

## **AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

**April 20, 2021**

We need hands raised and a count on each motion

1. Motion to approve minutes from previous annual meeting
2. Motion to approve 2020 financial report
3. 2020 road report
4. Update on 2021 road projects
5. Set date for 2022 annual meeting (April 19, 2022)
6. Other business to properly come before the annual meeting
7. Adjourn.

**Martell Town Board**  
**Agenda**  
**April 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM**  
**Social distancing and mask wearing are strongly recommended**

**Open meeting**

- Approve minutes from March 9, 2021 meeting
- Approve treasurer's report
- Approve payment of bills
- Discuss road work
- Employee's report
- Swear in new board
- Presentation from Scott Construction on Seal Coating Roads
- Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues
- Discuss and approve driveway permits
- Discuss Draft Policy Regarding Reimbursement Requests by Board Members
- Discuss Road Tour Options
- Discuss Lawn Care Service Contract
- Read correspondence
- Set Date for Open Book and Board of Review
- Set date for next meeting
- Open for discussion
- Adjourn meeting

**Martell Town Board**  
**Agenda**  
**March 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM**  
**Social distancing and mask wearing are strongly recommended**

**Open meeting**

- Approve minutes from February 9, 2021 meeting
- Approve treasurer's report
- Approve payment of bills
- Discuss road work
- Employee's report
- Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues  
    Replace town pickup?
- Discuss and approve driveway permits
- Animal Control Officer Discussion
- Amending the Dog Ordinance
- Read correspondence
- Set date for next meeting
- Open for discussion
  
- Adjourn meeting

## **TOWN OF MARTELL**

### **February 9, 2021 meeting**

The regular monthly Town Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2021 by Chairman Brad Taplin. Board members Dale Olson and John Worsing, treasurer Heather Sitz and clerk Sara Cardwell were also present.

**Minutes:** Motion by Olson and seconded by Taplin to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Worsing, seconded by Olson, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Town Caucus. Motion carried. Olson motioned to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2021 special meeting. Worsing seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The board accepted the treasurer's report with January disbursements of \$519,833.61 and receipts of \$870,760.36 for a month-end balance of \$572,569.40.

**Payment of bills:** Motion by Worsing. Seconded by Olson to pay the January bills. Motion carried.

**Road Work:** Patrolman has been plowing and sanding. He has finished the tree work and all the stumps were ground. There are more trees that could be cut if the town has more money to do so.

**Employee's report:** 78.5 hours of plowing, 46 hours cutting trees and 52 hours of shop work.

#### **Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues:**

The town truck is a 1998 model with 240,000 miles on it. The Town has been spending a fair amount to keep it on the road. A one ton dually flat bed truck would make the most sense. The Patrolman will do some checking and bring some prices to the next meeting. The new plow truck is expected to be finished by the end of March.

**Driveway permits:** None.

**Discuss and act on the zoning issues for the Freeland property at W5366 794<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** Seeing nothing is happening in this regard, this item will be removed from the agenda until an update is available.

**Broadband Ordinance:** Worsing moved to approve. Olson seconded it. Ordinance approved.

**Presentation from Brit Harmon – Companion Animal Control:** Own & Operate Companion Animal Control. Have been doing it in 27 cities. Has a state license for an impoundment facility. The current animal control officer has now hired someone who has a qualified facility. Current pricing is based on mileage and location. Companion Animal Control is closer because they are based in Hudson. Companion Animal Control charges a flat rate and covers the insurance costs. Companion Animal Control will also handle livestock issues. This item will be on the agenda for further discussion next month.

**Amending the Dog Ordinance:** This still needs work. Further changes will be made and further discussions will take place in March.

**New Contract with All Croix Inspection Corp:** Worsing motioned to approve the new contract. Olson seconded it. Motion carried.

**Read correspondence:** No significant correspondence was presented.

**Date for next meeting:** Motion by Worsing and seconded by Taplin to hold the next Board meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Motion carried.

**Open discussion:** None

John Worsing motioned to adjourn the meeting. Taplin seconded it. Motion carried.

Sara Cardwell, Clerk

**Martell Town Board**  
**Agenda**  
**February 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM**  
**Social distancing and mask wearing are strongly recommended**

**Open meeting**

- Approve minutes from January 12, 2021 meeting
- Approve minutes from January 25, 2021 Special Meeting
- Approve treasurer's report
- Approve payment of bills
- Discuss road work
- Employee's report
- Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues
  - Replace town pickup?
- Discuss and approve driveway permits
- Discuss and take action on the zoning issues for the Freeland property at W5366 794<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Broadband Ordinance
- Presentation from Brit Harmon – Companion Animal Control
- Amending the Dog Ordinance
- New Contract with All Croix Inspections Corp.
- Read correspondence
- Set date for next meeting
- Open for discussion
  
- Adjourn meeting

**TOWN OF MARTELL**  
**Special Meeting**  
**January 25, 2021 meeting**

The Special Town Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Monday, January 25, 2021 by Chairman Brad Taplin. Board members Dale Olson and John Worsing and clerk Sara Cardwell were also present.

**Discuss Ambulance Service Proposals from Baldwin and River Falls Ambulance Services:**

Chairman Taplin started the meeting by stating the purpose of the meeting was to discuss things. The Board would not be passing anything. The Town Board has not been trying to hide anything. The Ellsworth Ambulance Service has been on the agenda since October. The closed sessions are discussed in the minutes. There was a closed session regarding the Baldwin Ambulance Service. They wanted to inform the Board that they would be crossing into Martell to pick up patients.

The proposed agenda for the February meeting also includes a discussion of ambulance service. There is a cost difference between the services. Ellsworth is \$31 per capita. Allina is \$15 and Baldwin is \$14.35. Going with Allina would decrease expenses by \$19,000 per year. The Chairman is focused on controlling expenses. The Town is required to contract for or maintain ambulance service and may contract with one or more providers by state statute.

The Chairman asked if the ambulance employees believe town board members are qualified to supervise or oversee the ambulance operations. Jessi Willenbring responded that the job of the operating committee to supervise the service. A lot of rules need to be learned to be fluent in ambulance operation. Chairman Taplin mentioned that he was concerned that town board members are on the operating committee without knowledge of the service and are expected to oversee the operations.

Rich Eggen stated the town's representative to the Ellsworth Operating Committee has failed the town. The representative was asked to leave a meeting and the board was asked to remove him from the ambulance operating committee. The Chairman stated that the Town's representative has medical experience and is the best qualified to be on the committee.

Jessi Willenbring mentioned that there have been a lot of changes in the Ellsworth Ambulance Service recently. The group was formerly managed by Health Partners. When Health Partners left, the Ambulance Service needed to function as an independent agency. The Ambulance Service has funds available to hire experts. The service doesn't necessarily need medical experts on the committee. Effective communication and trust is what is needed. The Operating Committee should be there to support the ambulance service. If there is a breakdown in communications and trust, that is a detriment to the service.

Has the Town's representative presented issues? Dan Fischer, the head of the Operating Committee said yes but the representative also has a tendency to push and bully people. That is why he was asked to leave a meeting. Recently, the Town's representative has been better. But,

he tries to micro manage and pick things apart. It would be better to let the operating committee provide a vision and the manager to do the managing

Dan Simpson stated that the service's CPA explained the figures and yet the town's representative didn't accept the CPA's explanation. The town's representative chews on things to the point of being an obstructionist. The service is trying to do the best job we can. We understand there are personality issues but that should not be the focus.

Bill Brookshaw stated the town's representative accused the director of lying and not doing her work. The ambulance service has addressed some of the representative's concerns. The service got outside help and yes, the operating committee does have the right to audit financial reports as needed.

Jessi Willenbring asked why Ellsworth was not asked to provide a proposal. The service would like that opportunity.

Kiki Augusten wanted the board to know that isn't easy to know about the agenda. After the loss of the River Falls Journal, there is no place to get local news? Ellsworth has been the provider for 25 years. Is it just the per capita cost that is an issue? How do you know Allina's costs? Did you get that information with the bids? There is more than just the per capita fee. There is also the actual amount charged to "Grandma Smith". She is going to pay more with either of these two services than Ellsworth. The fee schedule from Ellsworth is less.

There is no requirement to disclose fees. Ellsworth's costs looks high but some other services can't provide advanced life support. Metro rates are always higher than rural rates. Ellsworth is at the rates that are recoverable from insurance. Ellsworth keeps billing levels at the amounts considered fair by insurance. Red Wing is lower because they are part of the fire service. Baldwin's service fees are lower than Allina.

Ellsworth went for a number of years without raising rates. Because Ellsworth didn't raise rates gradually, there was a big bump in costs. Ellsworth bought a lot of equipment recently which means the service is in a very stable position right now. Putting dollars on lives is a bad place to be. Keeping people alive is important. Can't just focus on the per capita costs. Ellsworth isn't a better service, it is just closer to most of the residents and many employees are also members of the community. Most of the money stays in the community. Many workers are volunteers.

Stina Anderson stated that if Martell leaves, a financial component goes with it. Removing it has an effect on the other communities. Costs have to go to sister communities. Ellsworth can respond more quickly. We have first responders in every community. Removing Martell means Ellsworth responders can't respond even if they are closest. Three people in at this meeting can respond from their homes. When Board member Olson had his heart attack Ellsworth was busy so Allina came. Ellsworth has actually provided more back up to River Falls than River Falls has provided to Ellsworth even though Ellsworth is a smaller service.

Kathy Meyers worked for River Falls for 15 years. With the transition to Allina, there have been changes to the service that concern her. River Falls used to have four ambulances. Now they have one in River Falls, one in Prescott and one at the hospital. Don't have statistics but



Ellsworth's mutual aid demonstrates a lack of River Fall's availability. If they add Martell and still only have three ambulances, Ellsworth will still need to respond.

Stina Anderson provided overlay maps. Ellsworth covers a third of Martell in 10 minutes. Baldwin can't meet this other than by the Red Barn. River Falls can do this in the area around Hwy 29. A vast amount of Martell is covered by Ellsworth in 15 minutes. There is one tiny corner where River Falls can do a 15 minute response. Baldwin comes to north east corner in 15 minutes. In 20 minutes Ellsworth can cover all and more. There are some areas where neither Baldwin or River Falls can get to in 20 minutes. Geographically Ellsworth makes the most sense. Both Baldwin and River Falls do a lot of transfers to the cities. This helps them cover costs. Ellsworth doesn't have a hospital so Ellsworth can't participate in transfer services.

How many citizens has the board heard from? What is the opinion from townspeople? It sounds like this matter is personal to Dale Olson and John Worsing. John Worsing stated it was not personal. He was asked to look at this by the board. The board wants quality and guaranteed response times. This was an assignment like any other assignment. It is not personal. John stated that when he was in the emergency room, he didn't need to know who the cardiologist was. Someone in the group asked what happens if you die because the ambulance can't get there. What is the township's liability? If we die before the ambulance gets there. 90% response time 17.59 seconds. Someone in the group stated they heard Mr. Worsing wanted to see Ellsworth shut down.

It was also stated that Mr. Worsing told the board the Ellsworth Ambulance Service was broke. The service was not broke, it just didn't have a good handle on how to generate reports.

Stina Anderson asked what started the ambulance service discussion? The board started the discussion started as part of budget discussions. The board found out there was an alternative that was significant cheaper. Why is Ellsworth \$19000 more? The board could use that money for pavement. The board was looking at how to save money. What is going to keep Ellsworth Ambulance service from continuing to go up.

Rich Eggan stated that the town board representative is supposed to come back and explain the ambulance service budget. Martell's representative hasn't done that. He has not had honest discussions with the board. Does Martell have the same representation if they move to Allina? Supervisor Worsing stated that the River Falls contract is overseen by the River Falls City Council. The City Council does the negotiations. Allina is nationally certified. Baldwin is overseen by the Baldwin City Council. Neither has an operating committee. If Martell went with one of these other services, the town would approach the city council if there are concerns. Could Martell residents go to River Falls City Council meetings? They are open meetings. The three ambulances in River Falls cover more people than the three ambulances in Ellsworth.

Looks like Martell would be at the mercy of the city council. If it isn't in their best interest, they won't deal with Martell's issue. The proposal from River Falls/Allina guarantees a 17.59 minute response time. Price is \$15.00 for the first year and will increase 1.5 percent per year. Costs would be less than Ellsworth for all three years of the contract. Price includes an administrative fee.

Baldwin has four ambulances. The service responded to 1811 service calls in 2020. Baldwin is 7.5 miles to the northern edge of the town. Baldwin has many staff members that live in the Baldwin area. They would need to recruit first responders from Martell.

Baldwin saw the article in the paper that said Martell was talking to Allina. They then asked why the town hadn't asked them to provide a proposal. John Worsing had previously talked to Baldwin when Ellsworth was looking for a medical director.

Arby Linder mentioned that Ellsworth took him to the hospital. The service was great.

Mr. Worsing stated that after the town received the proposal from Baldwin, he talked to River Falls. River Falls said that they would be willing to divide the town with Baldwin. That would provide each with quicker response time. Stina Anderson stated that there is a lot of assumptions tied in with the times provided by Allina and Baldwin. Kiki Augustin stated that Ellsworth has the experience in covering the town.

Kathy Meyers asked if there had been any consideration of Ellsworth continuing to cover the southern portion? Chairman Taplin stated that was mentioned at the last meeting. Jessi Willenbring stated there is no part of Martell that either Baldwin or River Falls can reach in 10 minutes. Ellsworth does a good job of knowing when people are really sick. Ellsworth listens to River Falls calls and they are currently stretched. If we look at Prescott, they have no choice anymore. They will always have to rely on another provider. Finances and staffing were issues with Prescott. Prescott served a smaller area than Ellsworth. Prescott may be sorry going forward because the city is growing. There is only one ambulance in the area and it is not always there.

The Board Chairman asked for a count as to how many Martell residents were in the room. There were 16 residents in attendance.

**Take action to move forward with just one or both proposals:**

Rich Eggen made a motion to not move forward either of the new proposals and stay with Ellsworth. The motion was seconded by Beth Kidd. Supervisor Worsing stated that the board could get a proposal from Ellsworth and consider all three proposals. Getting proposals and comparing services is prudent. Someone asked why the board hasn't done this before? The Board stated it was moving in a sequence pattern. The Board got information from River Falls and it was in the paper. The purpose of this meeting was to see if we should move forward.

Arby Linder stated there is a motion on the table and the board needs to abide by that motion. A vote was taken and 11 voted for staying with the Ellsworth Service and five voted against it. Motion to stay with Ellsworth Ambulance Service carried.

Kathy Meyers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Kidd seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Sara Cardwell, Clerk

**Martell Town Board  
Special Meeting Agenda  
January 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
Social distancing and mask wearing are strongly recommended**

- Discuss Ambulance Service Proposals from Baldwin and River Falls Ambulance Services
- Take action to move forward with just one or both proposals.
- Adjourn meeting

## **TOWN OF MARTELL January 12, 2021 meeting**

The regular monthly Town Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2021 by Chairman Brad Taplin. Board member Dale Olson, treasurer Heather Sitz and clerk Sara Cardwell were also present. Board member John Worsing joined the meeting late and was there for the reading of correspondence, setting date for next meeting, open discussion and caucus.

**Minutes:** Motion by Olson and seconded by Taplin to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The board accepted the treasurer's report with December disbursements of \$25,881.65 and receipts of \$11,733.61 for a month-end balance of \$35,175.81.

**Payment of bills:** Motion by Olson and seconded by Taplin to pay the December bills. Motion carried.

**Road Work:** Not much going on. Patrolman is cutting trees. Does the town want to hire someone to grind stumps? Patrolman found someone that will do it for \$150 per hour. Superintendent Olson mentioned another potential contractor. Patrolman will get a second bid.

**Employee's report:** 35 hours plowing, 76 hours of shop work and 73 hours cutting trees.

### **Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues:**

Patrolman built new shields for plow truck and bucket loader repairs were made. Walters came and looked at the upstairs furnace. Seeing the upstairs is not being used currently in the winter, the board will wait on purchasing a new furnace. The patrolman will look at the stove and see if it can be repaired or needs to be replaced. Supervisor Olson mentioned that there may be reasonably priced used replacements available online.

**Driveway permits:** None.

**Discuss and act on the zoning issues for the Freeland property at W5366 794<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** Nothing new happening to act on in terms of the zoning issue. Treasurer sent a letter to the property owner regarding the renter's dog. The dog is still there.

**Broadband Discussion:** Carissa Kirchner and Juliet Tompkins presented the Broadband Forward Ordinance. A lot of people in the area don't have good internet service. If the town were to enact the ordinance, it would provide support of broadband and potentially set the town up for grants. The model ordinance was issued by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The ordinance certifies that the town is ready for broadband so companies will come and install it. Joe Folsom of the Pierce County Economic Development is working on a partnership to get grants. Other townships have signed the ordinance. WI has a task force for broadband to get

grants. The ordinance is step one. Some communities have gotten grants. Board is on board with getting broadband and will put the ordinance on the agenda for next month.

**Ellsworth Ambulance Service:** Supervisor Worsing is at the River Falls City Council meeting to discuss joining with Allina. Dave Kidd brought information that contradicts the mileage information that Supervisor Worsing provided at the last meeting. Chairman Taplin stated that part of the reason for looking into joining River Falls is that there is not a medical director.

Director Jessi Willenbring of the Ellsworth Ambulance Service stated that she just received confirmation that Mayo will take Ellsworth on and the service has not been without a medical director. The Chairman questioned why the operating committee chairman doesn't let him know of these things. Jessi stated the email just came today. There is an Ambulance meeting next week and the financial status of the Ellsworth service will be discussed. Jessi stated that the service has not been operating in the red. One year there wasn't a positive fund balance because of capital expenditures that year which included cardiac monitors and a vehicle. If you pull out the capital items there isn't deficit. The service had a positive balance at the end of 2020. Patient reimbursements were up. The Services CPA called the town chair last night to state the books were OK.

Chairman Taplin stated he didn't appreciate an Ellsworth Ambulance Service employee writing a letter to the City of River Falls stating bad things about Chairman Taplin. There is a significant cost difference between Ellsworth and River Falls that needs to be considered.

Jessi discussed where the ambulance calls in Martell occur. There are three central areas: Wiff's Corner, Beldenville, and East of W. A majority of calls are closer to Ellsworth than River Falls. Both services are similar in terms of staff but Ellsworth provides quicker response for most of Martell. The Chair stated he would be interested in looking at further information on the calls. Supervisor Olson stated he is closer to River Falls where the chairman is closest to Ellsworth. The Chair reiterated that nothing decided yet. But, the board needs good information from Ellsworth. The town's goal is to provide the legally required service.

**Discuss and Take Action on the IRS 2021 Mileage Rate:** 2021 Rate is 56 cents per mile. It is down 1.5 cents from 2020. Olson made a motion to use the IRS rate, Taplin seconded it. Motion carried.

**Amending the Dog Ordinance:** This will be put on hold until next month as the amendments proposed do not discuss euthanizing a vicious dog. The board was asked about dog licensing. The Treasurer stated that this information is in the tax statements.

**Introduce Joe Close:** Joe has agreed to become a backup for the Recycling Center. He won't need keys as these can be shared with current employees. Current employees will get him trained in.

**Read correspondence:** Email from the County Clerk stating there will be a February primary for the state Superintendent of Public Instruction on February 16th. Two uniform address numbers were issued in December. One to Dennis Shaw and a second to Michael Benzschawel.

Email from Brit Harmon of Companion Animal Control. She is willing to submit a proposal for services if we are interested. The Board Chair stated we should have her come in and provide a proposal. Kraemer sent a letter stating that they will be selling the company to Milestone Materials, a division of Mathy Construction. The County Highway Department provided the town with its invoicing dates for 2021.

**Date for next meeting:** Motion by Olson to hold the next Board meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Worsing seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Open discussion:**

Supervisor Worsing had just come from the City of River Falls Council meeting. The Council passed a resolution that they are willing to provide Martell with ambulance service. Conditions include reviewing the costs in two years based on the population density. The Town Chair mentioned that in Supervisor Worsing's absence, an extensive discussion took place at the Town meeting and that the Ellsworth Service does have a medical director and the contract will be discussed at the Ambulance Services meeting next Tuesday. Worsing expressed concern that none of the actions could be accomplished this quick, approvals were needed and the Operating Committee had not yet been informed.

Olson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Worsing seconded it. Motion carried.

**TOWN CAUCUS**

The town caucus was called to order.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Taplin, to elect Beth Kidd to chair the caucus. Motion carried.

**Nomination for Town Chairman:** Kidd asked for nominations for chairman. Olson nominated Brad Taplin. The nomination was seconded by Worsing. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed.

**Nomination for Supervisor 1:** Sheila Olson nominated John Worsing, second by Brad Taplin. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed.

**Nominations for Supervisor 2:** Sheila Olson nominated Dale Olson, seconded by Art Schaller. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed.

**Nominations for Clerk:** Kidd called for nominations for clerk. Sara Cardwell was nominated by Brad Taplin. Worsing seconded the nomination. No further nominations. Nominations were closed.

**Nominations for Treasurer:** Worsing nominated Heather Sitz, seconded by Olson. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed.

With no more business, a motion was made by Sitz, seconded by Olson, to adjourn. The Caucus was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sara Cardwell, Clerk

**Martell Town Board**  
**Agenda**  
**January 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM**  
**Social distancing and mask wearing are strongly recommended**

**Open meeting**

- Approve minutes from December 8, 2020 meeting
- Approve treasurer's report
- Approve payment of bills
- Discuss road work
- Employee's report
- Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues:
  - Furnace and Stove issues at Town Hall
  - Other
- Discuss and approve driveway permits
- Discuss and take action on the zoning issues for the Freeland property at W5366 794<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Broadband Discussion – Carissa Kirchner
- Ellsworth Ambulance Service
- Discuss and take action on the IRS 2021 Mileage Rate
- Amending the Dog Ordinance
- Introduce Joe Close
- Read correspondence
- Set date for next meeting
- Open for discussion
  
- Adjourn meeting

**TOWN CAUCUS**

- Nomination for Town Chairman
- Nomination for Supervisor 1
- Nominations for Supervisor 2
- Nominations for Clerk
- Nominations for Treasurer
  
- Adjourn Caucus

NOTICE OF TOWN CAUCUS  
TOWN OF MARTELL

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of Martell, Pierce County, that a Town Caucus will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at the Town Hall, W5581 800<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spring Valley, WI 54767. (The Caucus will be held immediately at the conclusion of the regular Town Board meeting which begins at 7 p.m.) The purpose of the Caucus is to nominate candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the positions of town chair, supervisors, clerk and treasurer.

Sara Cardwell, Clerk