

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

**MINUTES OF PHELPS TOWN BOARD
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011
PHELPS FIRE STATION**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Waier at 7.00 PM. Also present were Supervisors McCaslin, Kimmerling, Brand and Clerk/Treasurer Hiller. Excused absence – Peter Albrecht. Also in attendance were 22 citizens. The meeting was posted at the Phelps Community Center, First National Bank-Phelps Branch, Phelps Convenience Center, and emailed to the Vilas County News Review.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supervisor McCaslin moved to accept the March 14, 17, and 21, 2011 minutes. Supervisor Kimmerling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Received correspondence regarding the Landover ATV Club planning a Forum on Saturday, April 30, at 9 a.m. at the Eagle River Derby Exhibit Club; a slideshow entitled “Wildflowers of the Upper Great Lakes” at the Land O’Lakes Library on Wednesday, April 20 at 1 P.M.; and the second annual Garlic Mustard Pull in Phelps May 13 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Clerk/Treasurer’s Report: Clerk/Treasurer Hiller presented the March monthly financial report as of March 31, 2011. Supervisor Kimmerling moved to accept the monthly financial report. Supervisor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Library Report: June Franzen not present.

Constable’s Report: Rick Brown reported that all is quiet.

Park Commission’s Report: Todd Bierman reported that they are having their monthly Park Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at 5:30 p.m. He has started working on the Cemetery sign and has cleaned up down by the beach area in front of Rennes. He is getting the Park grounds ready for the first high school game which is scheduled for April 26th. He also reported about getting the 10 year light bulb contract with Musco Lighting.

Town Crew Foreman’s Report: Gerald Niemisto reported that the roads held up fairly well but are still pretty soft yet. There are not too many washouts and the culverts did real well. They have been working on the transmission lines and truck brakes.

Sanitary District: John Barron mentioned that all things are going well. It looks like the DOT engineering will drag on for another couple of months. The Sanitary District will be installing a new billing software next month and they have one new house that was started in the south part of the Sanitary district.

Fire Chief’s Report: Steve Waier mentioned that he has ordered the fire department radios. Most of this will be paid with funds from a FEMA grant which was \$26,000. Last week they had a successful propane fire training and are now gearing up for the fire season.

Ambulance Supervisor’s Report: Carole Selin reported that they had 16 runs for the month of March and four for the month of April. She also has been working with the Clerk on setting up the new ambulance billing company and with the switch regarding Medicare and Medicaid papers which will save us \$500.

County Supervisors’ Report: Bob Egan mentioned that the County Board is working on revising the tower ordinance for smaller towers for better internet coverage in the area. Sig Hjenvick reported about the County setting up a new Transitional Committee and dealing with the County employees due to Walker’s budget repair bill that was passed. Also they are having Redistricting Committee meetings for reconfiguring the County Board Supervisor Districts due to the 2010 census.

Phelps Chamber of Commerce: Mary Ann Bicker mentioned that the Chamber has finished the photo contest. Three photos were chosen which will be used for the banners downtown. She also mentioned about the Smelt harvest on Long Lake. The community Rummage-a-rama is scheduled for June 11, and the Kickball tournament is June 25. The Chamber is working with local lodging businesses for a discount package for events this summer.

Phelps Town Lakes Committee: Rollie Alger reported that they had their meeting on April 4 at 6 PM at the Town Hall. He brought up the spring 2011 Lakes educational meeting which is to be held on Saturday, June 18, at the Phelps School Commons from 9 – 11 a.m.

Phelps Town Building Committee: John Huza mentioned that they are working on the Town Shop project and trying to bring the cost of that project down to make it budget friendly. The cost of taking that old building down would be about \$9,500. They were logging certain sections. The Strong Road logging will be finished by next spring. The bid was \$14,585 and is requesting the Town to put this money in a capital improvement project fund. (That will have to be taken up at another meeting.)

Phelps Signage Committee: Received a letter from Peggie & Richard Lambert regarding the polls for the signs. The cost would be approximately \$20,000 and the remainder left in their account is \$9,372. The Board will have to look into this further.

Planning Commission: Not present.

Community Development: The Community Development meeting did not meet last month due to a lack of a quorum. This committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Food Pantry Committee: Debbie Vold mentioned that the Food Pantry is the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9 a.m. to noon in Land O'Lakes. They currently served about 130 families in March which helped about 199 adults and 20 children.

Museum Report: Pauleyn Nystrom reported that they sent in for their fund raiser tickets thru the state. They have found out that they can send the fund raiser tickets thru the mail, but must mention that no purchase is necessary. They will be opening on May 7th.

Discussion/Action: Bike Trails. Jeff Currie of the Great Wisconsin Headwaters Trail System mentioned that they are working on a trail system which will provide over 30 miles of family-friendly biking and hiking trails for residents and visitors to the Northwoods. Design work starts this summer on the first portion of the system, the western end of the Conover-Phelps Trail. Last November the Town of Conover was awarded \$655,000 in WisDOT transportation Enhancement Program funds for the design and construction of that segment. He was requesting that the Town of Phelps pass a resolution joining the Towns of Cloverland and Conover in wanting to be a part of a multi-jurisdictional cooperative effort to pursue the planning and development of the trail network; and with those towns seek to form a cooperative entity with the County and other neighboring towns, especially those through which the network would pass: Lincoln, Washington, Land O'Lakes and the City of Eagle River. This will have to be discussed and acted on at another meeting. He is also looking for volunteers to help with this project.

Update: Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2011, Phelps School Commons, 7 P.M.

Citizen Input: Supervisor Waier mentioned that due to the partnering of North Star of Iron River and Bellin of Green Bay, he had a recent conference call informing him that they are working with Aspirus in having a clinic and pharmacy in the Phelps area. There was an inquiry regarding the grocery store and Mr. Daniels will hopefully have numbers entered in for the next step of this project. Mary Ann Bickler mentioned that the Chamber will be partnering with the DNR to sell decals for snowmobiles, trailers and boats. Christy Riihimaki questioned about the accident downtown with a Highway employee and the minutes from that closed session meeting. Closed session minutes are not open to the public. Supervisor Waier mentioned that with the Walker budget bill, the Town needs to work on a grievance procedure for all town employees. He also mentioned that we are working on a training program with the new Bituminous Insurance program. Carole Selin was wondering if the Town checked into the purchase of the Hardware Store, since the Town is paying rent for the Museum as well as the Chamber. It was suggested that this be referred to the Building Committee.

Monthly vouchers were signed and approved by Town Supervisors.

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Kimmerling. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Brand. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Marjorie Hiller, Clerk/Treasurer