

## OTTAWA TOWN BOARD

### Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2015

Chairman Arrowood called the meeting of the Ottawa Town Board to order. Roll call attendance was taken, and Town Supervisors Goodchild, Casper, Rupp and Jones were all present.

Dousman Fire District's Chief Steve Totzke was present. He reported that they had a total of 1,445 calls for 2014. They had responded to 126 calls in January of this year.

Chief Totzke informed the Board that he resigned his position as Fire Chief, effective February 20, 2015. He is going back to the job he left four years ago to become Fire Chief. He will have more time to spend with his family. He said that he will stay on the department as an EMT/Paramedic.

Chairman Arrowood commented on what Chief Totzke had accomplished during his four-year tenure, and thanked him for it. Chief Totzke thanked the Town Board for being very supportive.

Supervisor Goodchild made a motion to approve an Amendment to the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Creation of the Dousman Fire District. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rupp and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Casper made a motion to accept the Treasurer's monthly activity report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rupp and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Building Inspector's monthly activity report as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Casper and carried unanimously.

After review, Chairman Arrowood accepted the Town Engineer's report as submitted.

Supervisor Jones had requested that we add an item to the agenda, so that the Board could reconsider the Town ordinance regarding the use of rifles in the Town of Ottawa. He started out by saying that his neighbor told him that another neighbor had gotten a citation from the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department for using a rifle on his property. He went on to say that the Town of Ottawa's ordinance regarding the use of rifles conflicts with the DNR, as they are supportive of the use of rifles. Additionally, the Town of Ottawa has no enforcement arm.

Chairman Arrowood said that the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department said that they would enforce our ordinances if they have copies of them. He added that it is our understanding that they do enforce our ordinances.

Richard Reed, Conservation Warden Supervisor, and Kevin Mickelberry, Regional Warden, were present as representatives of the DNR. Mr. Reed said that shotguns are more dangerous than rifles. They currently encourage the use of rifles. In 2013, they opened up rifle use for the entire State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Reed said that there is no consistency with the ordinances that are out there regarding the use of rifles in different municipalities. There is a lot of variation.

He did not think that a Waukesha County Sheriff's Department Deputy would be willing to walk into the woods, wearing a brown uniform, to enforce ordinances.

Supervisor Goodchild said that people will start to target practice in their back yards without even thinking about it. He added that in 2012 or 2013, there was a hunting accident and a shotgun slug was left in the wall at the Foltz's residence off of CTH Z. A lot of residents showed up at the Town Board meeting, wanting to abolish hunting in the Town of Ottawa. That didn't fly. Supervisor Goodchild doesn't want to take too big of a step and bring people back in wanting to abolish hunting again.

The questions that have to be asked are:

1. Is our ordinance enforceable?
2. Is our ordinance consistent?
3. Should we have an ordinance that opposes what the DNR says?

Supervisor Goodchild said that we have the legal right to create an ordinance. It comes down to whether or not we believe that a rifle is safer than a shotgun.

There were several resident hunters in the audience.

Charlie Eddy was present, and gave the Board information on the effective range of a shotgun slug.

John Morrison was also present, and said that with the new technology, slugs can travel as far as bullets.

John Riehle was present, and said that he works outside year round at the tree farm, and hears a lot of rifle shots.

Greg Borchardt was present, and said that he hears lots of practice shooting and coyote hunting. He added that a rifle scope helps the shooter to be more accurate.

Mike Tompkins was present, and said that he is a deer hunter. He would be comfortable with rifle use where he lives. So much depends on the person with the gun.

Mark Neumann asked how many shots are fired by a hunter using a rifle, and a hunter using a shotgun. He thought that the rifle hunter probably fires fewer shots.

Supervisor Goodchild said that if our ordinance is amended to allow rifles in Town, target practice with rifles will increase.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to rescind rifle prohibition by deleting 9.01 (5) of the Town's General Code, which states: " Rifle Prohibition. No person shall discharge or cause the discharge of any rifle larger than .22 caliber rim fire within the territorial limits of the Town".

Supervisor Casper suggested that this just targets rifles. It is inconsistent. It is hard to enforce. What about muzzle loaders and hand guns?

Supervisor Goodchild said that he had also heard from resident non-hunters with concerns.

Supervisor Casper seconded the motion. Supervisors Casper, Jones and Rupp were in favor of the motion. Supervisor Goodchild and Chairman Arrowood voted against it. The motion carried and the ordinance will be amended.

Chairman Arrowood announced that representatives from the Badger Kart Club attended the Plan Commission meeting on February 2, 2015. They presented a plaque to the Town of Ottawa and Board of Directors that said that they were appreciative for continued actions that added greatly to a successful season.

Chairman Arrowood recommended that the Town Board appoint Brian McKeown as a representative of the Town of Ottawa on the Dousman Fire Commission. Brian would replace Dave Connell. He said that Bill Riemenschneider and Mike Tompkins are representative of the Town of Ottawa on the Dousman Fire Board. Chairman Arrowood explained that the Fire Commission only meets in certain situations. They oversee personnel issues, etc. They will need to go through the process of finding another Fire Chief to replace Steve Totzke.

Chairman Arrowood said that when putting together the 2015 budget for the fire district, a high number of calls was used for the Town of Ottawa's funding formula because of the 49 false alarm calls that were received from Lad Lake. There will be a large discrepancy next year when the number of calls is corrected. He is guessing that the Town of Ottawa had to pay an additional \$8,700 dollars this year because of it.

Supervisor Goodchild made a motion to appoint Brian McKeown to the Dousman Fire Commission. Supervisor Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Under correspondence, Chairman Arrowood said that the Plan Commission and Town Board would meet after the Plan Commission meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015, so that Sandy Scherer and Jason Fruth from the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use can give a presentation on Farmland Preservation.

There were no announcements or public comments.

Supervisor Goodchild made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 12, 2014, as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rupp and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Rupp made a motion to pay the bills as listed, in addition to checks that will be issued later in the month for Lori Geyman and Melissa Klein's payroll and associated withholding checks, poll workers, John's Disposal, We Energies and Cardmember Services when the invoices arrive. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Goodchild and carried.

Supervisor Casper made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa M. Klein, WCMC, Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Ottawa