

## Town of Mekan Regular Monthly Meeting at Mekan Town Hall

1561 Evergreen Montello WI 53949

Meeting March 8th 2016 Town of Mekan

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm with pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of February 8th 2016 read by Caroline Gemoll. Motion to accept minutes as read by Nancy Reuter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fimreite. Passed

Financial Report read by Irene Palmer, Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Jeff Fimreite, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Reuter. Passed

New Business- Montello School District Lynn Brown - John Graf, Lucas Stelter, Sara Pietkauski, Heidi Stelter, 1.2 Million is what the school district is asking for. Showed us charts and figures compared to 2007 and 2008 to current years in both what was received and what are the current numbers for 2015. Have went to a google environment. Advised of the awards and specialties and achievements that the school is currently recognized for. Mike Raddatz commends the board for raising the insurance the employees need to pay, but did not like the High Marquette School. Jeff Fimreite highly recommends the High Marquette school, and their academic scores are high. Jeff stated that it is possible that this is being confused with the previous Core Academy. Mike wanted to know why the school is not looking into the grade sharing, Lynn Stated that transportation and instruction is 12000. It was discussed with Westfield and there would be additional bussing and costs, so neither school wanted to do that, but it is still on the radar. Mike stated that the amount of people are on social security, and cannot afford the increase. Consolidation in previous years did not want to consolidate, and now it is 8 years later and with the students declining. There is no industry or higher paying jobs here in Montello. Student enrollment was 736 in 2008 and currently is at 729 that is not a big decline in student enrollment. The goal is to build our academic program so strongly and uniquely that people would want to drive the distance to our community. Currently there is 32 students and there is a waiting list, Bringing the High Marquette back to the School also saves as we are no longer renting a building. Graduation rate is 88%, If This referendum does not pass in April we still have the opportunity to go back in November, The amount of cuts needed and to still have a good school. If the school decides to dissolve, the state would come in and go to surrounding schools to consolidate and currently all the surrounding schools have higher tax than the current mill rate for Montelo, and some are also wanting another referendum, -so either way taxes will increase. . There is no guarantee that if the school dissolves that you would not have an increase in taxes, if not more than is being requested. Jeff wanted to know what are we doing to show that the school is being fiscally responsible. School district used to pay 100% of retirements and now that is down to 50%. Cut Staff, and we Apply and do our own paperwork for CESA. Jeff wanted to know what failed in the last election. People did not vote because they just thought it would pass, one township had some elections issues, and the word was just not out there. Jeff wanted to know how the state scores are compared to others. Overall school as a school district is up. We are one of 22 schools model for grades 6 through 12 career planning. How are we going to retain the good teachers, Jeff heard that there were 32 teachers in the last two years that have left. Professional development is now done in house with which teaching and learning skills are working and how to expand on this. The average teacher is 10 years. School thanked us for letting them come and present.

New highway Service agreement- County will determine when to plow salt or sand. We were previously at 2 inch and they want an administration 4.8% of everything, and 7.6 % rent and want to deduct off of our road aids which we cannot deduct on our road aids. The county also wants the towns to go to referendum to add 12.6% for future trucks for snow plowing and also wants us to waive all rights to take them to court for anything. There is another meeting next week that Mike will attend. Kingas gave us a quote and they also do brushing. Will need to find someone to do the road work and take bids. Mike has looked into some companies and Scott's is cheaper and have looked into Gasser. Board would like Kingas to be at our next meeting.

Fire District- Mike did write a letter to the fire department. The buy in would be 17.8 on the used equipment, this would not include any equipment that the funds were raised with raffles and such. We are currently waiting on Montello figures. Mike also said that they forgot to add the rent in last years budget and we owe them the rent, so we will be getting a bill for last years and also this years.

First National bank account-- We received debit cards and can start using them. Mike asked about the bill for the website of \$25.00 and we need to contact Jessica to change this. Caroline will contact Jessica and would need to change. Irene read letter from the bank apologizing for the inconvenience on getting this credit card and for this inconvenience will be giving us an additional 1% rate for the balance of the CD term.

Razing order on the building that burned down. The County is seeking a court order to raze the building.

Old Business- None

Building permits none for this month

Sharon Ahles wants to be poll worker, and Bonnie Carpenter, we currently have 5 poll workers and we should have 7. Caroline nominated Sharon Ahles and Bonnie Carpenter to be poll workers. Mike Raddatz made motion to accept the nominations, 2nd by Jeff Fimreite passed.

Mike Raddatz had timber permits.

Nancy questioned how the id proof works with absentee voting. Caroline advised they would need to send in id with the request for absentee ballot.

Voucher 57-69 Motion to approve vouchers 57-69 by Jeff Fimreite, 2nd by Nancy Reuter. Passed

Citizens Comments- Citizens wanted to know if he could vote in clerk's office. Wanted to know the best times.

Internet Training = Jeff wanted this another date.

Next Regular meeting will be Thursday April 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Annual meeting will be at 7:00 on April 19th 2016 at 7:00 p.m. per state statutes.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Fimreite at 7:48 p.m. 2nd by Nancy Reuter. Passed.