

**TOWN OF CRESCENT
MINUTES FOR
TOWN PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024
7:00 P.M., CRESCENT TOWN HALL**

Call to Order: Chairman Pazdernik called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. The meeting has been properly posted and distributed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Committee members present: Michael Pazdernik, Chair; David Holperin, Secretary; Jim Altenburg, Connie Anderson, Jonathan Jacobson, and Lindsay Novak. Absent: Niina Baum

Additional attendees: Kevin Mahner, Town of Crescent Fire Chief, approximately eleven other attendees, some of whom were volunteer firemen.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Holperin, second by Anderson. Aye: all. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2024 meeting made by Jacobson, second by Altenburg. Aye: all. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Discussion/Decision: Crescent Volunteer Fire Department proposal for training location at the 40-acre former dump site off South River Road.

Chair Pazdernik asked Fire Chief Kevin Mahner to lead the discussion with some background information on the proposed site, the elements of training that the fire department (herein “department”) is considering, and any other pertinent data.

Mahner described the available property as a 40-acre site on the right side of South River Road as you travel south, just past the “Artisan Spring”, and near

the Hodag Gun Club. It was formerly a town dump site, but those operations were discontinued over three decades ago. There are only a few residences in that area, and Mahner made the comment that when told of the potential use proposal, each of those homestead owners were amenable and even asked if they could come over and watch.

Mahner explained that many years ago there was an interest in using this site for training but it didn't get off the ground. Since that time there have been personnel changes at the department along with subsequent increased regulations as well as the formation of a fire training facility and program at Nicolet College. However, there have been some issues with the timing of trainings and the requirement that a qualified Nicolet instructor had to be present at all trainings, at times a logistical issue. Mahner introduced a training facility at Stevens Point to the planning committee that would serve as a model for the proposed site in the Town of Crescent. With the ability to be compliant with current state standards on training and because the college is not always prepared or available, having their own training facility would allow the department to do their own exercises at their convenience and with maximum participation. Further, they would coordinate with surrounding fire departments and invite them in for the trainings too, a common practice on "Burn and Learn" exercises wherein homes have been donated for fire demolition purposes.

The DNR has some standards and regulations and all of those would be observed. One expected feature is to construct some structures out of "Stor-Cor"-like containers and to make them practical and adaptable for various training exercises. Some of these containers were already delivered to the property last fall, as they were available and very affordable. Additionally, the department has already sought out a permit from the county, but learned that there is no permit requirement. However, the department went to the permit office nonetheless and paid to get a permit, just in case that should come up in the future (even if it was an exercise in futility). As an emergency-based service, it's best to always be prepared!

On the question of potential fire-fighting contaminants, Mahner said that they will only be using water and eco-friendly foam, the kind that you could drink.

On the question of frequency, Mahner said that they would expect to do many trainings per year, but at the minimum perhaps one every two months. The other townships would be made aware of the schedule well ahead of time and again, would be welcome to participate.

Novak had a series of questions. They were regarding the foam and potential runoff, smoke that might affect neighbors (even some as far away as across the river), and other potential issues that were of concern. Mahner had an answer for each of those and Novak appeared satisfied with his answers.

A few other questions followed, but at this point the primary elements of the proposal were clear to the planning committee. There was no opposition among those in attendance.

Following this robust discussion (along with handout materials), Holperin made the following motion:

“Motion: That we advance the proposal for fire training at the former 40-acre dump site off South River Road as presented to the full town board with our committee recommendation for approval.” Motion seconded by Altenburg. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Next meeting date to be May 22nd.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Holperin; seconded by Jacobson. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Meeting adjourned, 7:31 pm.