

Town of Sand Lake
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 16th, 2024
6:00 p.m.

- Call to Order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairwoman Melanie Connor Johnson.
- Roll Call of Officers – All present.
- Public Notice – Public Notice was made on 03/19/2024.
- Approval of Agenda Order – Motion to approve the agenda order by Supervisor Karolyn Kroll, second by Supervisor Ken Pardun. All in favor, motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting – Motion to approve by Kroll, second by Pardun. All in favor, motion carried.
- Chair Report – Welcome & General Comments – “We were seated last spring, welcome Maggie, Clerk & Crystal Treasurer. Thank you, Peggy, for staying on in the transition as deputy clerk to oversee the elections. We made some housekeeping improvements, new town emails and designated roads & services supervisors. Ken & Karolyn respectively. We inherited some open records requests filed against previous board members, and incurred some legal fees as we answered and cleared those requests. The clerks and treasurer worked on moving from a desktop accounting system to an online accounting system that is more robust, easier to use platform that provides multi-user access for checks and balances as well as access recovery. We worked with Clifton Larson CPA to complete an agency wide 2022 audit, thanks again to Peggy, Maggie and Crystal for helping with financial document collection. The Planning commission completed the updated 2023 comprehensive plan and the board adopted it in July. Interim zoning expired in August. We held a public hearing regarding adoption of a campground ordinance in August. Ultimately that ordinance was delayed in legal review, pending some challenges to similar ordinances in neighboring townships. The question of adopting comprehensive land use zoning is scheduled to be presented as a ballot referendum question at the August election. We are seeing a increase in passive income ventures that will impact our Town going forward. We got notice of a cell phone tower project proposed on the Lipke Property and discussed that project as an agenda item for 4 months last fall, eventually summarizing our position in a letter of expectations as we can neither approve nor deny cell phone tower construction. A proposal for a solar farm has been presented for deployment in 2024. Our town hall repair initiative was tabled once it was discovered by Mr. Thompson that the paint contains lead. This changed the direction of repairs as contractors were not willing to take on repainting with the lead remediation requirement. This topic is on the agenda coming up. We launched a new website, and a social media Facebook page in order to expand communications. Our township underwent a property reassessment and open book and board of review was held later, last fall. Ken & Brad completed the road survey, we identified 2024 Road Projects and published RFPs for the work scheduled for Olson and Sand Lake Road in 2024. Work began on long-term road plan update for later in this meeting. The budget was completed in October and approved in November. Wisconsin shared revenues increased from \$4k to \$47k all of that increase was allocated to road improvements. Further road discussion is coming later in this agenda. Sand Lake joined the Burnett County Short Term Rental Tax Coalition and adopted their ordinance of adding a 8% tax to short term VRBO rentals in Sand Lake, to be collected by the Burnett County Tourism Committee, 25% of the tax will be paid to the town as revenue. This tax will take effect Quarter 2 of 2024, Sand Lake has 13 Short term rentals in operation. This is a pilot program, and it will be interesting to see how the program works now that it is live. I was working with the Road Crew, the DOT and St. Croix Tribal Roads

Department looking for a solution for Emerson Road/Emerson Bridge. Ultimately those partnerships were dead ends. I submitted an ARIP Grant application, but I don't believe we are a great candidate for that program. However, it was submitted for consideration as a project and to show need, which will hopefully increase the state to allocate more funding to NW Wisconsin. Next year Sand Lake will be eligible for the LRIP Grant, Ken and Brad will identify a viable project for that funding award. Overall, I think the Town is in good shape, we have a solid foundation, our finances administrative practices are in good order. Our Deputy Clerk and Election Team will be busy this big election year. I encourage everyone to stay connected with the Town, through the website, email notification or Facebook, vote and have a great year."

- Treasurer Report – General Fund Account Balance as of 03/31/2024 was \$189,498.85. Equipment Fund Balance as of 03/31/2024 was \$15,967.21. Summary of 2023 Tax Collection Completed by Municipal Treasurer was \$1,374,101.97. Total Property Tax Receipted was \$850,580.22 or 62%. Settlements were Siren School \$100,054.64, Webster School \$292,087.12, Northwoods Tech \$25,447.95, Burnett County \$287,245.85, and Town of Sand Lake \$142,322.66 or 17%.
- Annual Financial Report – Clerk – Copies of the 2024 Budget available, noted the increase in Shared Revenue that was moved in Roads for 2024. New accounting system to streamline reports, new email with .gov, new laptop with backups. Thank you to Peggy Tolbert for taking on Deputy Clerk position and overseeing elections.
- Matters for Discussion and Possible Action
 1. Report of Liquor License Fees for 2024
 - Liquor (\$250)
 - Beer (\$75)
 - Operator (\$5)
 - Cigarette Vendor (\$5)

Welcome to the new bar, The Junkyard. No current cigarette vendors. Operator licenses now only need to be pulled one time in the county vs in each township if bartender works in multiple bars. Operator licenses do have to originate through licensed vendor, though. Motion by Peggy Tolbert to keep license fees the same, second by Ed Weber. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Give Town Board permission to borrow up to \$20,000.00 without elector approval in case of emergencies.

Motion by Ed Weber, second by Dave Deal. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Public Notices – Posting Requirements

- Removal of newspaper requirement, designation of physical locations & website

Maggie Olson discusses costs associated with newspaper postings for regular town board meetings. It is no longer required. Motion to remove newspaper posting requirements for regular meetings, will continue to post newspaper notices when required by statute, by Brad Huser, second by Richard Shutt. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Set Gopher Bounty – Motion by Susan Shutt to keep the bounty the same at \$5 per tail, second by Ed Weber. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Future of the Town Hall – Four options for the Town. 1) Make minimal/critical improvements to existing building Dongola School 2) Complete Remodel of Dongola School to bring it to code compliance 3) Town Hall expansion on existing roads facility or 4) Rent Space for Town Meetings and Voting. Electors present do not wish to explore option 1 or 2 due to costs. A majority of electors would like option 3 researched for costs. Some electors would like option 4 researched but would prefer to rent a space in the township. There is a fifth option of starting another fund, similar to equipment fund, and moving money into it annually, but likely should have started years ago. Elector asks if the Tribe has a space to rent? Supervisors Pardun and Kroll will collect information on capital projects with options 3 and 4. Treasurer Crystal Moser informs audience a levy could be funded and then invested until project is started, could collect interest at just under 6%.
 6. Discuss Road Improvements and Potential Levy Increase – Chairwoman presents 10-year road plan and data on accidents reported in the Township. Zero fatalities within the township, also zero accidents reported due to road conditions in the previous 20 years.
- Elector Comments – Jason Gobel at 26508 Mattson Road requests additional help with their road. Can the township cut down the hill more? Per Roads Supervisor, there is nothing to be done aside from snow fence in the field adjacent to the road. He states he plows it and is thankful a neighbor allows for snow to be pushed into their property. Resident states his wife does daycare and families are unable to get to their house in the winter. Supervisor Kroll says they can provide the road extra attention in the winter. Supervisor Pardun says they can add a Dead End road sign again.
 - 2025 Annual Meeting, Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 (third Tuesday)
 - Adjournment at 6:59 p.m. by Brad Huser, second by Ed Weber. All in favor, motion carried.