 tanks of brine. Jerry Heintz, N7318 Casberg Coulee Road, asked how long the brine was effective and if he should be worried when walking after the application. Frauenkron stated the brine is basically salt water and is effective up to a storm event but once plowed, needs to be reapplied. Stupi reported he ordered baffles for the tank and will be contacting the company concerning the extended arm and other deficiencies.

Road replacement: Stupi noted the earlier discussion on road maintenance leads to moving forward to replace Taube Road and Red Cloud Road in 2024. He noted that with the engineering work completed by the County for work on XX in 2024, the Town could potentially save money by using the same engineer to complete the work for the roads in New Amsterdam. It was the consensus to take action next month.

Casberg Coulee bridge: Stupi reported the engineers will hold a public information meeting on Tuesday, January 30th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and invited the public to provide input. He noted the design has a May 1, 2024 completion date and the construction is still slated for fall of 2024.

Crew report: Frauenkron reviewed the written Town Crew report. Jill Sherry, W6708 Casberg Coulee Road, asked for clarification on procedure for when the bus is not able to drive the route like yesterday's snow event. Frauenkron explained the situation and timing. Discussion followed concerning process, dispatch involvement and the need to widen the plowed areas.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Policy handbook: Stupi explained he received a request from an employee to cash out their unused 2023 vacation and he approved the request. He noted the Policy Handbook does not provide for pay-out but rather a carry-over policy. Discussion followed and it was the consensus to leave the policy as-is with no pay-out option.

Chair racks: Stupi explained that with the new table/chair racks, the old metal ones are no longer needed. Discussion followed concerning either selling or recycling and it was the consensus to recycle.

WTA district meetings: Stupi reviewed the options for members to attend the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) district meetings. Discussion followed. Motion by Herlitzke/Hauser to authorize up to three to attend the 2024 WTA district meeting. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS

The Treasurer's report and invoices were reviewed. Motion by Herlitzke/Hoffman to accept the treasurer's report and approve paying the bills in the amount of \$158,645.00. **MOTION** carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Pedretti suggested adding discussion to clarify the compost gate seasonal dates. Other items: F150 tires, road replacement.

ADJOURN

Motion by Herlitzke/Weber to adjourn. **MOTION** carried. Adjourned 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn J. Pedretti
Town Clerk