

**TOWN OF NEW DENMARK
2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018 @ 7:00 pm**

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of New Denmark was called to order by Chairman Bill Krueger on April 17, 2018 at 7:10 p.m. The Minutes from the 2017 Annual Town Meeting were reviewed. Motion by Deb Gastrof and seconded by Mike Calewarts to approve. MC

Review of 2017 Financial Report: Sup. Goetsch provides highlights of the 2017 Annual Report. Financials for 2016 incorporated into report as comparison. Tax revenue difference from 2016 was payment of .5% sales tax refund from Brown County and payout of County Bridge Aid. Building permits up in 2016 due to 2 large projects. Expenses similar for 2017. Slight increase in Fire department expense due to installation of dry hydrant at Park Road. Road projects up slightly in 2017 with R. Kane Lane project. Town has a healthy fund balance of \$815,223. Motion by Melissa Trepanier and seconded by Dave Reedy to approve 2017 Financial Report. MC

Updates from Chairman and Town Board: Chairman Krueger states R. Kane Lane project completed in 2017. New guardrails added to Denmark Road. Dry Hydrant installed at Park Road. Worked with John Kropp of land acquisition of property for replacement of Cooperstown and Wanek bridge projects which will commence this year. County Hwy T to be resurfaced from Village of Denmark to Highway 29 this summer. Request that residents be the eyes of the Town and notify the Board of issues or concerns they have.

Any other Issues Authorized by Law:

Mark Hardy of 5303 North Avenue states he has always received fair treatment from past and present assessors in the Town. He would like to make a motion to keep the Town Assessor as an elected official and not an appointed position. Seconded by Jerry Walton. Board opens motion up for discussion.

Karen VandenBusch inquires if position is appointed, could the Assessor be from anywhere? Board states yes, individuals would be selected by their credentials. Mike Calewarts 5650 Park Road states the main reason this was discussed was the Town Assessor is paid \$27,000 and that expense could be cut in half by appointing an assessor. Rick Taicher of 5182 Frontier Road states cheaper is not always better and you get what you pay for. Board states the current Assessor salary was set by the Town's Association and varies from each municipality. Salary can be dependent on number of parcels in the town. Mike Gaworek requests the Assessor's salary be reviewed and set within a comparable range to neighboring towns. New Denmark only has a few new home constructions each year. Ginger Reiner of 5670 Cty Hwy P inquires if anyone asked the current Assessor if he would accept less pay? Sup. Goetsch states any salary adjustments would need to be made this year, and would go into effect for the next term. No further comments. Vote of the electors 40-0 to keep the Town Assessor position elected. MC

Karen VandenBusch Aspen Court states Friends of Neshota are working on the second phase of the playground at the park. Not here asking for donation, but raising a concern that Friends of

Neshota have spent 100s of hours repairing the park trails as they that have been torn up by ATV or UTV vehicles. These vehicles are prohibited from the park but are entering at night and destroying many of the trails.

Rick Taicher inquires when the railroad crossing at Frontier Road will be fixed? Board states the Town's attorney has been in contact with the track supervisor. Only 5 crossing were fixed in 2017, and it is illegal for the Town to make road repairs within so many feet of the track.

Deb Gastrof questions the Town's position on the ATV/UTV ordinance and whether the residents have an option to voice their concerns. Floor open for discussion. Sup. Goetsch states the Board has a copy of the Town of Eaton's ATV/UTV and golf cart ordinance. By adopting an ordinance it opens all town roads up to ATV/UTV vehicles that are registered by the Town. Town would be required to post proper signage, but vehicles would be prohibited from riding on State or County roadways. Karen VandenBusch states she is all for ATV trail riding up north, but would make a motion to prohibit ATV/UTV riding on Town roads as she feels it will open up ditch riding and trespassing on private and park property.

Floor open for discussion. A resident states, legally, vehicles could not make it to Pine Grove to connect to Eaton without taking a County or State road. Sup. Olsen states Kewaunee County townships are not adopting ordinance as Kewaunee County Sheriff will not enforce. Attorney Sickel states Brown County Sheriff's department will enforce if the Town has adopted an ordinance permitting the use. Question what monetary benefit is it to the Town? Al Coogle of North Avenue states he would like the opportunity to hear both sides and likely would support it or participate if he had a ATV or UTV. Matt Warvunek supports the adoption of the ordinance as it provides him an opportunity to ride and visit neighbors and family. By adopting an ordinance the Town could establish time and speed limits when riding is permitted. Town of Eaton permits from 5 a.m. – 11 p.m. Karen VandenBusch states Neshota Park has not had any issues with ATVs in the park until the Town of Eaton adopted the ordinance. There is no trail system in New Denmark, unlike marked snowmobile trails. Chris Sarns of 6106 Langes Corners Road states the individuals that will violate the rules are likely not the individuals in this room. His concern is that by adopting an ordinance it opens up the Town to greater liability and negligence should a rider hit a pothole or guardrail or have an accident because the right of way was not properly maintained. In New Denmark what would be the purpose or the destination, other then tearing up the right of ways? Chris Sarns not in support adopting the ordinance. Dave Schlies states farm UTVs are currently legal and permitted. No further discussion.

Motion was previously made by Karen VandenBusch requesting the Town not adopt an ordinance permitting ATV & UTV vehicles from riding on Town roads in New Denmark. Seconded by Deb Gastrof. 17 in favor of motion / 15 – opposed.

Dave Schlies inquires about road budget and projection of improvement for Old Settlers Road. Francis Rabas makes a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Veterans War Memorial Park in the Village of Denmark. Seconded by Mike Gaworek. MC 40-0; Kathy Janssen of 6333 Rosecrans Road makes a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Denmark Senior Center. Seconded by Gary Taicher. MC 40-0; Motion by Mike Calewarts to donate \$500 to the Denmark Youth Baseball Softball program, seconded by Francis Rabas. MC 40-0.

Supervisor Olsen states the Town is reviewing street light usage in New Denmark as the Town of Franklin is discontinuing some unneeded street lights to cut costs. New Denmark currently has 20 street lamps, with a few located in the Village of Denmark. Resident raises concern about intersection safety and keeping them well-lit.

Designate Annual Town Meeting for 2019:

Motion by Karen VandenBusch and seconded by Rick Taicher to designate the third Tuesday in April, 2019 for the next Annual Town Meeting of the Electors. MC 40-0.

Motion by Mike Calewarts and seconded by Tom Reedy to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. MC

Minutes Prepared by: Michelle Wallerius, Clerk

Approved: DRAFT -