

**Town of Saukville
PUBLIC FORUM
3762 Lakeland Rd., Saukville, WI**

Minutes

March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Don Hamm, Chairman Mike Denzien, Supervisor Curt Rutkowski, Supervisor
Gloria Arredondo, Treasurer Naomi Bruecker, Clerk

- 1. Call to order/Attendance.** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hamm at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance; Marvin & Eileen Hoffmann, Albin & Violet Vande Boom, Neal & Molly Erickson, Mike Tesker, Norbert & Evelyn Krautkramer, Al Gosewehr, Don Bade from Scott Construction, mark Jaeger from the Ozaukee Press, Matt Dickmann, James Dickmann, Gary Laubenstein, Mike & Lori Paulus, Mike & Nancy Byers, Rick Gorden, Tom Hoffmann, and Randal Cardarelle.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge was recited by all.
- 3. Public Notice.** Chairman Hamm read the notice.
- 4. Open Public Forum to hear from the public concerning our Town Roads.** Chairman Hamm invited everyone present to make comments about the condition of their town roads, ditch mowing, brush cutting and snow plowing. Al Gosewehr began sharing his concern about ditches and how they do not drain well. He also remarked about the road work done on Hawthorne Drive last year. The road was chip sealed about 90%, but not completely. He also said the last three administrations did not do much to repair roads in the past. With the current administration, Mr. Gosewehr hopes roads will be prioritized for repairs. Additionally, Mr. Gosewehr had noted when brush cutting was taking place this summer; he noticed some worker were not wearing protective gear which might result in liability issues for the town. He was also concerned about the high percentage of the town's budget being spent on fire protection which leaves less money for other necessities like road repairs and maintenance. Next, Mr. Laubenstein shared how he had filled ruts on the road where he lives with his own gravel. Mr. Laubenstein lives on Arrowhead Lane. Ken Watry who lives on Blueberry Road mentioned that south of Hawthorne Drive, Blueberry Road is about a half mile section which is used by 20 property owners. It receives heavy use and is showing wear he referred to as "checker boarding." Blueberry Road north of Hawthorne Drive is full of pot holes and needs rebuilding. Al Gosewehr suggested obtaining a car counter from the Ozaukee County Highway Department to help determine which roads are receiving the most traffic and wear. Mike and Nancy Byers thanked the Town Board for the assistance and repairs that have been made so far. They brought photographs of several potholes on St. Augustine Road. The pot holes have caused several accidents in the past and are a safety hazard. St. Augustine Road is listed as a gravel road, but it is showing more signs of being a rutted dirt road. The gravel has apparently been removed due to snow plowing. The Byer's friends do not care to visit them where they live because of the poor condition of St. Augustine Road. The road shoulders are also in poor shape and water overflows onto the road causing it to be muddy and this generates more rutting. Mr. Laubenstein inquired

when the Town would be viewing the roads. The Annual Road Tour usually takes place in late April after frost is out of the ground. The Town Board said they would consider an earlier tour this year to be determined during the regular Town Board meeting. Mike Paulus asked who is responsible for brush cutting, what the normal depth of a ditch is, and what the width of right-of-ways on town roads is. Curt Rutkowski responded that the right-of-way varies with each town road and even varies with sections of some roads. Mr. Paulus shared that he maintains the ditch in front of his property. He asked if he could alter the ditch to improve water flow. The Town Board agreed this would be allowable as long as the alteration did not create a problem for any neighboring property. Molly Erickson mentioned there are several trees growing out of a ditch on St. Finbar's Road. One is dead, leaning over the road, and ready to fall onto this road. Tom Hoffmann responded next. He remarked that mowing ditches and brush trimming has been inconsistent. Brush has been left on roads after it was cut. He is also concerned about damage from the Emerald Ash Borer adding to the workload of road and ditch maintenance. Tom Ravn gave a brief synopsis of how the town had previously contracted with Ozaukee County for mowing ditches. The current contractor mows farther across ditches and sometimes mows or cuts brush beyond what should be cut. Mr. Ravn suggested we consider bids from other companies for cutting brush or trees. He recommended Asplundh as a possible company to do future business with. Al Gosewehr interjected that mowing ditches should begin in early July before weeds to seed. By mowing late in the summer, weeds have spread their seeds and cause additional problems for farmers. At this point, Chairman Hamm asked residents to prioritize what they want the town to take care of first; ditch mowing, brush cutting or road repairs. Mr. Paulus shared he would be willing to pay more taxes in order to have better roads to drive on. A discussion followed about how to increase taxes, raise a levy or present a referendum to the public. Don Bade from Scott Construction, was invited to attend by Curt Rutkowski, explained some of the steps required to rebuild roads and to consider hiring an engineering firm to make a proposal.

- 5. Closure of Public Hearing.** Chairman Hamm thanked everyone for their constructive feedback and comments. Everyone was invited to stay for the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting.
- 6. Adjournment.** The Public Forum adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Naomi Bruecker, Clerk
Town of Saukville**