

**TOWN OF KOSHKONONG**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 12, 2023**

Present:

Chairperson Kim Cheney

Supervisors George Jaeckel, Jim Brandenburg, Erik Hoffman, Matt Hill

Clerk Caitlin Kincannon

Treasurer Alicia Grulke

This meeting was broadcast and recorded by ZOOM, there were no attendees.

Chairperson Kim Cheney called the meeting of the Town Board of Koshkonong to order at 7:00 PM. The Clerk verified the proper postings had been made.

**Public comment**

- Paul Foltz, N1144 Old 26, regarding agenda item #6

Mr. Foltz inquired about the gate that the Board discussed last month. The Board advised the gate will be on Mr. Steiner's property, not the Town's property.

- Melanie Dunkleberger, N1394 Schwemmer Ln, regarding agenda item #7

The Board agreed to let Mrs. Dunkleberger ask the presenter, Peter Murphy of One Energy, questions when discussing the request for the conditional use permit for the solar generation facility on the property that neighbors her own.

**Approve meeting minutes from June 14**

Supervisor Hill asked the clerk to amend the minutes from the Town Board June 14, 2023, meeting, specifically to item #7 regarding the amendment to the ATV ordinance, to provide clarification that the Board supports public roads being accessible to any legal person that has the right to use the roads without exception. The Clerk will make this update.

Supervisor Hill motioned to approve the meeting minutes with this amendment. Motion seconded by Supervisor Hoffman. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**June Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer presented the June report. Supervisor Brandenburg motioned to place the June Treasurer's report on file. Motion seconded by Supervisor Hill. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Discuss/Motion sign permit request for John Steiner at N1138 Old 26 Rd**

Mr. Steiner not present, however he did send an email with a picture of the sign, which is proposed as 4ft. x 6ft., not illuminated or reflective. Email provided to Board. Sign location was discussed.

Supervisor Hill motioned to approve the requested sign, motion seconded by Supervisor Hoffman. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Discuss/Motion request for a conditional use permit to allow for a solar generation facility on parcels 016-0514-2022-001 & 016-0514-1911-000 on Old 26 Rd**

Peter Murphy and Beth Esser, from One Energy Renewables, present. One Energy Renewables is an independent renewable energy developer. Mr. Murphy gave a presentation, advised solar benefits and discussed the proposed solar panel site. Property owner of proposed site present. Solar panel material example was presented and discussed. The project would produce enough energy for approximately 1300 households. Dan & Melanie Dunkleberger, the proposed property's neighbors, present, and had concerns and questions relating to effects on property value and their property view. Mr. Murphy addressed these concerns and answered questions, and also explained that if the project is not renewed after 30 years, the land is restored for agricultural conditions. Some feel the Town should remain a rural community, and that a solar panel site would compromise that. It was suggested the energy company observe the views from the adjacent property. Ms. Esser advised they are open to working with the neighbors. A vegetative screening was discussed to address the view concern, with a possible provisional agreement.

Dunklebergers advised that if they were still not satisfied, they would have the opportunity to go before the county board when the request goes to the county.

Supervisor Hill motioned that the Town recommend approval of the application for conditional use, with a provision that One Energy Renewables & the Dunklebergers come to a mutual agreement for an acceptable vegetative screening. Motioned seconded by Supervisor Jaeckel. No further discussion. Supervisors Brandenburg and Hoffman not in favor. Chairperson Cheney voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Discuss/Motion ATV ordinance amendment**

Board considering amending the current ATV ordinance to remove some restricted roads. Chairperson Cheney advised that a request was received from a resident about the end section of Blackhawk Bluff Road; they asked if we open the road up for ATV use that we exclude that end section. There are 16 residents there, 8 of them voted in the advisory poll: 2 yes votes, 6 no votes. Supervisor Hoffman advised the Board cannot cater to individual needs. Verbiage of the ordinance was discussed. Resident Brian Hespard, present, believes Milton township will allow ATV use in the future, which would allow ATVs in and out of the Bingham's Point area. Hackbarth Road, and Koshkonong ownership and City of Fort Atkinson ownership parts were discussed.

Supervisor Hoffman motioned that we open up all township roads to ATV/UTV use and to strike the wording of nearest access or immediate path in and out from the ordinance, and remove the 1-year sunset clause. Motion seconded by Supervisor Jaeckel. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Discuss only golf cart use on *some* Town roads**

Board discussed legality and roads that are limited to usage based on speed limit, stating not all Town roads can be open for golf carts. Also discussed details on golf carts that are street legal, and the enforcement thereof. Chairperson Cheney acknowledged that constituents have requested golf cart usage on Town roads. An ordinance may be required for this. Cheney suggested the Board continues the discussion at next month's meeting, and she will contact Whitewater who currently has an ordinance.

**Discuss only potential group health insurance for full-time employees**

The Clerk presented a United Healthcare plan, explained the details and premiums. Supervisor Hoffman suggested township put aside \$3,000 for the max out of pocket in case it was ever needed for the employees, in addition to a percentage coverage of the premium. Supervisor Brandenburg discussed current employee contracts, which don't include supplemental health insurance. The current HSA contributions for employees was discussed. Supervisor Jaeckel had reached out to Ixonia, advised they cover 88% of covered employees health insurance, and feels that would entice employees. Supervisor Hoffman suggested 75%. The budget for remainder of year was discussed, and if we have the funds. The topic is tabled to next month to make a motion at a 75:25 split.

**Amend 2023 fee schedule to include an after-the-fact fee**

Board discussed an example of an after-the-fact fee. Supervisor Hill suggested it be double the original permit fee.

Supervisor Hill motioned to amend the fee schedule to include an after-the-fact fee twice the cost of the fee of the original permit. Motion seconded by Supervisor Hoffman. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Works Report**

- Two new employees started on June 27, 2023. They are doing well so far. Public Works employees re-did the shop driveways for necessity and education & equipment learning. They also did some signs and trees. Eaan Carson is proceeding with obtaining his CDL.
- Dan Butz was advised that the chipper repairs were warranted due to past installation error, not done by current staff, and the parts have come in
- Bills will be coming for the 2013 truck
- Discussed the shop addition; the concrete floor is still not right
  - Board discussed possibility to rip it up, or ask for discount
- State had asked us to pull all the signs off Highway 12, they have started putting them back up. Highway 12 mailboxes have been moved.

**Approve Bills**

The Clerk explained the total amount from the June bills report had been amended. Supervisor Hoffman motioned to approve the amended amount of the June bills, motion seconded by Supervisor Jaeckel. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

The Clerk explained the amounts for some items on the July bills report. The Board discussed the bill for Abendroth, Dan Butz advised that unit was paid for. The Clerk will look into this and remove the bill from the July report. Supervisor Jaeckel motioned to approve the July bills for the amount of \$42,581.63, motioned seconded by Supervisor Hoffman. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Clerk's Report**

- License renewals were issued at the end of June. We issued the following:
  - 7 liquor licenses, 3 tobacco licenses, 4 campground licenses
  - 1 mobile home license renewal is currently pending
    - Supervisor Brandenburg would like to see the mobile home park cleaned up. The Clerk will send a letter on this when following up on the license.
- For the 2023-24 winter season, the salt price increased from \$82.18 to \$89.58, a \$7.40 increase
- We were awarded a subgrant for absentee ballots, after the WEC changed them and our current stockpile can no longer be used. The subgrant is to order the new envelopes. Subgrant amount was \$386.59.
- We received a check from Bradley & Ellen Didion for \$325 for a new park sign. Walt Christensen let the Clerk know the sign was \$70, advised Koshkonong will keep the funds and earmark them for future sign repairs. This fund is earmarked on the Treasurer's report.
- We received the bill from John Deere for the tractor, however we have not received the equipment yet. Our account has been put on hold until the equipment is received.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Golf carts
- Employee health insurance

**Public comment**

None.

**Board Member announcements**

- Supervisor Hill is taking over the keys to the park restroom
- Supervisor Brandenburg announced Governor Evers vetoed increasing transportation aid. Chairperson Cheney added that shared revenue will be increasing.

**Adjournment**

Supervisor Hoffman motioned to adjourn at 9:52 PM, motioned seconded by Supervisor Jaeckel. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted**

**Caitlin Kincannon**

**Clerk**

7/31/2023