

Wacouta Township
June 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Following is the written text of the business transacted by the Wacouta Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting held on June 12, 2023. Board members present were: Supervisors John Plehal and George Thoma; Daryl Franklin was absent. Also, Laan Dommer, Clerk/Treasurer was present. The meeting was held at the town hall, 27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota.

- 1) Chair John Plehal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of the May 8, 2023, monthly meeting: Plehal moved to approve the minutes of 5/8/2023; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.
- 3) Sheriff's Department: Deputy D. Stephans was available to answer questions from the Board and residents.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Highway 61 construction update: Plehal reviewed the meeting sponsored by MnDOT that he attended at the library regarding the Highway 61 work that has started (*from Lake City to Hwy 316*). The portion of the project that will affect Wacouta residents will be the closing on Hwy 61 this year from here to Frontenac. Most of the traffic will be routed towards Hwy 5. The entire project is estimated to be a two-year time period but the local work will be this year.
 - b) Great River Railway Commission: Plehal discussed the meeting he attended with this commission that is working to develop and implement faster and more frequent intercity passenger rail service between St. Paul/Twin Cities and Chicago. Thoma moved to accept a resolution for a Wacouta Board representative to join the Great River Rail Commission as a member of their joint powers group; seconded by Plehal. The motion carried. Sue Betcher, Goodhue County Commissioner, also a member of this commission, was available for questions from the Board and residents. Further discussion regarding the crossing at Wildwood Lane crossing was reviewed. Plehal gave additional information, from the meeting he had earlier this May with rail officials & MnDOT, to get the Wacouta Wildwood crossing on the list for improvements and to file necessary documentation.
 - c) Snow Plowing: Plehal stated that there were no bids from the Public Notice for winter plowing next season. The contractor from last year has not reapplied, since there is a change in their business. Options and calls to contractors are being worked on.

Wacouta Township
June 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- d) Trail & sign update: Thoma discussed the results of the road tour earlier this year. He is currently replacing trail signs and road signs are ordered or being ordered.
- e) Prairie restoration status & trail field work: Plehal reviewed the recent and upcoming seasonal work on the field and adjacent tree removal by Grace Trail.

5) New Business

- a) Roads & trail
 - i) Plehal stated that Bruce Holst has been contacted to add aggregate to the shoulders of repaved sections of Wacouta.
- b) Planning & Zoning: No permits were addressed. Thoma answered questions about recent building work within the township
- c) Town Hall & Cemetery
 - i) Sport Court purchase & improvements: Plehal reviewed the recent placement of a tiled sport-court over the deteriorated asphalt of the northwest half of the town hall court. Previous bids to overlay were discussed with the advantages of getting this as an immediate improvement of the area. Thoma moved to purchase the sport-court that was acquired by Laan Dommer, at the purchased price of \$2500.00; seconded by Plehal. The motion carried.
 - ii) Recreational areas: Mention was made of the increased use and play in the town hall area on the ballpark and court, especially after the addition of two soccer nets & lowering of the ballpark grass height, along with the sport-court for basketball, pickleball, & hopscotch, and nets to divide the court.
 - iii) Cemetery survey status: Plehal mentioned that the cemetery survey is still pending. Suggestions were made to get more than one bid for the work.
 - iv) Website development: It was briefly discussed to get an update on how the improvements to the current website are going.
 - v) Township picnic: Thoma has indicated that no volunteers have come forward to help with the township picnic, normally held at the beginning of August. It was suggested to place a note in a newsletter again asking for help. Initial thoughts were to have the picnic, if it occurs, at the town hall; this would be the first in several years, since the pandemic occurred.
 - vi) Road designation for ARPA-SLFRF (*American Rescue Plan Act-State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*): Plehal made a motion to designate the remaining portion of the ARPA-SLFRF funds, \$17,890.21 (*out of the Fahrner Asphalt Sealers June 7, 2023 claim for \$27,005.98*), for the Grace Trail chip seal/fogging project, to satisfy the SLFRF report for 2023; seconded by Plehal. The motion carried.

Wacouta Township
June 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- vii) Leash Law Feedback: Plehal started a discussion about unleashed dogs in the township, based on recent questions by residents. No county or township ordinances are in force regarding the use of leashes for dogs. No action was made other than recommendations to cover the issue in an upcoming township newsletter.
- viii) Considerations for broadband placement in areas of Wacouta: Sue Betcher discussed the possible improvement of the broadband by HBC, in areas of Wacouta along Highway 61 and in the Sevastopol Road area. A consensus was made by the Board to allow initial consideration by HBC and to gather further details before any further decisions by the Board.

6) Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2023

- a) Pay Bills – Amount of 'checks for approval' (*disbursements & payroll*) – \$ 6867.26.

Plehal moved to accept the claims and checks for approval of \$ 6867.26; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.

7) Thoma moved to adjourn; seconded by Plehal. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

8) Next meeting of the Wacouta Board of Supervisors is Monday, July 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM, Wacouta Town Hall, 27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota.

- Submitted by Laan Dommer