

## **Town of Exeter**

### **Annual Meeting – 2022**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - 7 PM**

Called to order, legally posted.

Ted Fahey, Mark Gundlach, Kent Brauer and Clerk Sass

**Town members:** Nancy Brauer, Marc Peterson, Bert Boldebuck, Karen and Clem LaMere

**Minutes: MOTION to approve May 21, 2021, minutes (MP/MG),** all in favor, approved.

**Financial report:** Ted presented the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2021. Burt asks about License and Permits amount. The clerk explains we received extra money for a liquor license Exeter sold to Montrose last year. **MOTION to accept the Annual Report for year ending 2021 from Johnson Block (MP/BB)** all in favor, approved.

**Any comments/discussion:** Ted – EMS/Fire budget takes a large chunk of the town budget. EMS is almost entirely paid staff, only five volunteers left. EMS Chief resigned and job has been posted. The Fire Department is still volunteer. Liquor licenses – Exeter has two regular and two reserve. Montrose requested to purchase one reserve license that Exeter sold for \$15,000.00. State Law states one license for every five hundred people based on 1997 population figures. Montrose has again come asking for another reserve license. The minimum is \$10,000.00 but Ted thinks Exeter might get six figures for the reserve license. Marc Peterson – if the town can get six figures, sell it. Burt – you might want to hang onto it for Exeter’s future. Ted said Montrose did check with Fitchburg (they have five available) but will not sell. Belleville has no licenses available. Ted said we need about one hundred more people in Exeter to get another reserve license. Burt comments that New Glarus has only two bars. Kent is leaning toward keeping the one we have left until we get another one in a couple of years. Burt comments if the price is high enough, sell it. Clem LaMere stated he could go either way, but a good business opportunity does often come our way, consider it. The Old Hideaway has been torn down. Exeter had no input into its demolition, who did it or where the materials were taken and disposed of. Mark Gundlach reports that a couple more dumpsters were put in at the recycle center last week (22 - \$100/dumpster for trash, \$70.00 for recycling). Exeter has paid \$518.00 surcharge for fuel from Pellitteri so far this year. The new 20-yard dumpster will cost us \$100.00 per month, \$363.00 to pick up and \$66.00/ton. The Park Committee had a meeting about a month ago with the main subject being permanent restrooms for the park. A new bench was purchased by Diane Zweifel in honor of Roger. It will be installed once the weather is better. Mark gave a little update about what is happening on the Green County Board. The

Green County Historic Courthouse roof just had a change order for \$325,000.00 passed yesterday in addition to the two previous change orders and the original \$1.7 million. The company will need another \$2.7 million for renovations to the Clock Tower. Exeter had a request at the last town board meeting for opening roads to ATV/UTV usage. Ted thinks we should have a referendum for ATV/UTV usage in November 2022. Mark said the current Green County ordinance for ATV/UTV usage ordinance lists hours from 4AM – 1AM. The ordinance needs to be changed to update hours from dawn to dusk. The ordinance is going back to the committee for correction of the hours. Kent said we need to keep in mind hunters that may shoot and kill prey right at dusk and would need to use their ATV/UTV to get prey out of hunting areas. Clem LaMere wants to know what roads would be opened? The State roads are all off limits. Green County approves/denies roads based on an application, sponsors, usage, siting distance, etc. Townships decide about town roads. A referendum will be on the November ballot. There are some big expenses coming to Exeter. The fire department should be good for the next couple of years. Argue Road needs to be re-done this year (Exeter owns 55% and New Glarus owns 45%). We are in the process of getting bids and submitting a grant application along with the town of New Glarus. Exeter's share might be \$200,000.00 so we might have to borrow money. Asphalt has come down in price this year, so it makes sense to get the road done this year. Kent reports that the Senior Center in Belleville is under new direction this year. The nutrition person loves her job and is constantly busy. Volunteers are still strong. Judy Moen has stepped back but may chaperone some trips. Bob Hoffman is still at the front desk greeting. They are installing new LED lighting, redesigning the kitchen along with getting bids to make the kitchen state approved. The building exterior is in decent shape. The Senior Center funding is shared between three communities. Senior Center used to have Town of Verona as members, but they joined with City of Verona. Karen LaMere wants to know if the people parking on the banks at the park been dealt with. Kent comments that we put signage and people just drive around signs. Ted comments that people are driving/parking near the shelter compacting the soil. There are young trees that need loose soil. Burt suggests placing some large rocks. Karen said they will say something when they see this happening at the park. Hopefully, people will not get mad at us. If anyone has any good suggestions, please let us know. Burt wants to give kudos to the three recycle people who work every Saturday. The town people really appreciate everything that you do. Ted acknowledges and says thank you. Burt inquires if Ted compacting the dumpsters has really helped our capacity. Kent worked construction all his life and he thinks we need to have something that warms the guys better than the fire in the 55-gallon drum. Ted remarks that when Mark and Marc retire, we are in a bad position. Marc Peterson wants to know how board members get paid. Ted said chair gets \$4,500.00 (since 2007), \$3,200.00 for each supervisor, and \$30.00 per meeting attended. Wages have been the same for about 15 years. Marc wants to know how do you get a raise? Ted states at the annual meeting or at the budget meeting a town resident can make a motion

for the board to get a raise, if passed, raise would take effect with next election. Kent clarifies that board members also get mileage. Ted states that Exeter is the largest community in Green County. Roger Hodel, chair of Montrose gets about \$4,000.00 (smaller community). We collect more assessed value than the City of Broadhead. Ted comments that the board has been very frugal, kept debt limit and expenses low. Ted states that some days he gets 5-6 phone calls and some days none. The Chairman job has changed, people have changed. Burt clarifies that the responsibilities of the board have changed in the past 15 years. Marc comments that the plow guys do a decent job even though some people complain about them. Burt asks if he can make a motion? You went 15 years without a raise. **MOTION to increase the compensation for board members to \$6,000.00 per year for chairperson and \$4,800.00 per year for each supervisor effective after April 2023 election, (BB/CL)**, all in favor, passed unanimously.

**Next Annual Meeting:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7:00PM – **MOTION (KL/MP)**, all in favor, approved.

**Adjourn: MOTION (NB/MP)**, all in favor, approved, adjournment at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Marie Sass, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer