

SPECIAL EUREKA TOWN BOARD MEETING – February 17, 2015
PENSION PLAN/BENEFITS

The Special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eureka was called to order by Chairman Gene Krull at 7:00 pm on Friday, February 17, 2015 at the Town Hall.

Proper notice was given as the agenda was posted in the four designated locations of the Town Hall, Town Garage/Clerks Office, EdgeTown Tavern and River Roads Wolf Creek Bar on February 11, 2015.

Present by roll call were Chairman Gene Krull and Supervisor James Johnson. Supervisor Gary Gudmunsen was absent. Also present Clerk Melody Jacobs, Treasurer David Anderson, legal counsel Terry Dunst, and public works employees Michael Woltz and James Hallgren. Others present were Carleen Matosky, Paul Schneider, and Tim Knigge.

Johnson/Krull **moved** to adopt the agenda; **motion carried**.

Chairman Krull began the meeting with a statement that this about policy, not about individuals, and not about specific names.

Citizen Comment Time: Chairman Krull stated individuals will be able to give their comments at this time, but once the Citizen Comment Time is completed, we will not accept any additional comments from the people until the meeting is over.

Steve Jacobs stated approximately three months ago the Board voted unanimously to approve the Wisconsin Retirement System. Everyone on the Board was given the same booklet (WRS/ETF How to Become a Participating Employer Under the Wisconsin Retirement System) and on the second page it states all the phone numbers and website information for the WRS program and a helpline. He stated within two minutes of clicking on the website you can find out all the answers to any questions about the program including vesting. He stated it seems like the Board keeps addressing the same issues over and over each month after it already has been approved. He stated you will never please 100 percent of the people 100 percent of the time. The Board needs to stick with what gets approved as policy and move on.

Paul Schneider asked if the vesting information was in the (WRS/ETF How to Become a Participating Employer Under the Wisconsin Retirement System). Chairman Krull answered no there wasn't. Mr. Schneider suggested that the employees should have been given a copy of the same thing so they could have been able to ask questions.

Supervisor Johnson stated those two guys are the heart and soul of Township and there are other things that need to be discussed in a closed session. Terry Dunst responded, which will have to get on the agenda and you will have to follow certain procedures to that.

Chairman Krull wanted to state the process which this program was brought to the Board. He stated it was on the November Agenda, the information was presented to the Board a week before the Board meeting. The materials that were given to the Board the week before was the booklet (WRS/ETF How to Become a Participating Employer Under the Wisconsin Retirement System). In the November 2014 Town Board Meeting, it was voted and passed unanimously. Two weeks later at the employees request they wanted some information about the WRS system. Chairman Krull stated he asked the Clerk to print out the information for employees. He stated he gave each of them their own employee benefit handbook. He then proceeded to say that neither employee have asked any questions or comments about the program. Chairman Krull indicated the first he heard of anything was last week in the Town Board Meeting from Supervisor Johnson.

Supervisor Johnson states he feels this was an illegal vote and why. Under law absent of a Union Contract or an agreement that runs to the benefit of the employees such as an employee agreement. We had an employee agreement of 12 percent per employee to put towards their pension. That was under law, so that vote should have never taken place. Supervisor Johnson stated that this was stated in the Town of Eureka Employee Handbook prior to the changes. Terry Dunst asked what the term of that agreement was, was it month to month or year to year? Supervisor Johnson then proceeded to read the old retirement statement from the employee handbook. Terry Dunst asked the Clerk if she could send him by email the old handbook with that statement. Terry Dunst asked how the 12 percent was paid. Chairman Krull stated the 12 percent was paid out at the first of the year based on the previous years as wages and taxed. It was at the employee discretion to invest if they would like.

Supervisor Johnson stated if we do go through with the WRS program there is a section where the employer can pay a portion or all of the employee's contributions. Chairman Krull stated according to Act 10 that was effective June 2011 it states the employers may not pay on behalf of the employee. Terry Dunst stated when all this came into effect for the state and municipalities employees, some of the employers increased employee wages to help offset this process. He also stated the Town Board would have decide this as a Board. Terry Dunst indicated raising the wages wouldn't have to be a Closed Session meeting and this is just a policy change.

Supervisor Johnson stated he would like to have a Closed Session meeting on the agenda so we can all get together to talk about things that are on my mind, Gary's mind, the guys minds, your mind, just the five of us as a group just to get things out in the open. Chairman Krull asked Terry Dunst how this could be completed and Terry Dunst advised the Board on the process.

Terry Dunst stated he will check into the claim of the illegal vote and claim of the 12 percent agreement as Supervisor Johnson claimed earlier. Terry Dunst also stated the Town in now in a legal contract with the WRS program. Supervisor Johnson asked if the Handbook is a legal contract, Terry Dunst said he can't answer that until he reviews all the information.

With no further business at this time Johnson/Krull **moved** to adjourn the meeting; **motion carried** and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Minutes prepared by Melody Jacobs, Town Clerk