

**Town of Phelps, Vilas County, Wisconsin  
PO Box 157  
Phelps, WI 54554**

**MINUTES OF PHELPS TOWN BOARD  
NOVEMBER 8, 2010  
PHELPS FIRE STATION**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albrecht at 7.00 PM. Present were Supervisors Waier, McCaslin, Brand, Kimmerling and Clerk/Treasurer Hiller. Also in attendance were 11 citizens. The meeting was posted at the Phelps Community Center, First National Bank-Phelps Branch, Phelps Trustworthy Hardware Store and emailed to the Vilas County News Review.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Waier moved to accept the October 11, 13, 14 and November 1, 2010 minutes. Supervisor McCaslin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Received a letter from the Division of Transportation informing the Town that funding for the bicycle and pedestrian facilities program for the Conover-Phelps segment funding did not go through this time, but advised us to reapply in the next program application cycle. The Town Board also received a thank you note from Nancy Steenport for the gift certificates that was given to her by the Board for her retirement.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Clerk/Treasurer Hiller presented the October monthly financial report as of October 31, 2010. Supervisor McCaslin moved to accept the monthly financial report. Supervisor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Library Report: June Franzen presented a written report indicating that the October circulation was excellent at over 2,000 items. They are planning a children's movie on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am and an adult movie on Tuesday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the Town Hall. There has been some water damage from the roof due to the heavy rains in October. It was repaired and hopefully will not leak again.

Constable's Report: Patrick Brown reported that there were a couple of dogs running around and he did get one coyote. He also warned everyone that there are sightings of wolves in the area.

Park Commission's Report: Todd Bierman reported that the dugouts concrete floor is in as well as the benches. He is now putting up the batting cage framework and then the netting. There was some damage at the boat lake landing downtown and reported and filed paperwork with the Vilas County Sheriff's Department. The Kentuck & Long Lake piers will be coming out shortly. He mentioned that there was a hearing on the dredging of Smoky Lake and will hear something soon regarding that hearing. The hearing was due to a concern having it as a swimming area. Signs should be put out there as swim at your own risk. He will also be putting up the downtown Christmas tree soon.

Town Crew Foreman's Report: Not present.

Sanitary District Report: Bud Petrick reported that John Barron will be spending most of his winter in Florida, but will be back for the Sanitary District meeting in December. He also mentioned that they have settled with A1. The DOT billing is still a mess. Musson owes the Sanitary District \$1,600 but the District will not settle with DOT until Musson pays that. He reported that they may be doing a water meter upgrade due to half of them are over forty years old. They are waiting to hear from the Board on who will be getting the Clerk – Secretary's position.

Fire Chief's Report: Steve Waier reported that they had a couple of calls but has been fairly quiet. Has not received any word on the grant but found another grant that is available for radio equipment.

Ambulance Supervisor's Report: Carole Selin reported that they had fifteen runs in October. In November, she has been working with the little kids at the school, Girl Scouts and Nicolet College. She also mentioned that the present

billing service is going to discontinue us due to medical reasons. They advised her to contact EMS or Life Quest. She also mentioned that the citizens are concerned about the ambulance service. She explained that the Town and Fire Department owns the ambulance service, so this will not stop if Lillian Kerr closes.

County Supervisors' Report: No report.

Phelps Chamber of Commerce: Mary Ann Bickler mentioned that they have three new members in their chamber and are working on a new visitor guide. The more ad sales that are placed in the Guide means less cost for them. Due to having an abundance of old visitor guides, these will be delivered to the Madison area free of charge. Their annual meeting was last week and the Board members will be the same as this past year. She presented the new Holiday street banners that has come in and would like the town crew to install them before Thanksgiving.

Phelps Town Lakes Committee: Rollie Alger reported that their spring 2011 Lakes meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2011 at the Phelps School. He explained that the 2011 budget proposal of \$7,150 was presented to the board as well as discussed the plant survey that will be done on the lakes. The next Town Lakes Committee meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2011. Chair Albrecht mentioned that about 15 large walleyes were found dead on Long Lake about two weeks ago after that storm front went through. DNR picked up the fish and is checking this out.

Phelps Town Building Committee: John Huza said that the Town did not get funding for the town garage due to President Obama removing the funding. They will try again when the 2011 budget is approved and move forward and possibly check into a loan in the future. Todd is looking into the 60 acres by the dump and will check on any other large parcels that can possibly be logged as well. A structural analysis will be done on the fire tower and will check on liability insurance on this.

Phelps Signage Committee: Carole Selin reported for the Lamberts, that the 1<sup>st</sup> set of signs were ordered and should be in this week. They will wait to order the 2<sup>nd</sup> set until after they find out what the first set costs.

Phelps Planning Commission: Lorin Johnson mentioned that there was nothing to report at this time but will be reviewing the comprehensive plan report.

Food Pantry Report: No report.

Museum Report: Pauleyn Nystrom reported that Jeanne Brown has joined the museum committee and has purchased a new Sony camera for the museum. They have received a donation of \$200 from the Women's Club; and are working on a donation from the Lions Club. They are submitting a request for a laminator.

Discussion/Action: ATV Routes in Town of Phelps – Dan Swiecichowski Chair Albrecht read the letter submitted by Dan Swiecichowski in regard to improving business and looking to bring new business to our town by allowing ATV trails. They are asking that the Board approve to open Phelps town roads to be designated as ATV routes. The Chair explained that about two years ago this was discussed. The Town is not opposed to this, however, Vilas and Oneida Counties are. It will have to incorporate forest routes. Revenue is being lost because of these counties opposed to it. The Land Over ATV Club are also talking to Conover and Land O'Lakes Town Boards. A petition will be presented to the Conover town board this month. The board mentioned that they would be willing to work with them if they would come up with an ATV road plan. They should talk with Jerry Niemisto regarding which roads would best be suited for this. Most of the ATV's are now four wheel drive and do not tear up the soil as they did in the past. Mary Ann Bickler mentioned that they approach the chamber and this caused quite a stir.

Discussion/Action: Appoint Phelps Sanitary District Secretary due to Jim Adams Resignation: After receiving four applications, the Sanitary District recommended to the Board to appoint Colin Snook as the new Phelps Sanitary District Secretary. Motion by Supervisor McCaslin, seconded by Supervisor Brand to appoint Colin Snook as the new replacement. All voting aye. Motion passed.

Discussion/Action: Content/Wording of Tax Bill Insert/Clerk Treasurer Office Hours: Clerk/Treasurer Hiller mentioned that there is room on the tax bill insert for any committee information or requests. The individual Committees should contact the Clerk/Treasurer in the next week if they would like something listed on this insert.

**Reminder: Election cycle begins Dec. 1, 2010 Circulation of Nomination Papers – Clerk/Treasurer, Constable, Town Chair, Two Supervisors and Phelps Sanitary District Treasurer.**

**Citizen Input:** Carole Selin asked if the Town has thought about when Lillian Kerr closes, will the clinic and pharmacy be moved over to the Boundary Waters or some other place in town. Chair Albrecht said that according to Lee Olkowski the clinic will be dead and gone. There is someone in Eagle River that possibly would be interested in the pharmacy. Land O'Lakes is attached with Aspirus and possibly could be a part of that. This has not been addressed any further right now. We should start looking at something within the two years. It was mentioned that the price of Boundary Waters is plummeting down. It was suggested that we should move forward on this. Next step would be to form a committee with the Northwoods Living Care Board and others in the community.

Chair Albrecht read a letter from the Phelps Women's Club requesting permission to construct a large lighted snowman for the winter season to be located on the town property corner next to the hardware store. They mentioned that if the Town stores the snow on that site, they would then not be interested. It was mentioned that if it was closer by the hydrant, it would not be an issue and you could see it from both ways. The Board is in favor of this.

Pauleyn Nystrom asked where is the Town with the Ditto situation. Chair Albrecht mentioned that Attorney Bill Anderson will have it completed by the end of the week.

Todd Bierman mentioned that the sidewalk by Ditto must be cleared when he starts plowing snow. The Board said that it will be removed by then. It was also mentioned that the sidewalk should be maintained in front of Lillian Kerr.

The Budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Phelps School Commons at 7 pm.

Monthly vouchers were signed and approved by Town Supervisors.

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor McCaslin. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Brand. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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Marjorie Hiller, Clerk/Treasurer