

Wacouta Township September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Following is the written text of the business transacted by the Wacouta Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting held on September 11, 2023. Board members present were: Supervisors John Plehal, George Thoma, and Daryl Franklin. Laan Dommer, Clerk/Treasurer was also in attendance. 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 August 14, 2023 minutes: Thoma moved to approve the minutes of 8/14/2023; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried.
- 3) Old Business
 - a) Reorganization motions:
 - i) Great River Commission update: Plehal gave an update on the recent meeting he attended last week. It may be likely that an additional passenger service train may be added in the next six months. Notice will occur before proceeding.
- 4) New Business
 - a) Roads & trail
 - i) Winter snow removal contract: In this last month Plehal engaged Hadler Dozing & Excavating for winter snow maintenance work. Thoma moved to accept Hadler Dozing & Excavating bid for winter snow removal; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried.
 - ii) Friends of Wacouta donation: Plehal briefly reviewed the donation by Friends of Wacouta for the Prairie Restoration weed maintenance. Franklin moved to accept voluntary reimbursement funds from the Friends of Wacouta for 2023 expenses incurred for weed maintenance by Prairie Restoration; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.
 - iii) Mowing & weed control: Plehal discussed the use of several contractors for mowing the roads, ditches, cemetery, & town hall. The feedback of the work has been positive.
Weed control spraying of ditches (*located in part in Sevastopol, along Highway 61, near Wacouta Road, and the east end of Lakeview*) will occur this week. An email will be sent out for public information.
 - b) Planning & Zoning: No permits were discussed.
Thoma has received a shipment of about 20 road signs. He indicated that the placement of these signs will start this week. He is also working on nine trail signs for future replacement.

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- c) Town Hall & Cemetery
 - i) Cemetery survey status: Franklin has been in contact with the surveyors. The hope is that work will start in this next month.
 - ii) Tree removal estimates: Franklin submitted three proposals for the removal of ash trees in the town hall and cemetery, infected with the Emerald Ash Borer, designated for removal. The bids were to include the removal of seven designated trees, stump removal or chipping, soil replacement, and grass seeding. Franklin moved to accept the bid from Acer Forest and Tree, LLC.; seconded by Thoma. After discussion, whether it was indicated to proceed this year or later, the consensus was to proceed as soon as available. Dommer reviewed the discussion Diane Mueller and he had with a DNR specialist who evaluated the trees this last week. The motion carried.
Some questions were asked about replanting of trees to replace the trees removed. This will be evaluated at a later time.
- d) Website improvements: Plehal has contacted Kyle Mehrkens about the progress of the township website: www.wacoutatownship.org. The goal is to use this site for public information regarding meetings, election sites, newsletters, cemetery updates, links for township or county ordinances, minutes (*monthly & annual*), contact information for officials, and more. Contact John Plehal for input regarding the website.

5) Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2023

- a) Pay Bills – Amount of 'checks for approval' (*disbursements & payroll*) – \$ 4,386.45.

Franklin moved to accept the claims and checks for approval of \$ 4,386.45; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.

- 6) Thoma moved to adjourn; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

- 7) The next meeting of the Wacouta Board of Supervisors is Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM, Wacouta Town Hall, 27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota.

- submitted by Laan Dommer