

TOWN OF WESTPORT

TOWN BOARD - Monday, April 17, 2023

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Town Board was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Cuccia in the Community Meeting Room of the Bernard J. Kennedy Administration Building/Town Hall. Members Present: Cuccia, Manering, Pichette, and Trotter. Members Absent: None. Supervisor Seat #4 - Vacant. Also Present: Dean Grosskopf, Neal Werner, Sherry Hanson Lang, Angie Black, Jason Tisch, Bill Von Rutenberg, Jack Von Rutenberg, Angie Buss, Peg Whiteside, Petr Kolarsky, Karen Kolarsky, Katja Pitcher, Tony Pitcher, Beverly Betn, Sharla Hanson, Margaret Geary, and Micki Hin.

The minutes of the April 3, 2023, regular Board meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Manering, second Trotter.

Grosskopf reported that the bids for the work to extend the watermain across County M will be opened on April 27, and will be awarded at the May 1, 2023, Board Meeting, and the bids for the 2023 road work on Cobblestone Lane, Gilkeson Road, and Weiss Road will be opened on May 4, and will be awarded at the May 15, 2023, Board Meeting.

After an Introduction by Grosskopf, explaining that the Westport Historic Preservation Commission has recommended that the property at 5360 Westport Road be designated as "Historic" and that this recommendation was supported by the Westport Plan Commission, Chair Cuccia opened a Public Hearing on the Matter at 7:12 PM. After an initial presentation by the petitioners, Sherri and Sharla Hanson, Cuccia asked if the property owner would like to make a presentation. The property owner was not present; however, Attorney Angie Black spoke as a representative of the property owner. She indicated they would not make a presentation but provided the Town Board and Staff with a letter earlier in the day. Following comments by the property owner's representative, Cuccia opened the meeting for public comments. The Board heard four written comments and two oral presentations in support of the recommendation, including Beverly Betn, who is the President of Mariners Cove condo association, and spoke as a representative of the association, indicating she received 25 letters from owners supporting the historic designation. Bill and Jack Von Rutenberg, former owners of the property, spoke in opposition to the recommendation. The Chair allowed follow-up comments from the property owner's representative, who spoke against the recommendation, and then allowed all additional questions and comments from the Board and the public before closing the Public Hearing at 8:20 PM. Following the Public Hearing, the Board heard from Jason Tisch representing the Wisconsin Historical Society. Jason Tisch indicated that the Town had done an excellent job during the process and had followed its ordinance. The Board asked follow-up questions, and Grosskopf asked him to specifically address whether the Board could deem the property historic, even though the Town's consultant indicated that the structure was not architecturally significant. He indicated that it could, because of the five criteria, any one of which could support a historic designation, this property meets at least one. After additional discussion, the Board unanimously adopted a draft of Resolution 23-02, which designates the property at 5360 Westport Road as a "Historic Property and Structure" on a motion by Pichette, second Manering.

Grosskopf reported on items before the plan commissions and committees. The Audit Committee recommended payment of bills as presented by Grosskopf.

For Administrative Matters, Grosskopf presented reports prepared by Westport's Maintenance Supervisor and answered related questions.

For Miscellaneous Matters, Manering and Grosskopf reported on the enforcement of restrictions and ordinances as well as the standard process for public input.

Current bills were paid as presented by Grosskopf and recommended by the Audit Committee on a motion by Pichette, second Cuccia.

Motion to adjourn by Manering, second Trotter. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Dean A. Grosskopf
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer