

Approved 10/14/2019

MEETING MINUTES

Little Suamico Town Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
Little Suamico Town Hall, 5964 County Road S, WI 54171
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019-6:00 P.M.

www.townoflittlesuamico.com

Board Members Present: Elmer Ragen, David E. Pribyl, Douglas Allen and Nikki Tolzman-Clerk/Treasurer

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: 34 persons

CALL MEETING TO ORDER-The opening meeting statement was read and the Town Board of Supervisors special meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Town Chairman Elmer Ragen at the Town Hall. The meeting agenda notice was properly posted.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Change of Sequence-None
- Removal of Items- None

Allen motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Pribyl. Motion carried, voice vote.

Business #1: Discuss ATV/UTV usage on Town Roads-Action May Be Taken-Ragen explained the process of the meeting which includes a 3-minute rule set except for a spokesperson from each, the Oconto Area ATV Club, party in opposition and the Oconto County Sheriff's Dept.

- Oconto Area ATV Club Treasurer and Spokesperson, Ron Rauscher-The club's objective is to eventually connect with the Nicolet State Trail. They have 3 miles remaining. Discussion took place regarding the size of this town in comparison to others and the high volume of traffic and the ATV club process to educate riders on the rules. The Board informed Mr. Rauscher at the previous meeting the club was asked to submit a new map with the specific requested routes and a letter of memorandum. Neither have been received to date.
- 3-minute: Eric Bastian, Club Member-Details regarding routes to get to Chase and Green Valley were mentioned. Certain roads such as S. Chase with too much traffic and Geano Beach Rd has high accident volume. He would like to see Frontage Roads to the bay open.
- Vicky Storzer, Spokesperson in Opposition-Does not want ATV/UTV's on the road. They are not made for the road; not legal, not safe. Does not mind if they cross the road like a snowmobile does. Concerned as a driver on the road, high speeds and visibility concerns. Does not want the opening of all town roads and does not want to see them on the roads.
- 3-minute: Ray Palonen, Opposition-He would like to encourage the Town Board to not allow ATV/UTV's on the highway system. The machines are not designed for the highway system. They are regulated by the DNR guidelines and regulations, thus rules of the road do not apply as they would with a licensed vehicle/driver, such as an OWI. They are not required to carry insurance; who pays for the cost of the accident? They are loud, not safe, not designed for the roadway, there are unexpected speeds and kids as young as 12 years old can operate them. They are an all-terrain vehicle, because they are designed for all terrain off-road use. Palonen encourages the Board not to approve ATV/UTV usage on the town road system. Possibly would consider short connections that are on system trails, not road routes.
- Spokesperson Oconto County Sheriff Todd Skarban-The Sheriff department errors on the side of public safety and will enforce the town ordinances that are set. He shared his experience regarding municipalities up north and their process used to open roads. Accident data reports are available with county wide numbers. He does not feel ATV/UTV's should be on the roads at night as they have inappropriate illumination to ongoing traffic. Some cons are the travel speeds, open intoxicants and OWI's. It is the 10% of the world that will cause 90% of

the problems. Ordinances can require ATV/UTV owners to obtain insurance. As trail expansion goes up, the resources to patrol are not. The Sheriff's department has an open-door policy. Stop in anytime.

- Deputy Joe LeBreck, Town Representation-Officer LeBreck hears both sides of it and can speak of fact. Chase is open, nothing on the other side of Hwy 32 and Shawano that touches Chase is open as of today. Morgan is not open today. In speaking to the DNR, they love the additional revenue, but are not giving any more wardens to enforce. One recreation safety officer that is assigned to 8 counties. There is frustration at the Sheriff's office with crazy ordinances that are hard to understand. All enforcers need consistency with ordinances. In review of the map that was submitted, all roads are highlighted for use from the ATV club, LeBreck feels this is not a road route. Concerns are Cty S and Geano Bach due to high volume of accidents. Railroad tracks add an extra element to this road. S Chase Rd is a huge concern due to the high speeds traveled. Worried about random road routes in town, Cty S through Sobieksi and Cty J and S in Little Suamico. He would like to focus on more criminal activity and less traffic violations. If the roads are open, he would like something clear and concise. He feels the ATV club needs to step it up with educating the riders/members. He likes the idea of regulating the nighttime traffic.
- 3-minute: Michael Trudell-Neither opposed or for it. Need rules and regulations and should be uniform in order to enforce it. He referred to the Town of Spruce ordinance. Concerned with foggy days, vehicle speeds, consistent speeds within municipalities, hours of service noise, ATV/UTV signals and insurance
- 3-minute: Dave Dreshcek-President of the Oconto Area ATV club-Clarified some of inconsistencies with townships and ordinances, signage and what you are taught when you get a driver license and the laws that go with that. Regarding the high speeds traveled in cars...Do not take away the option of someone enjoying the outdoors on an ATV/UTV because someone in a vehicle is breaking the law? The club is asking for a regulated route, not a trail system, this is not a racetrack, something people use to get from one point to another to be able to enjoy the community. We are looking for safe avenues to be used by the couple of dozen per day that will use these routes. Give us the opportunity to excel at this.

Following the pros and cons from the people, board discussion took place, including:

- Letter of memorandum, exclusive route map and line of credit from the ATV club as requested previously from the ATV Club to review together in the future
- Options to hear from the residents include talking to those on the requested roads or electoral advisory vote at the spring election
- Letter of memorandum to include signs purchased by the club, sign placement labor paid by the club, the Town places them
- Studded tires
- Line of Credit
- Club insurance
- ATV/UTV DNR registration
- Ordinances
- Annual meeting advisory vote

The Town Board needs a letter of memorandum, exclusive route map and line of credit from the ATV Club to review. Ragen and Allen both expressed they have heard more against opening the roads than they have for it. Pribyl motioned to put an advisory vote on the election, seconded by Allen. Motion carried, voice vote.

Business #2: Adjournment- Chairman Ragen adjourned the meeting at 7:09PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nikki Tolzman
Clerk/Treasurer