

TOWN OF COLUMBUS - ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – April 15, 2025

Chairman Darren Schroeder called the Town of Columbus Annual Board meeting to order on Tuesday evening, April 15, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Present were Supervisors Ed Wolf and Harold Schwoerer, Clerk Deea Breunig, Treasurer Cindy Miller, Gabrielle Loeffler, Barb Reifsnider, Lori Schwoerer, John and Marianne Kehl, Brady Weiland, Curt Hanson, Steve Taylor, Kyle Paulson, Don Bleich, Jim Greiling, Janice Bachofen, Alice Gibson, Jim Kluetzman and Arlene Sennhenn.

Verification of Annual Meeting Notice was posted at Mid-State, Club 60 and the Town Hall. Chairman Schroeder asked to adopt the meeting agenda as posted. Lori Schwoerer made a motion to approve the agenda as posted; seconded by Curt Hanson; motion carried.

Annual Meeting minutes from May 13, 2024, were reviewed. John Kehl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Jim Greiling; motion carried.

Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2024 ending December 31, 2024, was presented. Attendees were asked to review the report and present any questions. Motion was made by Jim Kluetzman to approve the 2024 Financial Report; seconded by Brady Weiland; motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Road Report:
 - The board has not had a chance to review the town roads yet. This will happen soon.
 - Will finish crack-filling Bristol Road then sealcoat from Schaefer Road to the Hampden town line.
 - Repairs to Sanderson Road were submitted through the TRIP-S program and were denied.
 - The Rural Road Improvement program for 2025 will be resurfacing Wendt Road from Sanderson to Arnold Road. We will be reimbursed for about \$15k of the cost of the blacktop. In the area where the pipeline crosses, Embridge will help with getting the ditches dug, and the road graveled and repaved.
 - Arnold Road will be hot-mix wedged from Wendt Road to the Hampden town line.
 - \$15k is allocated for 2025 for the tree trimming project.
 - Matching Funds will be paid to the County in May.
 - Sanderson Road will be placed in the TRIP-S program again for a total rework from Bristol Road to Wendt Road.
- Land Use Committee:
 - Members include Jacob Schroeder as Chairman, JoAnn Kessenich, Steve Schey, John Kehl and Darren Schroeder.
 - Three rezones in 2024.
 - Public Service Commission will be going ahead with the solar project on Columbus-Fall River Road.
 - Columbia Wind will also be moving forward with the wind project in our township which includes about 48 windmills.
- Columbus Rural Fire Group:
 - Annual meeting will be April 24, 2025.
 - Working on a new contract.
 - The city is working on building a new Public Safety Building.
 - A new pumper tanker truck is being built and should be delivered in April 2026.
- Columbus Area Emergency Medical Services:

- The 10-year contract with LifeStar is in place and will expire in 2031.
- Participants are City of Columbus, Villages of Fall River, Reeseville and Lowell, Towns of Otsego, Calamus, Columbus, Elba, Fountain Prairie, Hampden, Portland and York.
- Bridge Report
 - Hall Road bridge on the west side of township is likely slated to be built in 2026. The cost to the town will be about \$500.
 - County Hwy K bridge is also in the same program and will cost about \$1,000 to be rebuilt.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Recycle Center:
 - Hours are Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - Chairman Schroeder will bring in some gravel and level out the potholes.
- County Supervisor Report:
 - Darren Schroeder is the District 20 Rep and has been elected as County Board Chair.
 - Grant has been received to build a Mental Health Clinic at the Health & Human Services Building.
 - Purchased a 4.7M bond to rebuild the County Recycle Center following a fire last year.
 - Passed a Solar Ordinance to hold companies responsible for roads and setbacks.
- Wages:
 - No changes to town wages

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with a motion from Jim Kluetzman; seconded by Lori Schwoerer; motion carried.

Submitted by Clerk Deea Breunig – April 16, 2025