

June 27, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

**Special Meeting on Town Maintenance Position  
And Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan**

**Present** - Chair Jon Auge; Supervisors Bob Steele and Jim Roach.

Chair J. Auge called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Two residents were present who asked to speak on a topic not posted for the meeting. They were advised that is not permitted by statute and were given the chair's contact information for follow-up.

**Town Maintenance Position.** The Board reviewed a handout outlining potential options, current costs, and various activities that could be included in a newly defined town maintenance worker position. Following discussion, there was consensus on the following points:

- Define a new maintenance worker position to include the following responsibilities: Current Park Attendant duties, winter plowing, Town Hall site (including Fire and Maintenance Building + grounds) maintenance, Cemetery maintenance (excluding burials), and roads (miscellaneous activities).
- The Transfer Station attendant will continue as a stand-alone seasonal position.
- Spring Cemetery and Park clean-up will continue to be contracted but combined with a single contractor.
- The Town Hall cleaning will be assigned to the new position and the stand-alone position eliminated.
- The back-up plowing arrangements (drivers and equipment) will continue as currently defined.
- Other specialized contracted services (ditch mowing, ROW tree clearing, brush pile maintenance and Cemetery burials) will continue to be contracted.

Discussion identified the likely need for a used pick-up truck with plow, a 48" zero turn lawn mower, and a lawn trimmer. There is existing equipment at the park (tractor with blower & brush attachments, trailer, blower, etc.), and a snow blower at the Town Hall that can be used. A rough estimate is the new equipment will cost \$50,000-\$70,000. There are funds in our capital budget that could be used for the up-front costs. Given the need for the worker to have a CDL for plowing, we may consider a split wage with a pay differential for plowing. The next steps are for J. Auge to draft a job description and a revised cost analysis, and J. Roach to identify estimates for the identified new equipment for discussion at the July regular meeting.

**Crow Wing Comprehensive Plan Input.** Discussion occurred on providing input on the Draft Comprehensive Plan that is open for public comment. Following discussion, it was agreed the chair will submit the following points on behalf of the Town Board.

1. The strengthened focus on water quality, including the addition of the watershed plans, is a positive and appreciated by our town board.
2. Another positive in the revised plan that we applaud is the recognition that density impacts water quality.
3. Our board has some concerns about creating the new one-acre parcels as this creates even higher density and may impact water quality, while not significantly impacting the housing challenge we face. We do understand these parcels are intended to be contiguous to cities where the opportunity to extend infrastructure exists, and hope the plan limits these parcels to such areas.
4. Given our point three, the clear implication is to encourage annexation of township land by cities as a strategy to improve the housing situation. As you know this is a contentious issue for townships across the state and the Minnesota Association of Townships has been lobbying to change state law to level the playing field for townships. We question the appropriateness of the County's Comp Plan encouraging annexation of township land that is regulated by the plan.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Auge, Chair