



TOWN OF HULL
**PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING**

February 28, 2012

- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** The Town of Hull Plan Commission Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 by Chairperson John Holdridge at 6:30 p.m. at the Town of Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: John Holdridge, LaVerne Syens, Bob Bowen, Bob Enright, Al Stemen, Jocelyn Reid and Secretary Patty Amman.

Excused: Shelley Binder

Also present: Chuck Lucht of Portage County Planning and Zoning, Corinna Neeb and Sandra Curtis from Portage County Emergency Management Office.

Citizens: John Oberthaler, John Rechner, James Damask, Bob Berg, Dave Wilz

- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 22, 2011 meeting:** *Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2011 made by Syens second by Stemen. Motion carried by voice vote.*

Holdridge The minutes had quite a section on Public Safety. Turn to page 2 in the minutes. I said in the second paragraph, "In terms of the politics of this, there has to be a change in the state law because the state law says it has to be contiguous." This is where we fought the battle with the City where they tried to annex the Casimir/I-39 area. "It can't be run up the right-of-way or I-39 or any other road or railroad track. But the Town cannot challenge it because it doesn't have standing based on state law." The state law says you cannot have non-contiguous annexations, but the only way you could challenge it as a Town was the political way. That's what we did. A massive amount of activity by Hull citizens, particularly in the I-39 west area. Now I want to read something I just got from Rick Stadelman who is head of the Wisconsin Town's Association. He says to all, this is dated Feb. 26, 2012 –"I am happy to report that our top legislative priority, Assembly Bill 181 to give town's legal standing to challenge non-contiguous annexations and annexations across county borders into new counties without town approval has passed both the Assembly and the Senate. Representative Al Ott and Senator Frank Lasee were the lead authors of the Bill and should be thanked when you see them. Also, Rep. Ott's staff person Aaron was tremendous in keeping this Bill moving. We will be asking town officers in about a week or so to call the Governor's office to ask him to sign the Bill." We had a big role in that. They were well aware of what happened with the City trying to annex that intersection up there. Julie Lassa, she really went for our position on it although it looked like she was going to give some kind of amendment, but she didn't do that. So she supported us and the legislature supported us. Now we just wait for the Governor. So if this should happen again, if the City goes out and tried to annex something that isn't contiguous to Stevens Point, then we

not only have the politics of it, which are pretty powerful from a planning standpoint, but also the legal situation. To us it seemed ridiculous. Why would you pass a law and not say the group that's impacted, which would be the towns, would not have legal standing to sue the city, or the village to try the same thing.

Berg Well congratulations.

Holdridge Well we're pleased by that.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS; Chairperson and Plan Commission Members.

Holdridge I should mention the North Second Street. We have been trying to get the DOT to have an exit onto I-39 prior to where it comes into Hull. Our big wish was to keep that X on and off ramp and that was taken out when they went across the river to Marshfield. We had Maple Drive up in Dewey. Bob Bowen in particular did a lot. We went to Madison and met with the Governor's staff. We got a letter from them that the DOT didn't really want to do anything. They'd just leave it as it is. That's not surprising to us because in the DOT there's a Secretary with 2 major people under him and those 2 major people under him were in charge of the Wisconsin Rapids office. One succeeded the other when we were fighting these battles to put X in. It was sort of a lost cause at that point but we're not through with that. Our problem is trying to protect the neighborhood, North Second Drive, from heavy trucks and all this traffic. What the DOT did is they wrote us a letter. As part of the denial they said, "We'll put probably \$800,000 to \$1.5 million in redoing North Second Drive but you really can't control who rides it." In other words the trucks have to be able to go down there. We have 12 bus stops on that road. So in affect it would be a County Road. We had a big meeting at SPASH in the North Commons. The citizens overwhelmingly rejected that. They wanted to keep it a local road, not take the State's money. You have any comments on that Bob (B.)?

Bowen People on North Second Drive said that they would write letters. Help a few people get letters to Walker, not to the DOT. There's no point in talking to the DOT. So that would be the Governor. Tom Barton is going to take that proposal with him when he goes to the next DOT Safety Committee meeting which is entirely separate from the highway people. So he might be able to do something. So it's not dead by any means.

Syens I was pleased by the turnout that we experienced there, it was great. Most were not bashful about sharing their opinions of how they felt on the subject. The overwhelming support turned down the DOT offer made it real easy for me as a Supervisor, since I don't live out there. Seeing the overwhelming support to turn this down made it easy for the Board.

Holdridge I think it was something like 26 to 3. Those were all people we sent letters to along North Second Drive and the subdivisions that are off of there. There's one fairly good size subdivision and a mobile home park citizens own there, the park. So it was refreshing.

Bowen You said you were going to invite the Highway Commissioner in for a meeting. Bring him up to date on other things besides North Second Drive.

Holdridge The County has a new Highway Commissioner, Brian Kelley, who was recently hired. Those Highway Commissioners are the interface with the DOT. Unlike a lot of states where the DOT will have their own crews to plow the state and federal highways, in Wisconsin they give funds to the local county and the county does that. So the head of the Portage County Highway Dept. is now Brian Kelley. It was Weronke before Brian. They have a direct, almost day to day relationship with the DOT. I think we've got to get him involved in this. We have people north of X there like Jim Grzinski who has a mill and any number of businesses up there that need to get an access to the Interstate. This thing has been going on since about 2003 or 2004, a kind of struggle.

4. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. AGENDA ITEMS ARE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

None.

5. HWY 10 EAST REHABILITATION PLAN BY WISCONSIN DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION – NEED FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES AT BADGER AVE. AND I-39 EAST.

Holdridge This issue about putting traffic control devices at that intersection, I think Bob (E.) is familiar with some of that but I've written a number of letters at the instigation of the Plan Commission and Town Board. The only thing I think they did do was to move that 55 mph speed limit sign as you go east; they moved that further back to the east. Now it's what they call rehabilitation, the highway. It seems you've really got a good shot at this. Last meeting, 2 citizens from the subdivision there came in, made a brief presentation. John Rechner is here and so is James Damask. They went back and I wrote you folks a letter and hopefully on March 5th, if we can get petitions, then the Town Board will take action on this thing and contact the DOT.

Berg Is that the next step after this? Petitioning the people in the neighborhood?

Holdridge Yes, I think that would be very helpful. It does 2 things: it shows to the DOT that these citizens really care about that plus it gets the citizens involved. These things aren't sprints, sometimes they're marathons. You let them know we want this. We need this. But you may have to go back to the citizens for more of the political activity, the public policy.

Berg I know 15 years ago it took about 5 years from start to finish just from when they started planning for it until when they did it. They were planning a highway project, improvement and change.

Holdridge This one I think they're looking at doing in 2014, by the literature they gave us. I wrote a letter to the mayor and I think you may have that. It would really be helpful if he came in on this because they have a real interest to the south with that business development and that sports complex. This is in their interest too, not just in our interest. I've talked with Dave Katzer who will be the project manager. When the DOT does these things, all of these folks are civil engineers but they hire another civil engineering firm to do the spade work. Chris Rossmiller is the other fellow. I talked with him and he was going to be visiting those people in the business area and sports complex area. Those people have been contacted and are well aware of the interest. It's a slow sort of developing process.

Berg It's actually kind of interesting at that intersection, having lived there for 27 years. When you pull out of Badger Ave. onto Hwy. 10 if you're going to go to the west on Hwy. 10, most times it's not too bad getting out there, but if there's a sporting event going on at the hockey arena or some soccer games, then there's cars coming east on Hwy. 10 wanting to turn. Bob Enright, you've had to deal with that for years too. There's certain times when it's really difficult to get out there without doing some scary moves.

Enright It's getting a lot worse too. Saturdays are a problem, you wait for a long time. Also sometimes in the morning. What we were told before was that the statistical count wasn't high enough.

Rechner But they took that count on a Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Enright They may have.

Rechner They did. My wife saw them and she actually approached the vehicle because we had kids in the yard and she asked "who are you?" So she explained herself and my wife said, "Why don't you come back on Saturday at 2 p.m. and see what the difference is." I was going to mention, I think the question came up at our last meeting whether or not that intersection was wired (*for a traffic light*). It's all wired. I lifted up a little coffee can size manhole cover and all the conduit is in place, all the wires are in place, all the turn lanes are in place.

Berg I know when we first moved in out there, there was a bad accident at that intersection. In fact a lady got killed, coming in on Hwy. 10 with one car going west and another one going east and another one pulling out.

Enright What I meant by the statistical count wasn't just the traffic flow but a tally of accidents and fatal accidents. There were a couple of them in the last couple of years. There was an airlift accident about 1½ years ago. Then there was the other case when Mr. Fritch was run off the road.

Rechner Yes his van was run off up into that tree line. That kind of instilled that turn lane. After Mr. Fritch got run into the woods, I'm going to say about a year later, that turn lane was put into place. But I did want to mention too, the little bit I know from what I've read regarding Badger out to J there is going to placed a median, either grass or if they don't want to maintain that, cement, I think a 3 foot pillar wall out to J. But if you do that, you'll take the Algoma exit going west and totally extinguish it. So what that does is it doubles up the volume over at Badger. For those people that live on the east side of our subdivision, if they want to go west, they have to come down Badger. If you put a break in that median to try to allow those people to turn west, it's still the death-trap situation. The take away word needs to be "control" because I think it's out of control the way it's being conducted now; both the traffic flow and the actual structure of the intersection itself.

Bowen What is the status or the possibility of the second alternative you have of extending Algoma?

Rechner I talked to Don Butkowski and he was kind enough to get a plot map and I think I showed that to you as well. Those of you familiar with the geography of the neighborhood, Algoma curves back and ends up behind what will soon be the old Copp's/UPS building. There's an easement that goes straight south at the end of Algoma that would allow for Algoma to hook up to Jefferson Street which ends in a culdesac behind Dunham's. So you would go to the west then go south then take Jefferson out to Brilowski Road. The third alternative we proposed, and it's probably the most expensive, would be to extend Clark Street down to that controlled intersection just to the east of US Bank. You would have to purchase commercial property, which is that white house that's been there for a long time, probably swoop or make a...James, you're better at this than I. He works for Ladick so he's familiar with machinery. So those are the 3 proposals. From a Hull tax base, if we could get the state to fund, overlooking that as an objective as control, I think that would be the best alternative, to have Badger and Hwy. 10 controlled via a (*traffic*) light system.

Holdridge The other aspect of this, we have taken a position that we want to protect these subdivisions. We don't want through traffic in the subdivisions if we can avoid that. I think most people in subdivisions don't want that either. The biggest one was when we were designing that Shave/Olson property and that went into the City. They wanted to run a road north to I think its Regent coming out of there. We opposed it and the City just dropped it. Some of that traffic would have gone north right through our neighborhood to get out to Brilowski Road. So that's been our position on this. We are about neighborhoods. North Second Drive, that battle was about protecting neighborhoods, keeping traffic flow down and keep it as a neighborhood. We don't have sidewalks so we've got kids playing, bikers and walkers, etc. I read that too, John, in the perspective there about running this median clear out from Badger Ave. to Hwy. J.

Rechner What would that do? What would that mean?

Holdridge That would cut off Algoma, right?

Rechner I guess I don't understand the objective of the meeting.

Bowen The cross traffic.

Damask They're worried about the head-on traffic like at Frank's Hardware where we have all this turning going on with people and you don't know what's going to happen next. We have trucks that come out of the Mobile Station and somebody comes out of Frank's Hardware in a hurry, they can't make the corner onto Hwy. 10 before they get somebody saying, "Well he pulled out in front of me", well the guy accelerating got close to him.

Holdridge What they do is they cut some into the median. I suppose if you came out of Algoma, you might have to turn east to go west. Going east and then turn across as you mentioned is pretty dangerous stuff.

Bowen It's going to be a raised median.

Rechner If it's raised, that lowers the visibility.

Bowen It's not as it is now.

Damask Raised or lowered, they might let it drain also. They don't want to have to plow it. It talked about water draining off and creating black ice if they pile snow up in the middle and on a warmer day it freezes coming back down later at night. That's the problem they're having.

Enright The traffic light at this point is really the best alternative because the other ones don't solve the other traffic problem out on Hwy. 10. The heavy traffic going in when the activities at the sport center are going on.

Rechner That's a great point.

Berg So you must have a pretty good idea of the cost of putting a traffic light at that intersection like that these days.

Holdridge I'm sure Dave Glodowski, our engineer, could give us a pretty good idea. I don't know right off hand what that would be.

Enright Let me say a couple of things about the other alternatives: it seems like they could be possibilities. The original or earlier planning maps showed that the location where Copp's and Wal-Mart were, had been agricultural areas that were going to be planned for residential. At that point, Algoma would have been extended through that area past where Dunham's is right now. Then, however, it was changed when Copp's and Wal-Mart went in there which meant that you had a commercial area next to the residential area. One of the concerns the neighbors on the west side of Badger had was through traffic through the subdivision not unlike North Second Drive. The traffic going to the shopping area. Who knows what will happen with Copp's because it's going to be closing in the summer. But part of that was to prevent that traffic which seemed to pick up again and that's when the Town constructed that guardrail to prevent that. Given that it's commercial there rather than residential, when we have a road through, that's much less desirable than it was before given the traffic count volume if commercial development stays in there. That's one reason I think the light is a better idea. The other thing, just for the record, the lot that is for sale there that you mentioned would have to be purchased in order to continue Clark Street, that house is residential. This has been a standing issue here for 8-10 years. It would become commercial, most likely, after purchase because the purchaser is likely to petition to annexation to the City and ask for a zoning change. It's in the Town of Hull and we've asked the City to work with us on a site plan for that. I don't know if that changes what the purchase price of the land is for a through road. But it's residential right now.

Holdridge Realtor's keep putting a sign up there saying "commercial". Bob (*E.*) calls me about once every 3 years because they do that. Then we tell them, "You can't do that, that's false advertising, that's residential in the Town of Hull." They'll take it down somewhat reluctantly.

Berg Actually whoever owns that land, if they were to sell 80 feet of it along Hwy. 10 to put a road in there, might not even mind that; just being able to sell a part or half of it.

Holdridge We understand that at some point in time that will probably be commercial, annexed to Stevens Point. We want to make sure that we have a say in big lights and all the rest of it because we have residences just to the east there. They're aware of that. John Gardner is aware of it. We'll probably have to renew that issue.

Berg The other thing about living out there over the years, especially with Copp's and Wal-Mart when they were out there, on windy days we would get plastic bags, newspapers and all kinds of stuff blowing from those parking lots into our subdivision into the ditch. I used to go out every spring and clean out our ditch for about 200 yards. I used to run. About 2 weeks after I cleared it out, there were more bags and stuff in there and I'm thinking, why bother clearing it if there's going to be this much junk 2 weeks later.

Rechner Do you think the next step for us being residents in that neighborhood would be to obtain a petition?

Holdridge We'll take a vote tonight as the Plan Commission. I assume we're going to strongly support the residents and encourage a traffic light at that intersection. That will go to the Town Board and the Town Board will review it and take a position. I'm sure they will be positive and say we've got to do what we can as a local government. I would say if any of you know Mayor Halverson, give him a call. I'm sure he's talked with a lot of Hull citizens over the years, but it's very helpful. If you know him, to say this has been a continuing issue for us. It may be a newer one for them. My dentist is right on that road in Parkdale. My view is that it is going to fill up. You're going to have commercial development there.

Berg So if he get phone calls from 4 or 5 of our residents in our subdivision, that might have an impact?

Holdridge Oh sure! Numbers always count in democracies.

Berg I know him well enough to call him.

Holdridge That's good. I think you should. He's got our letter. My thought was that it would be helpful if he and I wrote a joint letter to the DOT and we'll send the petitions on or some such approach such as that. We each have ideas. I had suggested a joint letter from the Town of Hull and City of Stevens Point, the mayor and myself and encourage the DOT to take a hard look at this planning. This is the time to do it. These petitions, I would send those separately under a cover letter to the DOT and say here's what these citizens want.

Oberthaler You guys might want to get some pictures when hockey is letting out. That's really valuable in seeing a line up. Even a video.

Berg Even a video tape at that intersection at certain times.

Rechner My wife and I went for a walk around the block just before I came here and the hockey let out. They had to be 12 deep coming on to Hwy. 10 so who knows how many kids are in mini-vans.

Enright When they were planning that, we met with the DOT. There were a couple of things we discussed, neither of which happened. One was that the way the left turn lane when you are heading east turning off of Hwy. 10, we were saying that if they were going to reconstruct that, then that would be the time to put the light in. But again, it wasn't warranted on the basis of the traffic. But the construction of that actually made it worse to get out of the subdivision because there was that turn lane that gave you some acceleration space but that's gone with the concrete there with where the island is.

Oberthaler As a user of that sports complex, I take off right and go through that subdivision because you can't get out. And I'm taking a right so that should be the easiest way to get out, but I won't even take that.

Enright The other thing that was requested was that there be signage there to direct the traffic coming from the west and entering into the sports complex needs to travel to the signaled intersection. Because there's a left turn lane there. That would make them go through the commercial area in Parkdale but it would have taken the traffic off of Hwy. 10 before it got to Badger. But the signage was never posted.

Berg That would have been helpful.

Rechner I know the green sign along the highway that said Badger Ave. got knocked off by a plow or a tree or something but it was never replaced.

Enright Badger is a really popular sign. I remember the Badger along Algoma disappearing for awhile.

Rechner I'm not talking about the metal sign. I'm talking about the wooden one.

Enright I know. That's even better.

Berg So John one question I have for you, when you found out that the state might fund that or help fund that, how would that work?

Rechner I didn't find that out per se. But because they're going to be working on a state road, a component of it, so if we dabble with the other 2 alternatives, those would be fully funded by the Town of Hull. So other than what you had mentioned, support of that as an initial proposal, I would fully back it because then it would be everybody funding it instead of just us as Hull citizens.

Holdridge I think that is probably the best resolution.

Bowen Actually Hwy. 10 isn't a state highway, it's a U.S. highway as U.S. Highway 10. The state has jurisdiction but it's U.S. Hwy. 10.

Holdridge Well it's another government that would do it other than us.

Berg So John, when we call Mayor Halverson to talk to him about that, do we encourage him to contact the DOT to support it?

Holdridge Yes, I would encourage him or you could contact me, but encourage the DOT to do it. Tell him you met out here and talked about it as a Town Board. He's got some energized citizens who do a lot of shopping in Stevens Point.

Damask I have been to Madison for meetings for oversize/overweight on a subcommittee I'm on. I can talk with engineers to get some input to talking to the right engineer to talk to them from that direction trying to get some help.

Holdridge Yes, there are a lot of ways to have input. You never quite know but there are certain ways that are better than others. We're pretty much taking this right up front. There's contacts.

Berg We have somebody else in our subdivision that would be real active in this. I'm sure if we talked to her about it.

Rechner Bob (E.), you live in this subdivision?

Enright Yes. I'm on Algoma Street. I'm right on the corner.

Rechner I'm on Clark, the frontage road.

Enright I think if you maybe divide this up in some way. If we agree on what the petition might say, sort of divide the neighborhood up and I'll collect some interest from my end.

Rechner That would be great. March 5th, you said?

Holdridge Yes, we'll meet next Monday night.

Enright Would it be necessary that there be a consensus to help convince the Board?

Holdridge I think it's helpful to have people's names and addresses, signed by citizens. These are real people, if you have a concern, call them up and ask them.

Berg We have about a dozen people on a list for when we have neighborhood parties once a month, I could contact the people on that list if you get the petition to me.

Holdridge That's a pretty old concept you know. Petition your government for redress. One of the first amendments, along with speech and religion and assembly.

Berg So which one of you guys is good at putting together petitions?

Rechner I can do it.

Holdridge It doesn't have to say much. Something like, "We the undersigned strongly support..."

Rechner I think you put some verbiage in that letter you wrote.

Holdridge It's better if it's more to the point.

Oberthaler I know you're looking to the Town of Hull residents but you could probably collect a heck of a lot of signatures from people that may have hockey games over there. This is a City issue. It is a U.S. highway. It isn't just a Town of Hull issue. So if you could find a whole group of Stevens Point / Plover citizens, have a petition out there, you should be able to get 50-75 signatures.

Holdridge I'd love to have those citizens who live in the City and have kids that play hockey talk with the mayor.

Damask That and soccer. Summer soccer.

Rechner Dr. Ford and Paul Drake, they run the youth football.

Berg We'll get 30 signatures from our subdivision alone real quick.

Oberthaler You've got Caufield as a coach, a pretty respected name in the community.

Berg That's a good idea.

Enright Might I suggest you e-mail the petition draft to the Town.

Rechner That would be fine.

Holdridge I'm glad you folks showed up tonight.

Rechner Thanks for having us.

Holdridge We'll put it first on the agenda on the 5th.

Bowen Are we going to frame a recommendation?

Holdridge We're going to vote on it.

Bowen Okay, then whoever does that, I would strongly urge you on behalf of the people who live south of Hwy. 10 that they consider extending Algoma so you guys have a way out.

Holdridge Bob, I don't know that we want to get into that. Let's go after....

Bowen If they put a barrier there, you'd solve one problem with the light but create another one with Algoma.

Holdridge When I talked with this Dave Katzer, I explained that in reading this perspective, I said you know that's really going to be a problem. He said that was put in there with that. If they do that, it seems to me that they would have no choice but to put in a light there.

Rechner If you are going west. We had that huge storm blow through our neighborhood last summer and for rescue vehicles to get in there, if you do create only one entrance in there, it's from a safety standpoint as well.

Bowen Bob, what is the alignment of Algoma and Badger? Opposite of each other?

Enright They're 90 degrees, perpendicular to each other. Algoma is an east/west street but when it gets further east....

Bowen Is there an entry on Hwy. 10? You were talking about that.

Enright From Algoma? Yes, on the east end of the subdivision. It's way on the other end. It's blocked off on the west end.

Holdridge Right now there are only 2 exits. Badger and Algoma.

Enright Right. Badger now goes to the sports complex but it crosses Hwy. 10 then heads south and dead ends. Less than a quarter of a mile south of Algoma.

Berg If they did close that entryway onto Hwy. 10 from Algoma on the other end, if we had a light at Badger, it would be a lot easier for the people in this subdivision to get out just to go down to that light.

Rechner Once again, not to belabor this but to revisit what you said, you're also pulling in the safety for the people from Stevens Point entering Hwy. 10. So you have 2 interested parties coming together.

Enright Yes, and also the City limits is now within maybe 50 yards of this intersection. It's right up there.

Rechner Butkowski told me it's more than a quarter mile from the traffic light to the west, coming east. Apparently there has to be a 1,320 foot buffer between lights. Between lights it has to be a quarter mile.

Holdridge We've had some experience with that. They can stretch a mile!

Berg So that will be our next step. John (R.) will put that petition together and we should get almost everybody in the neighborhood to sign it so you can have it at the March 5th meeting.

A motion was made by Bob Enright to send this to the Town Board with a recommendation that the Plan Commission is supportive of a light at Badger Ave. and Hwy. 10. Motion was seconded by LaVerne Syens. Motion passed unanimously.

Holdridge Thank you folks.

Syens When you get your petition, will you send one to Dr. Jim Ford? I'll see him tomorrow or Thursday morning and I'm quite sure I'll have him convinced by the time I leave.

Holdridge Jim lives in Hull too.

Syens You know Jim?

Berg I know him well.

6. REQUEST OF JOHN OBERTHALER TO CHANGE THE ZONING ON HIS LAND OFF FIRKUS ROAD FROM CONSERVANCY TO A-4 TO DEVELOP RESIDENTIAL LOTS AND SPLIT A LOT FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

Holdridge John Oberthaler wants to change zoning from Conservancy to A-4. That is a 40 acre section. He has had the Corps of Engineers map it out to find where the Conservancy areas are. He also would like to have a lot split out which is about 8 acres out of that 40 on the corner of Firkus and North Reserve Drive. So are there any questions? We traditionally need the support of the Corps of Engineers. There's a letter in here from the Corps which concurs and whatever happens to that land, you can't be building in a Conservancy area.

Oberthaler Back in the olden days they used to do just blanket Conservancy list and zone properties. Conservancy was, in my understanding, designed for wetland protection. There are obvious upland areas on this 40 which were just blanket called Conservancy. I did meet with the County. First I had it wetland mitigated and evaluated by an engineering firm. Contacted the Army Corps of Engineers. They were in concurrence with the mapping and the surveying that was done out there. In order to do any residential building or any building whatsoever on that 40, it has to be removed from Conservancy. So you're not even allowed to put a shed or even a hunting shack on that piece of property. After having it evaluated, what they came up with was a little over 13 acres of wetlands on that 40 and the rest is upland area. So that's what we're looking at doing. There is an interested party in that 10 acre split. I put that in there for your consideration so you guys didn't have to see me again and again. If I have a positive rezoning, then I can sell that lot for a future home development.

Holdridge The first action would be to approve the rezoning. Does anybody have a question? I think there's 3 or 4 zones in that rural residential.

Lucht Two.

Holdridge There's 2? Okay.

Lucht There's 2 zones in that land use. You have Conservancy listed in that land use and you have A-4 which is general agriculture, 2 acre zoning lots. So you said it's one or another in that land use.

Enright So what happens to the wetlands if this is changed to agricultural?

Lucht Nothing as long as it's wetland which is basically determined by the vegetation that's growing. In other words, wetland vegetation isn't going to grow in upland areas and vice versa.

Holdridge So that's going to be there, preserved as wetland.

Oberthaler The DNR and Army Corps will protect the wetlands. You can't do anything.

Lucht So will the County. Those wetlands show as Conservancy. It's not going to be a blanket rezoning out. Those that are inside of the delineation that we saw, those will still stay Conservancy zoned.

Enright I think this pending legislation about wetland mitigation, its possible this wetland could be removed as wetlands with a replacement of other.....

Lucht Well, I suppose it could. You guys have to hold your ground at some point and say, "We like our wetlands the way they are and don't want them mitigated." You don't have to rezone it. You wouldn't have to rezone this; you'd have to come up with a reason for it.

Enright A reason to preserve the wetland?

Lucht To keep the whole parcel in Conservancy. We don't see a reason for that with the rules in place as they are. This is relatively uncontroversial.

Holdridge Let me go back; I want to clarify this. You are saying that area that is on here is wetland and it looks like an identification of a swap, that that area would remain Conservancy?

Lucht Yes.

Holdridge The only area that would change to A-4 would be the part that isn't in the Conservancy?

Lucht Correct.

Oberthaler The differentiation would be that is in fact uplands and it was determined to be upland by hiring an engineering firm and talking with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Enright If it was used for agriculture, would it make any impact on the wetland?

Lucht It would have a greater impact on it than if it was used for residential because you're putting all kinds of petro-chemicals and agricultural chemicals. Whether you put a center pivot on it or not or grazing cows inside of those wetlands, which are allowable. So one would argue that homes along the road would be a lot less damaging than agriculture to the wetland.

Enright Conservancy is less damaging than agricultural?

Lucht Well Conservancy is The way we have our zones set up now, Conservancythere, you'd have to do some crazy stuff.... (*end of tape*) natural areas limited land use is now available for use. So those areas that you have....you've got it on your Comprehensive Plan as having those splotches in a few cases, maybe you don't. I don't remember off the top of my head if you use natural area limited but it's available for use now and you guys have said 5 acres zoning minimum lot sizes on that. So at some point you should revisit that. I know you guys don't have much for agriculture in this Town but we have farmland preservation coming up and there will be some stuff you are required to do with that.

Holdridge Let's get back to this item.

Enright What I was asking was the old way of doing this or making the whole plot Conservancy, was that just because it was easier to do that? Or was the idea behind it that it's not wetland if it's in Conservancy it preserves the character of the wetlands?

Lucht Everything extra would help preserve wetlands. However, why the Town of Hull decided to put one big block as opposed to not blocking it, I don't know.

Holdridge Now wait a minute; you say the Town of Hull, we're getting advice from you folks on all of this stuff. We are relative neophytes at a lot of that.

Lucht I know you are mapping from the one land use change and rezoning we did way up on the Dewey Town line that we switched some gentleman's property to A-3 and some of that land use shows it doesn't follow the parcel lines. So I know it was probably a mix and a judgment call somewhere in there.

Holdridge I think the short answer to Bob's (*E.*) question is we saw that and we had all these wetlands and we zoned it Conservancy. So if somebody who wants to develop it that owns it, they have to demonstrate, which John Oberthaler has with the Corps of Engineers, there's areas in here that are buildable.

Oberthaler Nobody ever had the money to go in and test each parcel so they said there's water going through here, this looks like wetlands, this 40 will be wetlands.

Holdridge It's up to the owner to demonstrate that.

Enright So are these 2 maps, the one that shows lot 1 and the one that shows the wetlands, is this the same plot that this is?

Oberthaler Yes it is.

Enright So that means that this looks like this plot looks like it has wetlands.

Holdridge Look here, you can see it outlined.

Oberthaler Yes, you can just barely see it (*the copy was rather light*).

Reid So what happens to that?

Oberthaler The wetlands remain wetlands and they remain Conservancy.

Reid Within that lot?

Oberthaler Yes. So none of the wetlands can ever be developed.

Holdridge You'll have to build in this area or possibly along here.

Oberthaler Yes, but if you put it at an angle across this lot, this is a 5 acre parcel and that is a 5 acre parcel. You can probably put four 2 acre lots in there but what I'm asking for is one 10 acre.

Enright So this square here is 10 acres?

Oberthaler Or 9.something once we give the road dedication to the Town of Hull.

Holdridge The one thing I've got to do on Monday, this will have to go to the Board on Monday too, because I have to have Phil Deffenbaugh look at that road dedication. Generally that's not a problem. Make sure it's dedicated.

Bowen John (O.), are the adjacent landowners or surrounding land owners notified when you do something like this?

Lucht Yes, they will be. All parcel owners within 300 feet. So across the road, 300 feet from that larger parcel will be notified.

Holdridge Once we approve this, does this go back to the County, Planning & Zoning Committee?

Lucht I think it goes to your Town Board then it'll go to....

Holdridge We'll take it to the Town Board Monday night, but would they act on it?

Lucht After the Town Board, it comes back to us.

Holdridge But you've sent out a public notice?

Lucht No, we'll have our own public hearing on the Planning & Zoning Committee...he should be able to make it for March.

Enright Does the east end of this whole plot that you're asking for zoning change, does that go up to the new road?

Oberthaler No. There's a 20 in between there. This is A-4.

Holdridge Okay, any questions? We should have a motion to support this but first of all to change the zoning. That means that you still cannot build in some of this as some parts of it remain in Conservancy where it's wetland. You can't do anything there. What we're really rezoning is the area that is probably buildable.

Oberthaler Both the County and the Army Corps of Engineers would consider buildable.

Holdridge The gold standard for this is the Corps of Engineers. Beyond that it's the Department of Natural Resources, right? He quotes the clean air act.

Lucht Chris M. or Tracy P. calls the DNR and the DNR and the Corps decides who has jurisdiction. In this case, if it's the DNR, then the DNR has got jurisdiction.

Enright So the proposal is A-4 in here, is that right?

Lucht No, at present it is Conservancy.

Enright No, what we're going to change it to. So what is the density?

Lucht 2 acre minimums. Which is similar to the next 20 over.

A motion was made by LaVerne Syens to change the zoning from Conservancy to A-4 for the whole parcel. Motion was seconded by Bob Bowen. Motion passed.

Holdridge John Oberthaler also has a certified survey in which he wants to split out about 9 acres, Lot 1. That's right at the corner of Firkus and North Reserve Drive.

Oberthaler I already have a request/offer to purchase from somebody interested in building a residence on that corner.

Holdridge So when they get down to the building permit and site, they've got to avoid the wetlands. They can only put it on the A-4 that is residential.

Stemen They want to purchase the whole 9 acres John?

Oberthaler Yes.

Enright Can that buyer split that lot again?

Oberthaler They could. Anything in your A-4 zoning could be potentially split into 2 acre lots as long as you have access to them. I think there are some rules created so you can't make 2 acre lots that are 75 feet wide and 330 feet long. But I'm not sure about your rules here. I think the plan is to build one residential home but they could petition at some point in the future.

Holdridge Chuck, so if they split 9 acres into two 2 acres, what part of that 2 acres has to be buildable? Two acres could well include some wetlands.

Lucht You'd have to be able to fit your access way, your structures and your septic field all within the buildable area.

Holdridge Setbacks?

Lucht Yes.

Holdridge That's another layer of regulation that you're talking about. In fact, whoever buys this and they want to put a house on it, then they've got to come up with a site plan. I assume you need a zoning permit and then they come here for a building permit. But all that has to be articulated. Any other questions?

A motion was made by LaVerne Syens to approve the certified survey map for John Oberthaler. Motion seconded by Jocelyn Reid. Motion passed.

Holdridge We'll take this to the Board on Monday night.

Oberthaler Would you suggest that I be here?

Holdridge Yes, I think it would be good to be here. We like to see your face, John! It's at 5:30 on Monday.

7. APPEARANCE BY SARAH WALLACE, Portage County Planning & Zoning Department, Associate Planner, to review hazard mitigation plan.

Curtis Well neither of us are Sarah; she actually had her baby last night. So this is Corinna Neeb and I'm Sandra Curtis from the Emergency Management Office. We've been

helping Sarah with meetings with the municipalities. The handout will outline the different hazards we'll be looking at tonight. You may recall back in 2004-2005 the County first devised a hazard mitigation plan. Back then, as far as getting input from the municipalities, what they did was they sent out a spreadsheet and they asked for people to rank their concerns or what they saw as historically in their municipality. For the Town of Hull, the results that were the highest things of concern that have affected you have been thunderstorms, tornados, high winds, and wild land fires. Every 5 years the federal government requires that we update our plan. FEMA now has their new regulations that they would like us to have more input from you than just tallying on a spreadsheet. They require us to actually come out and meet with you. That's why we are here tonight.

Holdridge You said when the survey was last done, it was tornados, high winds and wild fires.

Neeb Wild fires were the highest concern. So we want to go through, like Sarah had mentioned in her memo, we have a full list of hazards that are in our plan. We'd like to know your input because the reason we are here is to get your thoughts on how vulnerable you feel your municipality is to these hazards and if you have any mitigation strategies, things that may help to minimize any impacts from these hazards in this community. The first thing we have on the list is tornados. The County has created a bunch of maps and we have the data for 1951 to 2004, the different paths tornados have taken through the County. It does show one that went through the Town of Hull. I don't have the date so I don't know when that exactly was. It's not provided on the map. That was one of your concerns last time also, the threat of tornados.

Holdridge When was that last time, 2003?

Neeb When the plan was updated? The plan was written in 2005, finalized and approved.

Holdridge At that time you got this feedback from us?

Neeb Yes. So does anyone have any thoughts on tornadoes? Does anyone remember the tornado that came through?

Holdridge We had that wind shear within the last 2 years. That had a lot of damage.

Curtis That was actually July 19th of last year. I know this Town has taken an active role in warning for tornados. I believe you are in the process of installing a new siren.

Holdridge In northwest Hull.

Curtis Right. That's one mitigation strategy that we will add to the plan. The location of that new siren.

Syens By adding that siren, it's anticipated that we should have full coverage in the Town of Hull.

Curtis So that is an excellent mitigation strategy that you have already accomplished on your own. Plus I think you also upgraded the current siren that you have that is located around here, maybe at the fire station. That was brand new just a couple of years ago. So those 2 items will be added into the plan, they weren't there in 2005.

Holdridge Does that wind shear count?

Curtis Sure. High winds are also a big concern, straight line winds, right.

Holdridge That really hit LaVerne's subdivision and Kirshling subdivision, not all of it but parts of it.

Enright It did a lot of things in ours too. Well, I guess all over. So are we saying the tornado sirens go off during that? What do you do?

Curtis Tornado sirens won't go off in a severe wind storm. It will only go off when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning. The event back in last July, there was no notification from the National Weather Service that it was a tornado so sirens wouldn't have helped you at that time.

Enright So what is it that we could do about it? Just say straight line winds are an issue?

Neeb Other municipalities have made certain that the trees in the right-of-way don't affect the power lines. Try to keep the trees away so that if they do fall, they're not going to damage your power lines.

Enright That was an issue, so many people without power for the better part of a week.

Neeb But a mitigation strategy would be maintaining strict maintenance of your right-of-ways so you don't have trees knocking out the power.

Amman What about power lines that are going behind property lines? We could use my own as an example. Mine are behind there. The power company is supposed to be trimming the trees away from those power lines behind my lot. I assume it's the power company that does that. But they only trim up to a certain lot line then they don't go behind mine for some reason. So they haven't been trimming those. Is there some way of seeing to it that they follow through on that?

Curtis I'm not sure whose jurisdiction that would fall into as far as maintaining that.

Amman I think that there may be a corridor that belongs to the power company (*that runs along the back of the property line*).

Curtis One of the persons on the Hazard Mitigation planning team is from Wisconsin Public Service and they say that they do maintain the right-of-ways.

Amman They've been maintaining it up to a certain point but for some reason they stop before they get to behind my lot. I've called them about it a few times asking if they're going to do the rest, but I don't get an answer.

Curtis We can put that down as something that your municipality is concerned about, maintaining the back right-of-way.

Amman Because there are definitely a lot of trees back there where the power lines are.

Holdridge Going back to the right-of-way as we know it which is 33' from the centerline of the road: you're saying that area should be monitored and potential branches that are going to fall over power lines should be noted. You say Public Service would remove those?

Curtis We're saying on the right-of-way that Public Service has, Patty was talking about the right-of-way on the back side of the lot. The right-of-way on your road side, that's the responsibility of the municipality on the Town road. Correct?

Holdridge There may be some argument about that.

Curtis Buy anyway, that's a mitigation strategy. We're not here to say that you are supposed to maintain that, but that could be a mitigation strategy that you would recommend.

Holdridge One of the things we have, we have 4 sectors. Those generally parallel the 4 snow plowing routes. We have 4 road crew members. Each one of them has a sector. Ideally they would survey their routes in the spring and the fall and look for pot holes, vision triangles, encroachments on the road, etc. That could very well be another bullet point they need to look at. They're cleaning out culverts is another one.

Curtis As we go down the list, localized flooding, that one ties in with that, to maintain ditches and culverts.

Holdridge Does anyone here have a problem with tornados being a pretty high item for us?

Bowen Are we ranking these?

Curtis You did rank them back in 2005. Corinna just highlighted for you those that you had already ranked as high. Can they reduce the ranking?

Neeb In the updated plan, we aren't putting the rankings in. They are more concerned this time or interested in getting your feedback on mitigation strategies. If there have been things you have done like we talked about with the sirens.

Holdridge We don't have to be specific here?

Neeb You don't have to rank them.

Curtis But if you feel there are other mitigation strategies that either the Town could address or someone could address, now is the time you can put it into the plan.

Holdridge I look at drought/agriculture, that doesn't mean anything to us. Hazardous materials, probably not much there.

Neeb For hazardous materials, if you have any main transportation routes that go through the Town, that's where you are most vulnerable for spills. If a truck rolls over, something such as that. You may not have a fixed facility that has hazardous material, but what's going on our highways and the trains too....

Enright I think Hwy. 10, the Interstate, the railroads going through. It was about 8 years ago when the Weyauwega train accident happened.

Curtis Time flies, it was about 16 or 17 years ago.

Amman So that really refers to spills more than anything permanent.

Holdridge What would happen if you did have a spill on I-39? Who's responsible?

Curtis For the clean-up, the spiller is the one.

Holdridge Is that a federal or state responsibility?

Amman Wouldn't you have to call the DNR?

Neeb The DNR gets notified. State law requires they be notified.

Syens Any chemical spill, the DNR ramrods it. They'll hire an engineering firm to oversee the cleanup.

Curtis If it's an airborne release, you get the EPA and other regulatory agencies involved. Financially, the spiller is responsible for the financial part and the DNR is the regulatory agency that would be responsible for supervising that cleanup.

Syens And approving the cleanup.

Holdridge Should we just go down the list here and anything we think about mitigation, that's what you want, isn't it? How Hull is going to potentially mitigate something?

Curtis/Neeb Sure, yes.

Holdridge Tornado....

Bowen The siren.

Holdridge The siren would be used and we've updated and put in a new siren in northwest Hull.

Neeb The other thing we've been encouraging in municipalities and what they've been doing is having their citizens sign up for Code Red. The sirens are good and they're meant for when you are outside to hear. But if you're inside or in a location where you may not hear it, then your phone can go off; either your home phone or cell phone. Then it will also tell you what the warning is; if it's a tornado warning or a flood warning.

Holdridge Do they use that for missing children too?

Neeb They will do that too, yes.

Enright How do they actually know if you are in the Town of Hull or in the City of Stevens Point because telephones are not geographic?

Neeb When you sign up for Code Red, you identify an address with your phone number.

Enright So you do it individually.

Neeb Yes, correct, you do it individually so it is tied to that address. With the weather, the National Weather Service has their map and with the path of the tornado; with the Code Red system, it projects out indicating the path and these are the people that should be called that are in the path. The entire County doesn't get called.

Holdridge Is that calling done out of your office?

Curtis No. It comes from the dispatch center. But if it's a weather one, it's an automatic between Code Red and the National Weather Service. There's actually no human intervention on the part of any Portage County person. It's an automated weather warning system.

Enright When the storms were here last July, we didn't have any electricity so we didn't get any telephone calls. But there were calls for people in the City not to park on streets then another one at 4:00 a.m. telling you that you can now park on the street again.

Curtis Those calls were initiated by human...someone locally, but otherwise if it's the National Weather Service, it's an automatic thing.

Enright If I might say another thing, it might be on the use of terms. Because there was, in the past, when a tornado was suspected that was actually in the Portage County Business Park. The television stations said that they thought there was a tornado on the ground in the Business District. So we thought that meant the Central Business District downtown, but

instead, it was only a mile away from where we live heading in our direction. So what I'm saying is, clearer terms of geographic locations. I think people know what the Business Park is versus the Central Business District. But that was really ambiguous and that was probably the closest one I had ever been in.

Holdridge Was there an actual tornado then?

Enright I don't know if it ever got confirmed.

Reid It did. I remember it landing in a parking lot.

Enright Yes. That's not shown on your map.

Curtis It would have been right here. There is one located right there. That was the same day I think there were 2 or 3 tornados at different locations throughout the County. That was probably 2 years ago.

Enright That would be a good example because all the people in that area should have been under cover but it sounded like it was 4½ miles away (*based on the term "business district"*).

Curtis What the City has done to help mitigate that is they've put up a series of 4 new sirens in the City one of which covers the Business Park.

Enright Yes, right on the bridge over the train tracks. I noticed that because we hear that a whole lot louder than we ever did before.

Neeb The Code Red message that would go out would just say that there's a tornado warning issued in your area, seek shelter.

Holdridge Does that ring on every phone?

Neeb It will ring on those that are within the path that is drawn out of the tornado. It won't ring on every phone in the County at the same time.

Holdridge Those at risk?

Neeb Those at risk, yes.

Curtis Again, you have to sign up for that. You have to go to the Code Red website and sign up. You can have it put on your cell phone, your home phone, your work phone, whichever. It's geo-coded so that address will match that phone. You could be traveling to a different county or a different part of the state and if the phone is coded for your home address and your home location is at risk, even though you're in Dane County or Milwaukee, you're still going to get that call. So people have to understand there are some limitations to the system.

Amman Does it specify where the tornado is so that if you were out of the area, you would know that it's for your home?

Curtis It would say Portage County.

Holdridge It sounds like you'd need to narrow it down more, wouldn't you? If we get a call out in Hofmeister subdivision for Code Red, you don't say where it is.

Neeb It's only calling those that are in danger. The National Weather Service is predicting there could be...

Holdridge So if we got a call on Code Red, what would they say? That a tornado is approaching or a tornado....

Neeb I've gotten calls, I live out in Amherst and Sandy lives up by DuBay and I may get a call that I'm in danger but Sandy won't, because she's not in the path.

Curtis It's geo-coded to your address.

Reid Does that include severe thunderstorms too?

Curtis I think its severe thunderstorm warning, tornado warning and flash flood warning.

Neeb Those are usually larger. I guess it all depends upon the map and how it's drawn. The areas, if they're in the severe warning.

Reid It seems like there's an awful lot of severe thunderstorm warnings and nothing ever happens.

Neeb You can select which ones you want to get the warnings for when you sign up.

Holdridge Does that also include the high wind here?

Neeb Currently, Code Red does not issue any high wind advisories, but they are looking at potentially adding that to their system.

Enright So you want the Town to publicize getting Code Red.

Curtis If you have a Town newsletter. One of the things we're doing for tornado awareness week, we're going to be sending each Town Clerk a packet, like maybe 20 copies of the Code Red flyer. Maybe they could put it out at election time and people who are interested could pick up a flyer, go home, log on and sign up for Code Red. We're trying to do an outreach like that but we need the municipalities to help carry that message.

Amman Do you have those flyers now?

Curtis We were just printing them before we came. We don't have them with us.

Amman We have a newsletter in April so we'd need that relatively soon if we mention it in the newsletter.

Curtis We're going to try to get it out before the elections on April 3rd. It'll be coming out late March.

Reid But this is available now for people?

Curtis Yes, absolutely. The County just entered into a new 2-year contract with Code Red. So Code Red will be our warning system for the next couple of years for sure.

Holdridge If you get that out, we'll certainly try to get something in. Severe storms – winter, what happens then?

Stemen We'll find out tonight!

Holdridge It means go home! We call in the road crew.

Neeb Some municipalities have problems with blowing snow covering their roads. Do you have any trouble spots like that?

Holdridge Usually the sheriff triggers the whole thing, the dispatch. I know Pete K., our road crew foreman, watches our television and can track it pretty well.

Curtis I think what Corinna was referring to is encouraging municipalities to use snow fencing where you have large areas of open fields.

Holdridge We do. We have snow fencing. Brilowski Road is a good example.

Reid North Second Drive.

Holdridge Then severe storm – summer, that's like wind or heavy rains?

Curtis It's kind of a catch-all.

Holdridge We just bought some new signs and lights really as a result of the events of the last few years.

Curtis We ran into a shortage of barricades and flashing signs when we had the last flooding incident back in September of 2010.

Holdridge We stocked up on those. Then the flooding, it's pretty localized now.

Curtis What I've noticed is that the last couple of flooding events that we've had, you have some repetitive road damage areas. Down Walkush Road and some other areas. Mitigated strategies like what you were talking about would be clearing ditches and culverts. Making that part of your spring maintenance so that water can flow freely and you don't have summer flooding issues.

Holdridge The Consolidated actually assisted us financially in putting more culverts under Walkush Road because that's a potential problem. We raised that road over time.

Curtis So that's another mitigation strategy that's already been incorporated, putting in a culvert and raising the road.

Holdridge Extreme temperatures; that would be either hot or cold?

Neeb Right.

Holdridge Well, we bought a couple of generators. Barb has been sitting in here with all the lights out because of lack of electricity and people sometimes come to the municipal building. So we bought a generator for this building. In fact they were just installing it last week. We just bought a generator for the fire department to assist them in getting their big doors open. So 2 new generators. David, what were those a piece? Those weren't cheap.

Wilz There was one that was about 18 and another was 10 and then there's the installation.

Holdridge Plus the wiring and all that.

Curtis Would you ever consider opening this building in extreme heat, as a cooling center for elderly in the community to come during the hottest part of the day? That would be a mitigation strategy that would assist your residents. (*)

Holdridge I don't think we have a problem with that. Remember when we had the meeting down town, they'd open up SPASH for people to go there.

Curtis In the flooding of 2010, we opened SPASH and I think we had 2 or 3 people show up that didn't have power and couldn't get home as roads were closed because of flooding. But also SPASH was opened last July after the storm when lots of people were without power and there were lots of elderly folks that needed a place to go to stay cool. I don't know if you remember but the day after that storm was the hottest, most humid day we'd had in like 3 years. So we opened SPASH as a cooling center.

Holdridge The fire house would be another one.

Curtis The only thing is that you would have the staff the buildings.

Holdridge This one wouldn't be a problem during the day.

Wilz I think we took steps with the generator so that we could function as a government. Citizens want to know what's going on and we need to be able to function, making sure the fire trucks can get out.

Enright Would the Town cooperate with the City?

Holdridge I think it's the emergency government that is kind of running this operation. Rather than just the City or the Village of Plover.

Curtis Right, when you have an emergency that affects more than one municipality, that's when we get involved. When you have a small, localized flooding event, that's not something we would come in and help coordinate or open an EOC. But when you have an incident that affects multiple municipalities, long-term power outages, things like that we would get involved in the coordination.

Holdridge That would be reasonable. Now we have a generator so we can do cooling.

Curtis That's good to know because we'll add it to the list.
****(NOTE: In checking further, it was found that the Town building A/C system is NOT wired into the generator, therefore the building could NOT be used as a cooling center.)***

Holdridge Then you have wild fires. I think that is largely a mutual aid thing among the various fire departments. Dewey has one, Hull has one and the various fire departments are called in as needed.

Neeb For response, right.

Holdridge We just bought a brand new John Deer ATV and we're anxious to see if it works.

Wilz In talking about mitigation, are you talking about getting rid of the fuel supply?

Curtis Yes, we're just going to go there now.

Neeb Right, get rid of the fuel supply.

Wilz The fuel out in our woods.

Curtis There's parts of the Town of Hull that are the most dangerous. The Town of Hull and Town of Lanark have large pine plantation areas that are most susceptible to wild land fires. There's a program called FireWise through the DNR where you become a FireWise Community, working through your fire department to educate your citizens about keeping vegetation away from their homes and limiting your pine plantations.

Holdridge That's called FireWise? Through the DNR?

Neeb Yes. I met with the Town of Lanark so I worked with the ranger there to try to get some information to provide them. I can do the same for you, give you pamphlets that you can have here to hand out to the citizens. Like Sandy said, it's a whole program that is beyond pamphlets, with training sessions.

Holdridge So does the fire department head that up?

Neeb With the DNR.

Enright The Town pays for participating in this?

Curtis I don't think there's a cost.

Neeb No. It's just a mitigation. Part if it's even a landscaping thing that they're encouraging.

Holdridge So you send flyers to households?

Enright I remember about 20 years ago, someone came around during the summer and it wasn't just handing out a pamphlet, it was giving us strategies about things that should be done. Something like that could be useful because some people...it's the Town that could burn. In our area, it's fully wooded. In addition to that, in trying to prevent people from driving through the subdivisions, that guardrail at the end closes off a quick way out of the subdivision if you were trapped by fire. I don't know how dangerous that is. It just seems to me in wooded areas, it's worthwhile to educate people on fire safety and escape routes because there are areas that have just gone up.

Curtis Corinna can send you the information and I think the Plan Commission is a good place to start with disseminating that or coming up with a plan on how you want to handle the program. But it's a pretty comprehensive program that is sponsored by the DNR.

Neeb If you want to look up information on your own, you would just Google FireWise. It's a big program out in California with all the wild land fires, and out west. It's a national program.

Holdridge Do we have significant wildfires?

Curtis Last year was a pretty light year. In the County I think we only lost maybe 9 or 10 acres. But we've had years where we've lost....

Holdridge There was a big one out in Dewey.

Curtis There was that one. I keep statistics in the County. I keep a 10-year running total but I think we've had years where we've lost 300-500 acres of land. I think we had a prairie chicken land fire one year that took quite a few acres with it. But we haven't had any in the last

couple of years. But if you remember last year we had a very wet spring and summer so we didn't have that. But 2 or 3 years prior to that we had a very dry time so it runs in cycles.

Bowen Do fire warden's have any role in this? Hull has a fire warden. I don't know if he does anything other than issue burning permits.

Curtis To give the FireWise information would be a good resource to have when he issues a fire permit. That's a program you, as a local unit of government, can see how it fits your particular municipality. Your municipality has been identified as one with high possibility of wild land fires because of your pine trees.

Holdridge This is the first time I've heard of that program, FireWise. We talked about hazardous materials, dams, do we have any dams in Hull?

Neeb I was looking at the map.

Bowen If the DuBay dam went out, it would certainly impact the shoreline of Hull.

Curtis You do have one large dam that would be at the Jordan Pond, Plover River. It's considered a large dam, out on Hwy. 66.

Holdridge Is that in Hull?

Curtis It shows it on the map. Here is a map of the dams.

Stemen There isn't any water in there anyway (*McDill*). What the dam is holding back, that's been pretty much put out.

Curtis It's been drawn down because it feeds McDill Pond.

Neeb You'll notice the classifications of the dams is large and small. It's not the size necessarily of the dam but the impact that it could have on the community and the population if it would go out. But Bob is definitely right when he says if the DuBay dam went out, that the west end of your township would be affected. But we have pre-scripted messages in Code Red to go out if there would be...either if the water level on the Wisconsin River reached a certain rate or if there would be a dam failure, it would also go out. So numerous reasons we encourage the citizens to sign up for Code Red because it's our way of reaching them with a message. Be it whether it's a dam failure or a hazardous spill and we need to evaluate the area, then we can reach you too.

Enright What about the whole communication thing? I know some of the bigger cities are dealing with this now. That message services and telephone access are not available. New York City and San Francisco both have the old kind of fire alarms that are on the street and the telephone boxes for the police that you don't see anywhere. It's like a telephone right on the street. It turned out that those things have been really invaluable like in 1989 with the earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area; that was what the police were using to communicate.

That was before cell phones were prevalent. They're keeping them in those cities because if cell towers go down, some people are dependent upon electricity. If you lose electricity, you lose your phone.

Amman Actually you don't necessarily. It depends upon what kind of phone you have. I've been suggesting to people that they keep an el-cheapo princess phone because if you can plug that directly in, your electricity could go out and that phone would still work (*on the low voltage phone line*).

Curtis I keep one analog phone in my house, even though it's not plugged in at all times. But when there's a power outage, I plug that phone in and it works because all of my cordless phones....my cell phone would still work, but all the cordless phones within your house won't work when you don't have power.

Enright It makes me think about the cable service because if you have your telephone with the cable service, if cable is out, you don't have a telephone. I tried my analog phone, but it wouldn't work (*because of phone service being tied to the cable system*). It's with Charter. That works off of electricity in the house, right? Whereas if you lose... (*new tape*)

Holdridge so we know what Stockton is doing.

Neeb So your comments will be put into the report. I'll compile a note sheet for Sarah. Once Sarah gets back or during her leave, we'll compile it together, we'll have a draft version of the plan for you. Because of the size of it, it'll be on a CD with a cover letter that will be municipality specific so it will point you to the areas in the plan that talk about Hull.

Holdridge So you put in the CD and you can print it?

Neeb Yes. You can view it on the computer if you didn't want to print it off.

Bowen Sarah's letter mentioned eligibility for federal funding. Does any of that dribble down to the Town level?

Neeb Yes. Like last time, all the municipalities adopted the plan and you need to adopt the plan in order to be eligible to apply for federal funding if we were to have a federal presidential disaster like the flooding of 2010.

Curtis But you need to have this plan in place even to be eligible to apply when it happens. This is like your insurance policy in advance.

Bowen The funding doesn't help with mitigation, only after the fact.

Curtis Well, however, yes and no. Because post flood, there is a certain percentage of the money that's been allocated by disaster that is set aside for mitigation projects. Then we notify the municipalities when that money is available. We, as a County, just applied for a warning system for our parks. So now the parks will have an audio warning system when there

would be a tornado. So there's always post-disaster. There's always mitigation funds available. Like I said, we always notify the municipalities on how to apply for it and when it's available.

Holdridge I live in a subdivision. There are 50 subdivisions in Hull. We don't have any red (*property number*) plates outside our house with numbers on it. That was an old thing we had.

Neeb Fire numbers?

Holdridge If, for example, we have an emergency, Bob Enright or LaVerne have an emergency, both live in subdivisions, can the emergency government people, the fire trucks and the EMT's, can they find that house?

Curtis Yes and no. You should have at least some sort of building identification number on your homes if you live in a subdivision, correct?

Holdridge Yes, the mailbox.

Syens Or house numbers.

Curtis Okay. That's how they would find you.

Holdridge That would be the same in the City, wouldn't it?

Curtis Correct. But again that is a local responsibility to make sure that the number is posted. There's a County ordinance out there that gives you guidance on where the numbers should be posted. You need to make sure that there isn't vegetation growing up in front of the address number.

Holdridge We've had some pressure put on us literally have a plaque in front of the house, because we live in a subdivision, with a number on it. We got rid of those, even before I became chairman. Dewey still has some of that stuff.

Curtis Dewey just put them out, just in the last 5 years.

Holdridge We're not like Dewey. We've got 50 subdivisions. We've got a lot of rural gentlemen farmers. I want to know if our people call in, that Lois Hofmeister that lives on the corner, calls in and she's having some problems, that they will locate her house.

Curtis There are a couple of things; first of all, when the call comes up in the 911 system, her address will show up. The dispatcher will know....that's what the enhanced 911 system does, it will identify the location where that call is coming from, if she uses a land line. If she uses her cell phone, it will pop up on a map and it will be close. Cell phones have to be within 50 yards. That's the accuracy that they have. So it would be up to the caller with a cell phone to say that they are at this particular address. We have a CAD system in the County dispatch center that they can put the address in and it helps guide response vehicles to that location.

Holdridge What if you didn't live in a subdivision? You lived out off Brilowski Road for example?

Curtis You should still have an address, a BNI, in front of the....again, there's a County ordinance out there that tells you the spacing. Where it should be. Free of vegetation, etc. Some responsibility has to go back to the individual homeowner. They should make sure that they have it on the mail box. But they always need the encouragement of the (*local*) government.

Holdridge The address on the mailbox?

Curtis Yes.

Bowen I think all these emergency vehicles have GPS systems and they just punch that in and it's right there on a map.

Curtis That's not totally true. Squad cars have a CAD system, but ambulances do not. The Amherst ambulance does, we just incorporated that. But right now the Portage County ambulance does not because they get information from 2 different dispatch centers. Eventually, if we have one dispatch center and one CAD system for the County, that could possibly happen. Right now, for ambulances, we do not.

Holdridge You say you have 2 dispatches, Portage County and the City?

Curtis Right. We have City dispatch center which dispatches the ambulance and we also have the County. So we haven't put CAD systems in the ambulances because we have this irregularity in our notification system. The sheriff's dept. does have a CAD on their mobile data terminals so they can just punch in an address and the map will pop up and take them right to the location. Fire trucks, again, do not have CAD systems or GPS within their trucks. I think we bought them a Garmin GPS. We gave one to every fire department a year ago. So the command vehicle for the fire department has that but I don't think any other of the vehicles have it.

Enright A GPS only costs about \$50, right?

Curtis Well we paid about \$100 for the GPS when we bought one for each of the fire departments last year.

Holdridge The reason I ask the question is because we get some pressure to literally go back and put those nice stakes and the fire number. But we got rid of that stuff. People said, "You mean you're going to put in it front of my house in a subdivision?"

Curtis By County ordinance, maybe your subdivision ordinance is separate, but in the County ordinance, it's required.

Holdridge To have a stake?

Curtis Yes, out in rural areas.

Holdridge No, I'm talking about subdivisions.

Curtis That's why I said, maybe your subdivision ordinance defines what you do. But the County ordinance, every building should have what we call a BNI, business or building identification. But I haven't reviewed your subdivision ordinance.

Holdridge Just think of it though, we are no different than living in the City of Stevens Point. Does the City of Stevens Point have to have one of those?

Curtis On the building they do.

Holdridge You're talking the post office address.

Curtis Right.

Holdridge We have that.

Curtis Right. But it's supposed to be on the building. Again, if it's 75 feet away from the road, it's supposed to be one at the road, one on the building.

Holdridge To me, that stuff is overkill.

Curtis Well, until you have a heart attack and they can't find you.

Holdridge We expect you to have an automatic system. You said you have that, don't you?

Curtis We do. But there's always a human element to it. Like I said, if the call comes in by your cell phone.....

Holdridge You could have an exception to virtually everything. When you start telling us we have to go back to something, I'm not saying you, but it sounds like the County has some ordinance here, we've got to go back to something we got rid of. You know towns don't have a lot of money for some of this stuff. We want to make sure our citizens are safe. If they call in and you can locate them, through either the sheriff's dept. or the ambulance, that's what we need. But to put this on the houses....

Enright I think what you mean is in the rural areas you need it but in the subdivisions where it's more densely populated...

Curtis But even in the City, every single house has BNI, has their address.

Enright Not the red things though.

Curtis Not the red things, not the larger signs, they have a black and white reflective.

Holdridge We have a post office that has it on.

Curtis You mean the mailbox.

Holdridge Yes, the mailbox. We don't have one on our house.

Curtis I don't know what your subdivision ordinance calls for but the County ordinances say you should have it.

Holdridge We're probably not going to put that in because people don't want all that stuff. That's the problem. Maybe we ought to let citizens decide what is safe from their perspective.

Syens So what you are saying Sandy is that it should be on the mailbox at the end of the driveway.

Curtis If it's less than 75', you need one at the mailbox or at the driveway. If it's more than 75' from the center of the road, you need to have one at the driveway and one on the house.

Syens My next question is, does it have to be that fire number that we see in the rural area on the stake at the driveway or on the lawn?

Curtis It could be on your mailbox.

Syens On the mailbox and on the house.

Curtis But it has to be reflective so that at night, it can be seen. If you go to the County website, go to our webpage, scroll all the way down to the bottom and you can see there's a copy of the County ordinance. Again, if it agrees or conflicts with your subdivision ordinance, you'll have to make that comparison.

Holdridge All I'd like to do is have the County tell me, if somebody calls in, they've got an emergency, you can trace the call by however means, but you can get an EMT or an ambulance out there to serve that person, that's really the bottom line.

Reid I'm just amazed, I just assumed all the ambulances and fire trucks would have GPS.

Holdridge Yes, I am too.

Reid Because they're not that expensive.

Holdridge Right, we spend big money now for fire equipment.

Reid I feel like we should have a bake sale or something.

Enright This sounds ridiculous but I've read about mid sections of the country where earthquakes have travelled really far. That they occur very infrequently but they travel for hundreds of miles. Are we too far north for that? Madison felt a little bit of one last summer, I think. But are we too far?

Neeb We're pretty far north. The projects that I've seen, if there was an event in the New Madrid Fault, I would say we wouldn't sustain any damage if we did feel it, from what I've read.

Bowen Don't buy any insurance Bob!

Enright If you've been in an earthquake, it sticks in your memory.

Holdridge You were raised in San Francisco.

Enright Yes.

Holdridge Now all you have to worry about is floods and wind shears.

Neeb So if I may just finish up as to how you are going to be involved, I mentioned that CD would get sent out. What we would like then is for your comments on that. We'd like your feedback. In that cover letter, Sarah will provide you with the amount of time to get your thoughts back to her. Then she'll make the needed changes. Then the plan is to get it sent to the state for approval then also to FEMA for approval. After we receive it back from FEMA and if we need to make any changes, we will do that. Then at that time, when the County adopts it, the municipalities can adopt it as well. But that won't be until fall when that occurs.

Curtis So you'll have a couple of kicks at it yet.

Holdridge Do you know what the status is for a grant for a couple of bike paths that Sarah Wallace was doing? Does anybody know?

Lucht They are working on the contract to wrap it all together so we can get started.

Holdridge They're working on getting the money?

Lucht What the grant is for is to do a County wide bike/pedestrian study.

Holdridge But do they have the grant?

Lucht Yes, we have the grant. They're working on hammering out the contract now.

Holdridge How the grant is going to be implemented you mean?

Lucht Yes, who does what in the grant because we have a bunch of County work that is going to go into it as an in-kind type of grant. So the state has given us a bunch of money and

we have to match our part in-kind so we're going to be more involved than the firm that's helping with it that normally has. The state doesn't really know how to put that into a contract form. So we're hanging on that.

Holdridge So you're hiring some firm to help?

Lucht Yes. It's not actually for infrastructure. It's to do a County-wide bike plan.

Holdridge How much was that grant for?

Lucht Over \$100,000, I don't know the exact figure.

Stemen Just for Portage County?

Lucht Right, but that's to do the whole County and I believe that's urban area locked up inside of that too. That's going to be kind of a neat process. But Sarah is handling most of that.

Reid I have a question, getting back to tornados; who's responsibility or is it anyone's responsibility to provide tornado shelters. I'm still convinced mobile home parks attract tornadoes. I was just wondering does the Town have any responsibility for providing tornado shelters in those kinds of areas?

Curtis I think that one of the strategies is going to be that Planning & Zoning will encourage mobile home parks to build those. I know that in Juneau County, they wrote a grant with that mitigation money we talked about, to build underground pods in mobile home parks.

Reid Because there are quite a few in Hull.

Holdridge There's two.

Curtis I think it has more to do with mobile home ordinances. I think there are separate ordinances for mobile home parks. Right now, they're not even required to have the tie downs. There are no restrictions.

Holdridge They really get clobbered in those high winds.

Curtis I know at one time we had discussions about whether this building or your fire department could be used as a location for people from Fairview Village to come during the storm. But the thing is your municipality couldn't guarantee that it would be open and you don't want to commit staff to being available. Now the Village of Plover has. Anytime a tornado warning is going to be issued, they have staff that will come in and open the Village Hall in the Village of Plover so that people in mobile homes can come to that location.

Holdridge But they have a 24-hour fire department or police department.

Curtis They do but I think it's the responsibility of the fire department.

Holdridge But what I'm saying is that the police are there 24 hours. We don't have anyone here for 24 hours.

Curtis Exactly. That's why you don't want to get yourself into a situation saying that building or this building would be open in the event of a tornado because then you have to put some sort of plan into place to have it staffed during that time.

Enright Does this building have a basement?

Holdridge No.

Amman We have a vault.

Holdridge We actually had a Board meeting one night, now this was some time ago, we had tornado warnings and we went into the safe (*vault*).

Amman We have a vault and the bathrooms are all cement block too.

Holdridge There's a safe back there you could probably drop an atomic bomb on.

Curtis Does that back room have windows?

Amman It has doors and a very high ceiling but no windows.

Holdridge Chuck, does your subdivision ordinance have anything about signs for houses? County subdivision ordinance?

Lucht I don't know the answer to that off the top of my head because that's a Chris or Tracy question. I do know the vast majority of addresses in the County are in the emergency services so there's no real issue finding any places. However, if I remember discussions with Rod correctly, on occasion, some of the rural subdivisions in the Town can have a problem with being found if they don't have the right numbers up on the building. Why you wouldn't have an address up on your building, why that would be an issue, I don't know.

Holdridge We have mailboxes.

Bowen We don't know how long that is going to last.

Curtis The thing is, mailboxes can be taken out by a snowplow and how long does it take you to get that back up?

Enright For some places, the mailbox is on the opposite side of the street.

Curtis Exactly. So that's not...

Reid If you've got vehicles parked in the road, that can be hard to see.

Curtis I would urge you to take a look at your ordinance for subdivisions and also compare it to the County ordinance for signing. I know this isn't one we're going to win with John.

Holdridge You could get down so where you'd protect against everything. The question is, do we really have a problem? If someone from Hull calls the sheriff's department dispatcher and says my husband is having a coronary, will that sheriff's dept. deputy or whoever is the dispatcher be able to alert the EMT's, etc. to get to that house? That's the question. I assume most people will have a mailbox with the number on it. Some of this stuff, Sandy, just seems overkill.

Curtis The thing is though, you have to look at it like if it was 2:00 in the morning and their rushing to your house and there are 5 houses in a row and there's no number on your house or the neighbor's house or that house. They go, I think it's this one because their porch light is on. If the light is on, that's a great one. But what if all 5 people left their light on and nobody had a number on their door? How do you know whose house it is? Just think about every scenario. We could argue this until we're blue in the face.

Holdridge Well that's my point. If you think of every scenario and try to deal with every scenario but frankly we can't afford some of that stuff and it's just probably overkill.

Syens Whose responsibility is it to put the number on the house? Is it the homeowner or is it....

Curtis The ordinance will say that it's the responsibility of the municipality for the one at the street.

Holdridge Who is going to put that up and who is going to check annually that these people have that? Is that our road crew? We don't have the resources.

Curtis Whoever you designate then. That's what the Town of Plover, the Town of Stockton, Town of Dewey, their road crew does it.

Holdridge We have 2,020 households. Does the Village of Plover have those for every house?

Curtis Yes. They have BNI on every building.

Syens They're not the stake in front of the house, John.

Curtis Correct.

Syens We were thinking about the old fire number stakes in front of the house.

Holdridge So I'm saying, nobody in Plover has a mailbox, is that what you're saying? Like Hull does? I'm taking about the Village.

Bowen Oh yes, they do.

Curtis I'm thinking about my I have a duplex in Plover and we have the mailboxes at the street.

Syens My daughter lives in Plover, she has a mailbox.

Holdridge Does she have one on her house?

Curtis My duplex is less than 75' from the center of the road, so we just have one on the building, on each side of the building with the address and it's reflective and there's no vegetation that covers the view.

Enright It can be written on the mailbox, it doesn't have to be government issue.

Neeb As long as it's reflective and there's a minimum size.

Curtis That's why I urge you to take a look at the County ordinance. I don't know if you have special things in your subdivision but I would urge you to compare those 2. We have a County ordinance for addresses but then there might be something in your subdivision ordinance as well. We don't maintain that.

Amman We put that in our newsletter. That the address should be reflective, they need to keep the trees away from it. That's pretty regularly been in our newsletter encouraging people to do that. I know because I went out to my mailbox to make sure the numbers were on it.

Curtis But they should be reflective.

Reid To me, its common sense.

Curtis What they did in the Town of Plover, they assessed the cost of that so that they're uniform. The whole Town is uniform and they assessed it as a one-time assessment on their taxes. They added I think \$25 per household and then the Town took care of doing it. They bought and placed the signs but they went with the big, what you would call the fire number.

Syens Are you done Sandy?

Curtis We are. We hoping we're done.

Syens Thank you.

Curtis Thank you for your input.

Holdridge If you can figure out some way to pay for all this stuff, let us know. So if you get that to us, we'll review it and get it back to you. Have a safe trip home.

Enright Is the snow coming down now?

Reid Oh yes, it's snowing, the vehicles are all covered.

8. CONTINUED UPDATE ON SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE FOR TOWN OF HULL.

Holdridge We won't do this last item (*it was snowing harder outside*).

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING.

*The next Plan Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 27, 2012.***

10. ADJOURNMENT.

*Motion made by Syens to adjourn meeting, seconded by Stemen. Motion carried by voice vote.
Meeting closed at 8:32 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman, Plan Commission Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County