



TOWN OF HULL
**PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING**

Oct. 15, 2019
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** The Town of Hull Plan Commission Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019 by Chairperson John Holdridge at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: John Holdridge, Paul Kubowski, Jan Way, Bob Enright, Bob Bowen, Jocelyn Reid, and Plan Commission Secretary Patty Amman.

Excused: Dennis Ferriter

Also present: Dave Wilz

- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2019 Hull Plan Commission meeting:**
JH commented on Jen McNelly saying clearly that problems affecting Well #11 come from ag land – deep water and that 90% of nitrate problems in Wisconsin come from ag lands. Only about 10% come from private septic / lawns. She made that point several times.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 20, 2019 was made by Jan Way, seconded by Paul Kubowski. Motion carried by voice vote.

- 3. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS MAY BRING THEM UP AT THIS TIME. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS CAN DO SO WHEN THE AGENDA ITEM IS UNDER DISCUSSION.**
None.

- 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND PLAN COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

Announcements by JH included:

- Janet Wolle will be retiring at the end of 2019 after 42 years of service to Hull. Because she is retiring before the end of her term, the Town will need to appoint someone to finish the term. If anyone knows of someone interested, please let the Town know. The Town will advertise that position as well.

- Shared information on the Hines VA Blind Rehab Center which JH will be attending for approximately one month for specialized computer training. There may be others who can also benefit from this service to veterans, if they have vision problems, they might be eligible.

- Hull's Fall newsletter will be sent out within the next two weeks. It will include an article regarding the recent storm and local resources available to Hull citizens, including what the Town of Hull can do for householders.
- Kelly Z., a representative from WPS, gave a presentation at a recent Hull Board meeting in September covering what WPS did during and after the recent storms. A portion of the minutes that covered Kelly's comments from that Board meeting were shared with the Plan Commission members.
- The Hull ATV/UTV Task Force met once and will meet the second time on Nov. 13th. There are 11 people on the Task Force representing both sides of the issue. The first meeting was very respectful of opinions.
- Hull Budget Hearing is on Nov. 14th.
- A communication from the Town of Plover was shared regarding their concerns about Portage County's Planning and Zoning Department as relayed through a number of questions they posed.

**5. EVALUATION OF PORTAGE COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT
– JEFF SCHULER, DIRECTOR.**

JH A good step to address concerns for the County P&Z Dept. Survey was sent out by County Executive Chris Holman. Three basic questions. We'll discuss and put something together then forward it on to Chris Holman's County Executive office. If we are satisfied with the service of P&Z, if the answer is yes, what do we like about it?

Below are general comments expressed during discussion:

1. *Are you satisfied with the services provided to you by the planning and zoning department?*

- Found P&Z generally well prepared with answers to issues.
- Kristen Johnson helpful with Town's Comprehensive Plan review process.
- Chris Mrdutt well informed.
- Communication is positive with/from P&Z. We are notified about zoning concerns.
- The County does a terrific job communicating with citizens in day-to-day questions citizens come to the county on (setback questions, permit questions, etc.)

2. *What areas do you think can be improved upon in our countryside system?*

- County could provide better education on zoning.
- Main weakness seemed the County doesn't look at issues from the Town's viewpoint in a consistent manner. County doesn't tell us (the Town) what we should or need to know. Citizens are not professionals and need things explained in simpler terms. The wellhead protection ordinance was an example. County doesn't speak to the needs of

the Town and they don't think outside the box on ideas. Plover wrote 40 questions in response to the survey indicating many areas of concern.

- County seems to represent the City to the towns (take the City's stance/view).
- County P&Z leadership needs to be at Plan Commission meetings, getting out to the towns to get a real feel of what it's like out at the towns and the towns viewpoints.
- P&Z ought to serve the interests of the towns but instead seems to have an urban bias towards the City.
- There could be better information to the town plan commission.
- A lot of folks have positive comments about P&Z but P&Z should be teaching us and informing us about issues ahead of time.
- Is the County our advocate? Insensitive to citizens. Not in tune with desires of our citizens.
- County more supportive of city/municipality. Memos from P&Z sometimes seem condescending.
- County needs to reach out of towns better, come out to meetings (County leadership should attend town meetings).
- Suggest County create an advisory committee of town members to work with the County and keep each other informed.
- Chris Holman will be evaluating P&Z leadership, Jeff Schuler and it should be the job of the County Executive to correct County leadership as needed.
- The one-size-fits all approach they take doesn't always work and there is a need for other flexible tools for specialty items regarding zoning issues.

3. *Would you be in favor of the county going through a comprehensive zoning revision to modernize and update the document? And if so, would your town consider dropping out of county zoning?*

- Review would be a 2 or 3-year process, if it happens.
- Wants to know/understand what does it mean to 'exit from County zoning'?
- What does state law say about that?
- We need to know how to appeal a problem and how do we correct a conflict?
- County can amend and update as they go along, or, they can go through a complete review process. They should refine what needs refining, but don't reinvent the whole wheel.
- There are gaps in knowledge. Plover has good questions. Plover wants out. In Hull, 30% of property taxes goes to the County which covers planning and zoning services and the sheriff (police services).
- Is the only way a town can opt out of County zoning is if there is a comprehensive review of the County zoning process? Didn't know answer to that.

6. NORTH SECOND DRIVE ENFORCEMENT OF SPEED LIMIT (UPDATE).

- JH is working with Josh Ostrowski of the Portage County Sheriff's Department on additional coverage of enforcement of the speed limit on North Second Drive. Josh is familiar with North Second Drive as he drives it since he lives in the Dewey area. Some extra hours of coverage on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be paid for by Hull at \$75/hour (funds from Hull's contingency fund). Once the road is complete, around early November, the extra coverage would start for a total of 4 hours per week. This is in addition to any other normal coverage on roads in Hull. We perceive once North Second Drive is open/complete, there could be speeding issues.

- This is a system we may want to consider for other Hull roads in the future like Jordan Road.

- Bob E. wanted clarification on how things are prioritized. Certain corridors, like Hwy. 10 East, citizens say has unsafe traffic. Why isn't that in the mix of priority?

- JH said different things come up sometimes during public hearings. Such as golf balls hitting cars on Country Club Drive or speeding on Jordan Road.

- Pete K. has two pieces of equipment that record a variety of traffic data including number of vehicles, type of vehicle (truck or car), speed of vehicles, etc. Hull has authorized the purchase of a third device to do the same so these can be placed in various parts of Hull at the same time. They cost around \$5,000. The device that shows the drivers their speed tends to slow them down because it creates awareness of how fast they are driving.

- Once data is collected on the various roads with this equipment, a follow up would be some type of enforcement of the speed limit.

- Bob E. feels almost everyone in the area agrees Hwy. 10 East has a traffic safety problem. When Bob asked Lukas about a patrol car, Lukas said he can't put a patrol car there because of other priorities which would pull the patrol car off right away. Bob E. said someone from the Town of Stockton recently died on that stretch of road because of a serious accident, possibly due to the lack of a safety barrier to prevent head-on collisions. Bob E. said there is no other road in Portage County that has more traffic than Hwy. 10 East, other than the Interstate. Why do towns have to hire their own road patrols? Why isn't the County saying they need to look at their priorities and decide what is needed? That should be part of the mix, what citizens are identifying. The County knows cars are speeding on that stretch of Hwy. 10 E.

- JH suggested calling the County Board Supervisor for that area and give feedback to that elected representative.

- Bob E. said the Sheriff indicated the County rotates the location of the speedometer kiosks – the portable signs that tell you how fast you are travelling. That is effective in slowing traffic down because it reminds people how fast they are going. Maybe we could put Hwy. 10 E. on the list for that.

- JH – we haven't hired extra deputies for a long time. Not since the kids from SPASH created problems speeding along Old Wausau Road. Those off-duty deputies helped stop that problem.

- Paul K. said when the high school gets out at 3:00, that would be a time to consider watching the speeders. They may be ripping down that new road between 3 and 4:00 p.m. He feels the high school students that tend to be lead feet, may already be gone by 4:00 p.m.

- Dave W. said some of this is set up as officers are available, when shifts are changing or at the end of a normal shift.
- JH will check to see if some deputies get off at 3:00 so that might be possible to have one start at 3:00.
- Bob B. hasn't seen that much with the high school students, but more with women speeding. He asked if the Hull Board has considered the north one-mile section of this road to be reduced to 35 mph from 45 mph.
- JH will check but thought the Town may have the option to drop a speed limit by 10 mph (from 45 to 35 mph). Bob B. said he checked with DOT and they said the Town has the jurisdiction to do that. If it's more than 10 mph, then they need to do a safety study.
- Bob B. asked if the entire 3 mile stretch will be double striped, have the double yellow line for no passing. It has been double yellow striped up to now. Dave W. said he believed the engineering company was intending to put the entire 3 miles under double striping so nobody can pass. Bob B. said people might still try to pass, but if they do, they'll get fined for breaking the speed limit and crossing a double line. JH will check with Pete K. to make sure the double striping gets done.
- Road to be completed around 1st of November. Right now landscaping is being done and driveways are being completed. As soon as the road is completed/opens up, that's when the extra patrol will begin.
- Jocelyn R. felt the peak time for speeding is probably 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and then late at night you can hear people speeding by or drag racing. That may be the case on any Town road.
- Bob B. said the period from 5 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. in the morning is when, he felt the majority of the speeders are out there trying to get to work in a hurry. But there are usually no pedestrians or bicyclists out at that time of day so the risk is lower.
- JH said there needs to be a cultural change and people need to slow down.
- When walkers are along the side of the road, cars tend to slow down, so walkers sometimes act as a calming device for drivers.

7. WELLHEAD PROTECTION FOR PRIVATE (HULL) WELLS (STATUS).

- JH said Barry Jacowski has suggested at a Portage County P&Z Committee meeting that something be sent to the City asking what they are going to do to protect private wells. JH drafted a letter to the City with a copy to Jeff Schuler and the Hull Board has supported it, asking the City, what are you going to do to help the Town of Hull with our private household wells to protect them in terms of quality and quantity issues. JH said most wellhead protection just pertains to quality of water, not quantity.
- A copy of the letter to the City will also be provided to the Hull Plan Commission members once it has been finalized and sent.
- JH thought there will be a start with the County to look at private household wells and how to protect them. The word is out. A County governing committee has raised that issue and that is important.

8. ATV/UTV HULL TASK FORCE (STATUS).

- JH reported there are 11 members on this group and it is well balanced in terms of different views.

- Jan W. said in the straw vote that was taken at that meeting, it was preferred by everyone on the Task Force that either all of the town roads, or none of the town roads would allow ATV/UTV use. All one way or the other, not a split of some roads here and there. Jan said there were two reasons behind that. One being enforcement, whether it's the DNR or Sheriff enforcing it. The other reason is some people thought it was unfair for some roads to have access and the rest of Hull residents wouldn't have any reason to care about the issue. It was felt all of the Hull residents should care. It's going to affect everyone eventually in some way. This is a starting position but it may change as further discussions proceed.

- Some discussion about subdivisions and in some cases, you cannot get out of certain Hull subdivisions without going onto a City road and the City prohibits these vehicles. It was pointed out, though, that ATV's could drive around within the subdivision itself.

- A survey was done and villages of Plover and Whiting ban these vehicles on their roads. Urban areas are not supportive of having ATV/UTV's on their roads. Dewey, being more rural, is supportive of ATV use on their roads.

- JH wants to clarify insurance questions regarding how ATV use is covered. A separate policy is needed for these vehicles, similar to motorcycles. Except for the fact that motorcycles are for driving on the road whereas ATV's are for use off the road, they are not built to be driven on paved roads.

- Paul K. brought up who is responsible, if ATV's are using our roads, and they hit a pothole and there is an accident? Who is liable because it's a Town road. That needs to be investigated as well.

- Bob E. thought this was a rural activity and the ATV users wanted access to off-road trails and prohibiting them on Hull roads was a hindrance to their being able to participate in what these vehicles are intended for. Now it sounds like they want to use these vehicles on roads that the ATV's are not built to be used for/on.

- JH said one of the purposes of the discussions of the Task Force is to clarify what protections these vehicles have or don't have. There may be too many gaps. Other things to consider is the interaction with pedestrians walking, bicyclists, etc.

- Jan W. said one of the objectives of ATV users seemed to be to be able to get from establishment (bar) to establishment (bar).

- Dave W. hopes the Task Force will ask what was the intention of the ATV groups in introducing this, what do they want to see?

- Discussion about enforcement of speed laws which needs to be researched further and clarified, whether by the local sheriff department or by the DNR.

- Paul K. spoke about the snow mobile trails that cross private property and what are the ramifications of the possibility of those trails being used by ATV/UTV as well. Property owners may not want that and may close off their properties to everyone including the snowmobilers.

- Jocelyn R. asked if the next step might be the snowmobiles would want roads opened up to them for their use as well. Dave W. said it is illegal for snowmobiles to go down roads.

- JH said there has been some reaction to late-at-night snowmobilers, some of which were around bars.
- Bob Bowen asked about last winter when snowmobilers used Evergreen Drive to North Second then south. Did the snowmobilers get permission from the Town to drive on or along those roads? Bob B. said they go through a lot of his land and although he doesn't have any complaints, if somebody gets hurt, that could end up being a problem for a court to solve.
- Bob E. said the one-size-fits-all approach is putting the stakes really high. Voting for all roads or no roads, up or down as opposed to a compromise position.
- JH said the problem is enforcement which becomes even more difficult if it is just selected roads. And who is going to enforce it? JH said the ATV owners need to know what they are covered for by their insurance or else find out. One of the roles of the Task Force is to try to inform people and lay this all out.
- The Task Force wants to get the information out and make a decision they can pass along to the Town Board for official action. It is not the intent of the Task Force to go on indefinitely.
- JH said Task Force members are well informed and do their research.
- Jan Way said the Hull Fall Newsletter lists the date and time of the next ATV/UTV Task Force meeting and anyone can come. Wednesday, November 13 at 5:30 p.m. here at the Hull Building. It's open to the public.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: *The next Plan Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.*

10. ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Bob Bowen to adjourn meeting, seconded by Bob Enright. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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