

**VILLAGE OF TURTLE LAKE
PLANNING COMMISSION & SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 15th, 2011**

Call to Order: Village President and Commission Chair Laurie Tarman called to order the meeting of the Turtle Lake Planning Commission and Special Board meeting of Village Trustees at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 15th, 2011.

Roll Call: Those present were as follows: Laurie Tarman, Andy Koenig, Carl Kleinschmidt, Dennis Becker, Sue Friday, Turner Reaney, and Cory Davis. Absent: None. Others present: Clerk Danielle Maxwell-Parker, Police Chief Al Gabe; Ruth Morton, Ken Mandley, and Bill Itzin - Village Trustees; Jim Koenig, Jeff Emerson, and Tom Beekman of WI Department of Transportation; Tom Ludy - GreenWhey Energy, Inc.; Glenn Wright - Town of Beaver Chairman; Jill Strasser - Town of Beaver resident; Jim Gores – Town of Clinton Chairman; Ken Scheps - Town of Almena Chairman; Ronald King, Harland Becker, Jerry Emmert, Pat Wick - Town of Almena residents; Todd Beaver, Gordy Krecker; Mike Karuschag - Amery Hospital; Emil Norby and Steve Warndahl – Polk County Hwy. Department; Pat McCready - Village of Turtle Lake resident; Dave Slack – Halco Press.

Review of Agenda: It was moved by Becker and seconded by Reaney to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote: Yeas – all present. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Presentation of US Hwy. 8 & 63 Bypass Alternatives by WisDOT – Jim Koenig of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation reviewed the detail maps of all the alternative routes and cross section of freeway with concrete barriers and possible 10' – 15' noise barrier. He described how new routes would drive traffic to local streets to maneuver any through town option and to reach the Norway Street overpass. There was brief discussion of how a through town freeway limits access to business and limited visible access due to possible noise barrier. Three Through Town alternatives were presented and described how travelers would need to decide at the interchanges to access local roads. Koenig entertained questions and comments from the Commission and Board. It was asked if there is a possibility of changes to the proposed alternatives. Jim Koenig, Jeff Emerson, and Tom Beekman of WisDOT shared in responding to questions. It was stated that the Department of Transportation has certain design specification which are fixed and do not allow for changes due to engineering and safety standards. It was also asked of when the cost of the project affects the decision; Koenig explained that the cost does affect the decision some but not entirely as all impacts are taken into consideration. He continued to describe that the Hwy. 8 Project is a forty-two (42) mile corridor of which cost is one of other factors taken into consideration. It was noted that the Through Town Alternative estimates does not include a noise barrier. WisDOT was asked if the Department has selected a preferred route; Koenig responded that the Northern Bypass is a leading candidate from the April Public Information meeting. Emerson stated that Hwy. 63 has now been equalized in the bypass goals; the Department is looking for strong, unified support of one alternative and all routes now meet the needs of WisDOT.

There were questions of impacts to businesses with the Through Town alternative; there was discussion of which businesses are already using WisDOT right-of-way versus WisDOT acquiring land. Beekman explained that sections exists which have yet to be addressed with at-grade intersections. It was asked if WisDOT has met with the Tribe separately; Koenig replied, no. He described how the Tribe has two functions in Wisconsin, as operators of casinos and as a government. Director Cory Davis suggested that Towns hold meetings at their respective town halls to address concerns of town residents.

WisDOT clarified that Federal and State law require the Department to define the terms “purpose and need” in order to conduct the study of such a project. They continued that legislature directed WisDOT to conduct a study and design to create a four (4) lane freeway of Hwy. 8 within the 42 mile corridor. WisDOT is constrained to set standards which dictate the design. This project requires legislative funding and the decisions that are necessary now are to close the directive from nine (9) years ago. Once complete, the legislature may approve and fund the project which could occur in the next ten, fifteen or twenty years. It was noted that the project is in a very competitive pool with other State roadway projects. The town residents and WisDOT moved to the Library to discuss the alternatives and answer more questions.

Annexation Request by Unanimous Approval of All Electors and All Owners of Real Property in the Town of Alma – Clerk Maxwell-Parker described the property request to annex into the Village. The property is owned and occupied by Todd Ostermann and is located between a Village parcel, 186-8001-02-000, already owned by Ostermann and Hwy. 8 East.

It was moved by Kleinschmidt and seconded by Koenig to recommend to the Village Board to accept the petition to annex into the Village of Turtle Lake.

Roll call vote: Yeas – all present. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Adjournment: It was moved by Becker and seconded by Davis to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Roll call vote: Yeas – all present. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Prepared by:
Danielle E. Maxwell-Parker
Village Clerk

Pending Board Approval