

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF HULL, COUNTY OF PORTAGE WI  
ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2011

- 1) Call to order by Chairperson John Holdridge at 7 p.m. at the Town Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr., Stevens Point WI 54482.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Oath of Office: Treasurer Jim Kruziki and Clerk Janet Wolle were sworn in prior to the meeting.  
Oath of Office - was given by Clerk Janet Wolle to officials elected at the April 5, 2011 Spring election.

John Holdridge - Chairperson

LaVerne Syens – Supervisor

Dave Pederson – Supervisor Excused

- 4) Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting  
Motion Mel Bembenek, second Dave Wilz, approve the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting.  
Aye – 12      Nay 0      Motion carried.
- 5) Reports:
  - a. Fire Chief Mark Kluck
    - Fire Department is currently staffed with 29 members (26 males and 3 females)
    - In 2010 there were 74 total fire calls
      - o 16 structure fires
      - o 21 wild land fires
      - o 15 rescue calls (with 3 entrapments)
      - o 3 vehicle fires
      - o 7 weather related incidents
      - o 2 carbon monoxide calls
      - o 4 false alarms
      - o 7 others (natural gas incidents; power line incident; hazmat incident;)
    - Continue to run rapid intervention for other fire departments
      - o Hull are there strictly as firefighters that would rescue other firefighters
      - o We don't fight fires or drag hoses
      - o We are on standby with specialized equipment and all of the firefighters have had over 36 hours each of rapid intervention specialized training – how to save a firefighter when a firefighter goes down
    - Last year in conjunction with other fire departments Hull purchased hose and other items for the 2010 year – saved about thirteen hundred dollars from our budget by buying along with other fire departments.
    - Continuing to purchase in 2011 with other departments – have received a \$600 savings in fire fighting nozzles purchased.

- Total grants of \$135,000 has been received over the past 10 years
  - o \$54,000 grant that is pending
- Discussions coming up on the Metro this month. Looking forward to hearing about that and move that project forward.
- Notice to board in October there are preliminary discussions about joint vehicle purchase between some of the fire departments on a command center that would be strictly used for command purchases. It would be dispatched automatically to any of the Metro type fire departments.
- Working on the planning for the installation of two dry hydrants – one on Wilshire Drive and one on Scenic Drive. They will be bid out.
- Understand the situation on the building. Mark Fristche and I have been part of the Building Committee for 3 years. Hope the board would tour the fire department and see we are in dire need. We were promised some offices 8 years ago and we have been patient until the board makes a decision. There are serious, serious issues at the fire department safety wise. We are at the point where something is going to happen sooner or later.
- The guys are great volunteers. They are the ones that run towards the fire or an accident when everyone else is running away from it. They put in a lot of time and training for any incidents that come their way. They are the backbone of the fire department. Sometimes I think they do not get appreciated as much as they should but again they are out there 24/7, on call, they respond whether it is 30 degrees below or 100 degrees above.

M Bembenek – the fire department does an outstanding job. There are good men and women on the FD.

J Holdridge – please comment on the status of the training facility.

M Kluck – I have not talked with the committee in Whiting. I sit on the Fire Training Board for Mid-State Technical College in Rapids. That board is trying to nudge Mid-State to contribute to a facility in Portage County. They built one in Wood County.

b. EMS Mark Fritsche

- Hull EMS responded to 97 calls in 2010
  - o 66 calls were medical related
  - o 15 were trauma related calls
  - o 12 motor vehicle accidents
  - o 4 lift assists
- Busiest days in 2010 were Tuesday, Friday and Saturday with 16 calls on those days
  - o Monday and Thursday had 14
  - o Saturday 12 calls
  - o Wednesday 7 calls
- Patient contact
  - o 76 adults
  - o 7 children
  - o 7 infants
- Current members
  - o 8 current active members

- 2 training at Emergency Medical Responder level
- 6 EMT trained – 2 EMTs are also trained to a Paramedic level
- Operate as EMT level under county license through Portage County Ambulance Service
- 1 person just complete EMR and waiting for licensing – that will bring members to 9
- EMRs beginning this year must maintain 12 hours of continuing education every year and EMTs must maintain 48 hours of continuing education every 2 years
- In March a great percent of our group went up to the Town of Dewey which hosted a meeting put on by Michael Freiling, Emergency Medical Services for the County along with 2 Paramedics from Stevens Point Ambulance Service on Incident Command for EMS people requirement for the grant in 2011. Two people were not available that night but there are other classes to be held throughout the county – they will have to travel to a class.
- County EMS banquet, Kelly Kluck and Jacob Goplin were the Town of Hull Responder's of the Year for 2010
  - Jacob Goplin and Matt Hunt graduated from UWSP and have since left us – they each have been with Hull for 5 or 6 years
  - They were on the Fire Department as well as EMS

J Holdridge – First Responders, EMTs and Paramedics at top?

M Fritsche – correct. Paramedics on the Ambulance Service are licensed so they can start medications and intravenous in the field and perform at that level. EMTs is a level a little bit lower. The ambulance in Amherst is being staffed as an EMT level, they will be going paramedic. If there is a heart patient they will call for the paramedic ambulance as well, they go out and start treatment and meet the paramedics who then take over.

M Fritsche – for responding:

- Everybody carries a pager
- Set up with shifts
- EMTs have 3 defibrillators
  - Whoever is on shift carries a med bag and a defibrillator
  - That is under lock and key at the Fire Station. When they sign up for a shift, prior to the shift they come and pick the equipment up.
  - Whoever is on shift will respond so there is a med bag and defibrillator on route.
  - That does not mean that others cannot respond – somebody closer will respond.
- Portage County dispatch will call out Hull's EMR and at the same time will page out the ambulance from Stevens Point.
- Response times:
  - 1 time in the middle of the night it took 3 minutes for someone to go into service
  - Otherwise, about 80% of the time, we are in service in route within 1 minute from the time of the call, because when on call you have everything with you at home.
- There are guidelines for those on call as to how far away from Hull they can be.

Jim Kruziki – when talking about calls you mentioned medical call and trauma calls.

M Fritsche:

- Medical calls are something like heart attack, diabetic reaction, stroke, person not feeling well.
- Trauma call would be something that inflicted an injury on somebody; a fall down the steps, a gunshot wound, falling off a ladder.

Fred Hoffman, does your count include the EMR people who respond and standby at the Fire Station?

M Fritsche – the only time we put out a report is when there is treatment.

F Hoffman – they also assist us at fire scenes. They are there in case.

M Fritsche – yes. They are all paged out anytime we have a working structure fire on the fire department. They would also be paged out for a large wild land fire.

J Holdridge – comparison between health conditions heart attack, etc and trauma, are most of them health conditions?

M Fritsche – yes. 66 medical related; 15 trauma; 12 motor vehicle accidents.

Dave Wilz – the gratuity that goes to EMS services, a fairly large portion comes in a form of a grant from Portage County. Because you are part of the Portage County group they require those who serve do certain things. Are they organized at that level, do you have a really clearly defined mission on what you need to do keeping people qualified and working with Portage County?

M Fritsche – yes. Our main contact is Tracey Kujawa at Stevens Point FD. She runs the ambulance service basically for the county. Our license to operate medically for the Town of Hull is through Portage County Ambulance Service. Town of Hull does not hold a license to do this – Portage County holds the license for us to do this. Everything at the beginning of the year is clearly spelled out on what you must do in order to receive your grants and what you must do in order to maintain your trainings. Sandy Curtis from Emergency Management sends a letter to the town which is forwarded on to Mark Fritsche. Last year they had skills labs where every one of the EMS units in the county had to send all of their members to SPFD and they had to go through a skills test with Doctor Curtis to show they are competent in their skills level. In 2011 it is the incident command training for EMS personnel attended in Dewey is the requirement. Next year there will be another skills lab.

D Wilz – the reason for asking, I know Portage County looks at other towns and what is organized is really an extension of their services and they really cherish that. Are they providing the structure that you need to get your people as ready as they can be?

M Fritsche – yes. Sixty percent of EMS is non-resident and forty percent resident.

F Hoffman, find that sad that half of the EMR people are coming from other towns and we don't get more participation from a town the size of Hull. Put something in the Annual Report or something that if people want these services they have to step forward and participate.

J Holdridge – how many members are from the Natural Resources at UWSP?

M Fritsche – right now we have one.

M Kluck – Nathan Mode is the team leader for the DNR UWSP wild land group.

M Fritsche – Hull's operational budget is \$22 or \$23,000 this year. The grant from Portage County changes every year. Last year I think the grant was \$8,000. Our budget shows that grant revenue and expenditures.

- Gratuity paid responders ½ of grant money is earmarked for the gratuity with the town side being \$5,000.
- If the grant would go away all of the total points they accumulate by signing up shifts, taking calls, doing meetings and training, gets divided by a lesser amount.

c. Road Foreman Pete Kaminski

- Plowed show last season 18 times vs 13 in 2009. Normal is about 22-25 times a season.
- Used approximately 250 ton of salt. 250 ton is left over for 2011-12 season.
- Sweeping will start the last week in April/beginning of May. All subdivision roads, approximately 25 miles, will be swept.
- Chip sealing projects for 2011 approximately 6 miles. Cost estimate per mile is \$16,500. Tentative list of roads drafted.
- No major reconstruction project for 2011 season.
- Walkush Road and the "Pipe" area and back part of Pinewood Drive is still closed due to flooding. Pictures have been taken of all areas flooded.
- Water levels are high within Hull. Within the last three weeks have had 5 frozen culverts. Last year there was 1.
- Bands on the culvert on North Reserve blew out. There is a 36" pipe underneath North Reserve – water is gushing through. There is a 20' piece in the middle with 2 10' pieces added on. The 2 bands due to the frost snapped – the culvert buckled the ends creating a sink hole. The road will be closed down once the water goes down.
- Hull has 125 culverts under different roadways in the town.
- After the flood last season, three culverts were replaced: Casimir Road, north end of North Reserve and Pioneer Road.
- FEMA grant has not yet been received.
- Currently going through the town looking at speed limits. Some of the road limits are not according to state statute. Changes are being identified.

d. Parks Pete Kaminski

- Last year a tree grant was applied for from the DNR. It was a matching grant of \$2,500. Sixty-five species of trees have planted within Hull parks.
- New play equipment will be in Jordan Acres this year.

J Holdridge – the new park equipment for Jordan Acres is the last park we need to update.

Dave Wilz, the eight that have equipment have all received at least one large piece of updated equipment over the last 8 years. After this year it will be replacing some of the less expensive items.

D Wilz – regarding the culverts, what causes when the roads get bad this time of year?

P Kaminski – right now all of the roads are terribly mushy because the ground is so saturated. The water has no place to go. It is running away as fast as it can. Our roads now are like a sponge.

D Wilz – when walking on them you can feel it.

P Kaminski – exactly, that is water and it has to move out. If there are no ditches, the water has no place to go.

D Wilz – if the road is exposed and the frost line

P Kaminski – the frost is not out all of the way yet. There are certain areas inside of Hull where all of the frost is out but any place on the river bottom where it is more shaded, it is slowly coming out. Now you get all of the moisture and the water is just sitting there. Some of the roads need the ditches cleaned out to get the water moving faster, or make new ditches. We have to do something. Water is our worst enemy.

J Holdridge – the problem with the culvert, is that because the culvert isn't long enough to get across there?

P Kaminski – yes.

Mel Bembenek – that should have been one piece.

J Holdridge – when are the spring weight limits coming off?

P Kaminski – the county is taking the limits off possibly April 25<sup>th</sup>.

F Hoffman – areas on Old Wausau Road by Larry Fritsch Cards and two areas on Jordan Road before getting to Second Street, the trees come almost up to the blacktop. Is that because of a citizen complaint that we leave it alone? Some of the trees on Old Wausau Road, I still say somebody is going to come along with a truck at night and go to close to the edge of the road and clip them. They hang right over the road. Pete made an attempt with Fritsch to get some of them cut but I'm wondering in certain areas of the, I know the town has the right to do it. Do we just choose to leave them alone?

J Holdridge – Hull has an ordinance. Some of these you have to fight a little battle. Hull's ordinance has been sent to people. We expect them to be according to our ordinance. One area by Len Dudas residence, there is a dead tree at a mail box. Our crews have zones for plowing, etc and will look for dead trees and vision triangles, stop signs. This tree is in the right-of-way.

F Hoffman – if a larger fire truck would happen to pull over, example city unit to help Hull, if they pulled over they would clip as they really hang over.

P Kaminski – seven trees were cut down last year by Larry Fritsch Cards. The ordinance was given to Jeff (Fritsch). He agreed but asked if Pete would leave some. I did the best I could. Our ordinance says 5' out. The stump up here is past 5' out but it goes toward the road. We need to modify the ordinance a little.

J Holdridge – we have a problem sometimes on Granite Ridge Road with one person.

P Kaminski – we are working with the people.

J Holdridge – you can't have selective enforcement. We will do what the ordinance says.

M Bembenek – Pete you and the crew are doing a good job.

e. Treasurer Jim Kruziki

- As of the end of 2010 there was an audit of the town's financial records. It was completed by Jeff Kropp, CPA (June 2010). Financial statements were found to be presented fairly in all material aspects. There has not been an audit done in well over 10 years.

J Holdridge – the reason there has not been an audit, in the Wisconsin Statute, the treasurer checks on the clerk and the clerk checks on the treasurer. That is basically why there is not a requirement. When you change forces, as we did here, that is a good time to have an audit. Jim wanted an audit and that is why we had one.

- 479 dog licenses issued by the town in 2010. This represented 38 more than the year before. Total fees \$4,580 (\$8 for spayed/neutered or \$18 if not spayed/neutered) plus some late fees. Portage County got \$3,626 out of that – the town retained \$954 (\$2 per license).
- Debt as of the end of 2010 from long term financing \$728,000 – annual debt payments have been \$120,058 – this will hopefully be paid off by September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2017.
- Fund cash balances and designated funds total \$267,542.00. Monthly operating fund as an average of \$273,144; contingency from the year and carried over from previous years of \$542,896. At year's end had just over one million dollars in the bank (cash funds \$1,083,582 split between Chase Bank and River Cities Bank). River Cities have a combination of CDs as well as a savings account; Chase Bank a savings and checking account. For more details the annual report shows the detail of all of the cash balances. Thank you to Janet for an excellent job in putting together the Annual Report for the year.

J Holdridge – please talk about the state cutbacks.

J Kruziki – we have a budget group that is working on the proposed state cutbacks. We know there will be several cutbacks: recycling grants, state shared revenue. There is some question when the cuts will actually come. We are not sure if the recycling grant cut will take affect this year or next year. Fortunately, the town overall is in good financial shape. We do have the debt showing which is included in the budget on an annual basis. We have allocated for the current year additional funds for the designated funds and we have contingencies. Even with the cuts coming down, we appear to be in pretty strong financial position with our normal operating budget.

J Holdridge – we will be cut about \$77,000 in revenues - \$14,000 of that is in recycling. Recycling will be put back in the budget. Highway aids will go from \$2117 to \$2054 – we have 80 miles of road. Jim is working on looking at our operational budget and identifying what the operational budget is. That is the day to day tasks that affect every household in Hull. We will focus on the operational costs and see what happens in 2012 and 2013. The governor has a two year budget that is on a different fiscal year than we are. The second year of the budget is going to be the same there is no increase for anything. If we can identify what our operational budget is and go from there. On the meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> I will suggest we look at the capital expenditures and reserve funds. We define those much looser because we may have to dip in to those funds to run the operations of Hull. These are uncertain times. We have a good Treasurer who is on top of this and we really have to watch our pennies. We have to keep day to day stuff going.

M Bembenek – we have excellent people, a good board. It will work out.

f. Plan Commission John Holdridge

- Have had an excellent Plan Commission since its inception.
- Two members recently agreed to continue, Bob Bowen and Bob Enright.
- Big function is to review the subdivision ordinance and update, another word is land division. That will take some time.
- Hull is under the county subdivision and zoning ordinance so Hull's plan will be very much tailored off the county's plan.
- There have been 6 meetings regarding Firkus Road. Two meetings by the Planning & Zoning Committee of the county and we are finally at the point we are ready to move. At the first meeting in May an agreement will be worked out and will ask the board to approve it. The agreement will be between Oberthaler, Broecker and Hebbe.

g. Assessor/Building Inspector Phil Deffenbaugh (report given by John Holdridge)

- Permits issued in 2009 – 12
- Permits in 2010 – 6
- Permits in 2008 – 14
- 2007 – 11
- 2006 – 18
- 2005 – 13
- 2004 – 12

In terms of nationally the suggestion that value of a house has gone down, Phil would argue in this area house prices are much more stable.

- There were 5 foreclosures in 2010
- 2 foreclosures to date

h. Weight Limits John Holdridge

- Report prepared by Barb Brilowski
- From January 1 to December 31, 2009 – over 1,000 weight limit permits were given
- Anyone who comes to our border and sees the Class B and they are over the Class B weight limit which is 80% of the Class A which is about 12,000# per axle, they need to get a weight limit permit from Hull. The permit must be in the vehicle. If you are

stopped by a Portage County Deputy or State Patrol Officer, you don't have the permit and you are over the weight limit, it is big bucks.

- The advantage of the weight limit permit is telling haulers what roads they can use. As much as possible you keep them on a county road, one of our roads that have a good base, in some cases the interstate highway and state highway in other cases.
- In 2010 the permits went down to about 800. That is a reflection in a slowdown in construction.
- Since we started in 2007 we have collected about \$23,000 in violations.
- For weight limits you need a sign, a good ordinance that will stand a court test and the permit system plus the staffing to handle it.

#### 6. Salaries for Elected Officials – John Holdridge

- Handout of salaries going back to 1980
- My position this year is we are not going to increase any salaries.

All board members agreed.

#### 7. Mileage – John Holdridge

Stevens Point \$.325 per mile

Village of Plover is \$.51

Town of Plover is \$.37

Town of Stockton is \$.51

Portage County is \$.51

UWSP is \$.485

Suggest moving Hull's rate to the IRS rate as gas prices are going up.

Motion Andy Kubowski, second Fred Hoffman, to go with the IRS mileage rate when doing business for the Town of Hull. Aye – 12 Nay 0 Motion carried.

#### Other – John Holdridge

The Klismith family from the Town of Hull, Jason Klismith is a graduate of SPASH and then went to John Hopkins and got a degree in computers (Ray and Mary's grandson; Phil's son; Pete Klismith nephew). Jason lives in Tokyo Japan with his family. He is south of where the tsunami and nuclear accident occurred. We are hoping the newspaper will have a good write up. Having a local person in that area puts a real human face on this. Hopefully more money will be collected for the Japanese nation through the Red Cross. Jason's mother-in-law who has cancer was finally found in a shelter.

Barb Brilowski – commend and acknowledge LuAnn Elsinger for the excellent job she has put on Hull's website. Most recently with the emergency situation on the roads LuAnn placed information on the front page of the website. She is wonderful to work with and does a really nice job. If you have not had a chance to look at the website, please do.

Motion Mel Bembenek, second Dave Pederson, send LuAnn a note of appreciation.  
Motion carried.

Fred Hoffman – have had at least three people ask me or made a comment that they would like to see the board allow the Town of Hull residents make the decision on whether they

want to proceed with the new building or not. A resident from Hull who works at Courtesy Motors indicated another \$100 or \$200 on his taxes to make the firefighters safer, I'm all for it. He said they ought to let us decide if we want to progress. We talked about Hull not be affected as much by the economic situation as other municipalities because of the type of people who live here. My (Fred) taxes go up and I would like to make that decision on whether we proceed. The needs are there. They have been identified. This building has terrible problems. The FD has terrible problems. Throwing band aids on and costing how many dollars and eventually you are going to be faced with the same problems. If government goes the direction I want it to go there is not going to be this free money come pouring in all the time, maybe people are going to tighten their budget. I would like to be in on the decision on whether or not we build it not, even if my taxes go up.

Janet Wolle – have started work with redistricting with the county. That is when I first learned of our population following the census. Having worked with Jeff Hartman, PC Planning and Zoning GIS Manager, we found Hull has people on Brilowski Road, Walter Street, Rachick Road and Hofmeister Drive those citizens are currently counted in the city of Stevens Point. We have additional work to do. Jeff will come up with a name of an individual to see if we can get this worked out. I also need to look at Carol's Lane and portions of Golla Road. We are looking at areas Stevens Point/Town of Hull and the road right-of-way is used as the boundary. The census total population right now is 5,346. The estimate received for 2010 from the State of Wisconsin was 5,680. The population affects state aid.

Janet Wolle - The County has done an excellent job. The county board is being reduced by 4 supervisory districts. The county has an excellent software program. Portage County Clerk Shirley Simonis has talked with the state to see if we can all work together on this. The county gets 60 days to come up with their redistricting, and then the municipality gets 60 days. Redistricting is done in the Village of Plover, the Town of Hull and the county is meeting with the city of Stevens Point. The key will be how it ended up in the city. It does not sound like the city will lose any supervisors. Hull still has the potential for 3 county supervisors however wards 1, 2 & 3 will be combined with the Town of Dewey. Wards 4, 5, 6, & 7 will stand alone. Ward 8 will be combined with Park Ridge and a portion of Stevens Point. Hull has always been with Park Ridge, this is the first time we have been with Stevens Point. Jeff Hartman can pull everything up by census block count, see everything, and come up with the number(s) needed.

8. Adjourn to April 10, 2012

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Janet Wolle, Clerk