

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON BI-MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 15, 2011**

Members Present: Micheal Peterson, Charles Bauer, Donald Perry, Michael Stacy, Karen Tomesh

Staff Present: Janelle Henning, Jackie Vold

Members/Staff Absent: None

A quorum being present, Chairman Peterson called to order the bi-monthly Town Board meeting of the Washington Town Board at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at the Town Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2011 BI-MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING. The motion was seconded by Supv. Bauer.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Public Hearing:

Chrm. Peterson opened the public hearing for the request by John Bast III for a Conditional Use Permit for Home Occupation to operate a Cottage Business – Landscape Management Business at 7412 Bernhardt Road, Eau Claire WI.

Rod Eslinger from the Eau Claire County Planning & Development office spoke regarding the history of the business at 7412 Bernhardt Road in Eau Claire. The Basts have been operating a landscaping management business from the property and it was identified as an issue. They have been working with the County to remedy the situation to come into compliance. The Eau Claire County Code has been amended to include the designation of a Cottage Industry. The Code now includes a three tiered approach to home occupations. A Cottage Industry is the highest level of the home occupation standards. It allows for more employees, outside storage as long as it is service orientated and provides something to the local community. This application is the first to come to the County for a Cottage Industry. The applicant has 8.37 acres and is zoned A2. Adjacent land uses are predominately single family residence. There is a mix of A1 and A2 zoning in the area. Both the Town and County plans show this area as a rural residential plan area. It does by policy incorporate cottage type business in that district. The applicant indicates that there are four tiers to the business. It has an irrigation component, lawn maintenance, landscaping, snow removal, and a tree nursery. The property will be 50% residential and 50% business. The business needs to be incidental to the primary use to the property. Most of the business is done off-site at a client's location. The applicant is proposing a sign to be adjacent to the road right-of-way. Hours of operation proposed are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday and by appointment on Saturday. There are 5 employees who live off site of the property. Unclear if there will be a retail area set-up for the nursery and if clients come on-site. Rod Eslinger indicated that no dumping, burning or brush is allowed from off site.

Staff recommends approval of the conditional use permit with the conditions listed in their report and finds that the business is in compliance and is consistent with the standards for conditional use permits. John Bast IV, gave the Board a letter in support of their business from Chippewa Valley Home Builders Association. He indicated that the main building is 1250 sq. ft. on the main floor which will be used for the business and the top floor is also 1250 sp. ft. and is strictly residential. The nursery will be mainly for contractors to purchase materials from them and will occasionally come to pick up materials on-site. The public coming would be by appointment only. They could purchase nursery materials online which would either be delivered to them or picked up on-site.

Theresa Newville, 7380 US Hwy 53, lives across from the business. She is in support of the business. Only concern was the burning of brush and leaves that has happened in the past.

Dave Knecht, 7450 US Hwy 53, lives across the street. He is in support of the business.

Dennis Scheuermann, 7378 US Hwy 53, lives across from the property. Questioned whether the property was in a floodplain. His concern is the dumping of refuse in the ravines that has been done in the past. Rod Eslinger indicated that a portion of the property is in a floodplain.

Admin. Henning indicated that she has received two calls; one from Mr. Scheuermann and one from Shirley Fisher who had no objections.

Supv. Perry indicated that the Town Board made some restrictions and conditions to this business before they would approve it. The Board does share the same concerns regarding land use and pollution control.

Chrm. Peterson closed the public hearing.

Supv. Stacy moved TO APPROVE THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR HOME OCCUPATION TO OPERATE A COTTAGE BUSINESS – LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT BUSINESS AT 7412 BERNHARDT ROAD, EAU CLAIRE. The motion was seconded by Supv. Bauer.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Financial Statement:

November 2011 Financial Statement was reviewed.

Checks:

Supv. Bauer moved TO APPROVE CHECKS #EP1211-2 THROUGH #PR1211-1 TOTALING \$77,237.74. The motion was seconded by Supv. Perry.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Licenses:

Supv. Perry moved TO APPROVE THE GARBAGE HAULERS LICENSE FOR PROVYRO WASTE SERVICES. The motion was seconded by Supv. Stacy.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Appointment of 2012 – 2013 Election Inspectors:

Admin. Henning submitted a list of election inspectors for 2012-2013. Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE THE OFFICIAL LIST AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF 2012-2013 ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON. The motion was seconded by Supv. Stacy.

Aye 5 Nay 0

State Investment Fund Transfer:

Supv. Perry moved to APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM #2 TO ACCOUNT #6696 FOR \$58,500.00 FOR BOOM TRUCK AND PLOW TRUCK #17. The motion was seconded by Supv. Bauer.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Approve a Resolution to Set the Classifications of Fund Balance Due to GASB #54:

Admin. Henning explained the new requirements of fund balance due to GASB #54.

Resolution to set the classifications of fund balance due to GASB #54. Supv. Tomesh moved TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2011-12-15 CLASSIFICATIONS OF FUND BALANCE DUE TO GASB #54. The motion was seconded by Supv. Perry.

Aye 5 Nye 0

Administrators Report:

- Road Department – December 4-8, 2011 we had the plowing of 4 inches of wet snow and flurries following that. Sanding operations were done due to ice pack on the roads. This resulted in us using 400 tons of salt/sand already this season. We have brought in another 590 tons of sand that has been mixed with salt and is ready to use.
- Attended election update with Jackie on December 14, 2011 regarding updates to provisional ballot procedures and absentee voting requirements.
- Tax statements and dog reminder postcards went out in the mail on December 15, 2011.
- T1 line quote was received from Five Star Telecom. This would provide a more reliable, secure internet

for our business. The equipment needed would be an expansion module with a T1 card, a 4 point port router and cabling. The quote is \$1,800.00 for equipment and labor. Also, there would be a monthly service of about \$300.00 per month. Currently we pay around \$55 per month to ClearWire. With the amount of business we conduct online we need a stable and secure internet service.

- 2011 operational budget – we are looking to be under our operational budget for expenditures this year. Revenues are slightly over what we budgeted.
- 4 tickets issued in relation to parking during a snow event.

Chairman’s Report:

- Attended a County Finance and Budget meeting on December 13, 2011, regarding the library contract. A committee of 11 people will be formed to look at the contract beginning in January 2012. It will be comprised of 2 Town Board members, 4 library representatives, 1 representative from a Town with library services and 1 without library services, and 2 County Board members. Not sure yet what the charge will be for the committee. It will be an advisory committee only.
- Received one call from the resident regarding dumping in a ditch.

Supervisor’s Report:

None

Citizen’s Input:

None

Future Zoning Requests:

None

Items for Next Meeting’s Agenda:

None

Adjournment:

Supv. Bauer moved TO ADJOURN. The motion was seconded by Supv. Perry. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Aye 5 Nye 0

THE BOARD’S NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012, AT 5:30 P.M.
AT THE TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5750 OLD TOWN HALL ROAD.

Jackie Vold
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Attendance: John Bast III, John Bast IV, Rod Eslinger, Dennis Scheuermann, Luanne Scheuermann, Theresa Newville, David Knaach.