

TOWN OF ARCADIA

Trempealeau County



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Minutes of the third Intergovernmental Meeting Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

The Intergovernmental meeting was called to order by Wade Britzius (County Board Representative) at 6:00 p.m. An introduction was offered where Britzius stated that these meetings were sparked by County meetings, with the hope of forming cooperation and collaborations of local government bodies. He stated that “we are in this together”. The agenda was going to focus on schools, but due to a large amount of superintendents not being available the agenda was changed to discuss highways. This meeting is an opportunity for the public to have input. Britzius stated that we need to hear each other, listen to what each other is saying, and it would be great if we could form some type of intergovernmental agreements.

Dave Lyga (County Highway Commissioner):

Lyga began his statements by commenting on what has happened to the roads since annexations. We are facing an aggressive industrial expansion which leads to both positive and negative impacts. There has been a large increase in truck traffic which leads to deteriorating roads. Trying to keep up with road repair has led to a \$40 million deficit. At this point priorities are in order to determine what roads need to be repaired first. Due to these issues, the County Highway Committee adopted a Heavy Hauling Policy. They committee gathers information from the company that wants to build a facility...how many tons will be hauled, length of time, etc. The next step is to create a TIA (Traffic Impact Analysis) where engineers are involved. If companies annex to the City, the County has no say regarding traffic impact. Part of the TIA is that the County expects businesses to pay for damages to roads. Lyga’s concern is that it seems that once a business is up and running they aren’t as concerned with the County requirements as they were in the beginning. We need to have more collaboration and communication between the neighboring Townships and Cities as the deterioration of the roads affects everyone.

Remarks from audience:

**Karen Geske asked about the Hi-Crush million dollar bond. Hi-Crush was allowed to use the roads before the bans were lifted, which caused a great deal of deterioration. She was concerned that the bond money was already consumed. Dave Lyga responded to her concern by saying that there was still money left. In his discussion with Hi-Crush the bond is non-terminating, but the City would like additional funds due to extensive costs of road repair.

**Mayor John Kimmel then spoke stating that the city bears 100% of costs (roads, sewer, etc). Lyga stated that the County is paying \$85,000 a year for County J. Lyga also stated that the County never places a road ban in the city limits. Kimmel also commented that 24 cents of each tax dollar goes to the County. There are many costs for the cities that are not shared by other governmental bodies (Townships, etc). We need cooperation.

**John Jasin asked if the County has weight scales. Dave Lyga answered that they do not, but County can hold someone if they feel their load is overweight. Jasin commented that the County could make use of portable scales.

**Todd Fetsch had a question regarding truck weights. Lyga commented that there are different weights for the different trucks (axles). He commented that one tri-axle truck at 66,000 pounds has the same impact as 6000 cars. .

**Fred Boe – push burden of road expense on to non-traditional business, not to put burden on another municipality.

**John Kimmel – there are many trucks coming through that are paying gas tax to help with the road expense.

Dave Lyga stated that the GTA (General Transportation Aid) from the state is divided up. County receives \$700,000 to help maintain roads, but that is definitely not enough. State also says that gas tax money will not be enough to help road damage.

Predictability and Planning – “Overlay District”: The Wisconsin Township Chairman, Steve Hogden, spoke in regards to this subject. As part of the Caledonia Township he shared that they were part of the comprehensive land use planning. They were concerned that their tax base of agricultural land was disappearing. The township developed an overlay district to limit the spread of sand/gravel extraction; created a mining district as the community wanted to protect their livelihood.

Kevin Lien – Planning is the key, what makes sense for the long term? Farmland Preservation will be worked on throughout the year. County maps are available through the Trempealeau County website. There are new features that capture the elevations; amazing tool for road projects.

Brutzius stated that people feel frustrated when they feel that they don't have control over what is happening, or what will happen in the future. Is there possibility of creating boundary agreements? Per Kimmel “no annexation means no growth”. He feels that townships have not contributed to city costs. Townships benefit from the City. The city would be willing to work on agreements, but also would like to see a sharing of costs. Question as to what the City wants from the Townships? Kimmel stated that costs for levy work, etc. falls on the taxpayers of the city. Discussion continued with differing viewpoints on annexation. Comment was made that cities need to think about adopting County rules and ordinances so mines face the same regulations no matter if they are annexed or not. Britzius summed it up by saying that we need consideration of all people.

In general statements were made regarding that fact that we have had industries in the County for a long time, but what is concerning is the magnitude of the size. Discussion ensued on what can we do to make things better? Is there a way to change the permit process? Per Kevin Lien as long as a company stays in compliance their permit remains in place permanently. Another question was asked about the amount of permitted mines in WI (132) and how many are in the County (32).

The last segment of the meeting addressed annexation statutes; Tim Zieglin presented. He pointed out some facts to the audience...1) only Townships can request a review during an annexation, but they must pay for the review (\$4350 fee). If the review is found “unfavorable” the Township can then challenge an annexation. The areas that are reviewed are whether or not the annexation is contiguous, public interest, homogeneity (is the annexation for something that is already there), is the annexation only for necessary acreage? In closing, Zieglin spoke about “balloon on a string” annexation. Adverse effects of this type of annexation are people have no voice, nearby residents locked out of permitting process, Township loses land and tax base, undercutting of zoning process, and the impossibility of extending municipal services. A few questions followed the presentation, with some final comments by Britzius.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Rohn
Town of Arcadia Clerk/Treasurer