

Public Works Committee Minutes

Tuesday July 27, 2021 7:00 AM

Town of Verona Hall, 7669 County Highway PD

Present: Phyllis Wiederhoeft - Chair, Mike Duerst, John Senseman, Manfred Enburg

Absent: Russ Swiggum

Also Present: Christopher Barnes, Public Works Director; Mark Judd, Road Patrolman

Public Present: None

1. **Call to Order/Additions to Agenda/Approve Agenda** - Chair Wiederhoeft called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM. Wiederhoeft asked for any volunteers to take the meeting minutes. There were no volunteers. Wiederhoeft stated that she has added suggested time limits to the agenda as a method to keep the discussion of each item on track and be respectful of the committee's time. Duerst moved to accept the agenda, second by Enburg. Motion carried.
2. **Action: Review Minutes of June 29, 2021** - The minutes were reviewed by the committee. Duerst called for a motion to approve the June minutes as submitted. Second by Enburg, motion carried.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action for Town Road Speed Limit Recommendation: Paulson Road and Woods Road from 55 miles per hour to 45 mile per hour** - Wiederhoeft called for a motion to accept the speed limit recommendations as presented. Motion by Duerst. Second by Enburg. Wiederhoeft asked Barnes to summarize the recommendation to make changes to the Woods Road and Paulson Road speed limits. Barnes stated that Woods Road is posted at 45 miles per hour. Paulson Road is not posted so it has a *prima facie* speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Barnes explained that the town can make changes to reduce the speed by 10 miles per hour without obtaining approval of WISDOT. Woods Road in the town is currently posted at 45 mph as is the section of Woods Road in the City of Madison. Barnes explained that next on the list to address as to the speed limit is Fitchrona Road. Duerst questioned a speed reduction on Paulson Road, Senseman mentioned that he noted a number of people walking along Paulson Road and a lower speed limit was reasonable. No further discussion. Wiederhoeft called for the motion to recommend the speed limit changes, Motion carried.
4. **Information: 2023 Dane County Natural Hazard Plan Update** - Wiederhoeft opened the discussion by informing the committee of the Dane County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and made a motion to recommend to the board that the town proceed with updating the current 2017 plan. Second by Enburg. Wiederhoeft asked for background from Barnes. Barnes stated that this is a plan that makes the town eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funds for programs to improve or mitigate known hazards such as flooding or tornados. The key is to identify natural hazards that could be improved by specific projects. Barnes stated that the steering committee for the plan would logically be the Public Works Committee possibly with some interest from other residents. Discussion followed. Wiederhoeft called for the motion to recommend to the board to proceed with the plan update. Motion carried.

5. **Discussion: Website Content for Public Works** - Wiederhoeft stated that she asked for discussion regarding items that should be included on the town website. Enburg stated that he would like to have the current developments in the town have individual sites on the website so people can access the plans, documents, and other public materials. Wiederhoeft questioned whether that was the Plan Commission responsibility. Barnes stated that when a development was approved and under construction that it would be under the purview of Public Works. Enburg further stated that he would like to see utilities and road mapping on the website. Discussion followed. Barnes explained that the individual utilities were very protective of their own locations for liability and safety reasons. Wiederhoeft questioned where driveway permits were located. Barnes stated that the permits were located under "Government". Barnes stated that he would like to establish a section for public construction projects like Valley Road Bridge, and a separate section for private developments. Senseman recommended that the town expand the development information available and update the information once a month. Enburg mentioned that the current website contained information on developments that are already complete. Wiederhoeft asked about uploading the capital improvement program for roads. Barnes cautioned that the CIP can change and that putting too much information may give people the wrong impression that there is no flexibility in the plan. Discussion followed. Wiederhoeft stated the list for the web site should be:

- Utility maps
- Development plans and status
- Easier located driveway permits
- Construction Projects
- Capital Improvement Program data

6. **Right of Way Permitting: Request to carve tree trunk** - Wiederhoeft mentioned that the property owner in question has done several tree carvings on his private property. Barnes referenced the agenda memo regarding carving a tree trunk in the public right of way. Enburg stated that anything within the public right of way was subject to removal and a carved tree should not be allowed. Senseman stated that the town should not be the judge of what is acceptable and not acceptable for a carving. The consensus of the committee was that the carving not be allowed. Barnes stated that he would contact the property owner.

7. **Information: Valley Road Bridge Engineering Update** - Wiederhoeft asked for an update. Barnes stated that the field survey was done and the soil borings are pending. Design engineering is ongoing. Discussion followed.

8. **Development Updates:**

- a. **Twin Rock Prairie Circle Development** - Barnes stated that the development construction is complete to the surface course and final shouldering.
- b. **Prairie Circle Extension Development** - Final surface and shouldering is planned for the first week of August.

9. **Discussion: Marty Farms Development Proposal** - Wiederhoeft stated that Barnes had prepared the concerns of the committee from last month's committee meeting and submitted them to the Town Chair. No further discussion.
10. **Equipment Condition Update** - Judd stated that the plow truck had been delivered and there were no other issues. A radio has been ordered for the new truck. Judd was obtaining a quote for replacement of the leaking tire on the John Deere 544 front end loader.
11. **Schedule September, 2021 Committee Meeting and Set Agenda** - Wiederhoeft mentioned that there would be no August meeting, and the next meeting would be September 28th.
12. **Adjourn** - Motion by Enburg to adjourn, seconded by Senseman, motion carried Meeting adjourned at 7:58 am.

Approved: September 28, 2021

Prepared by: W. Christopher Barnes