

## Town of Hampden – Board Meeting

Town Hall - N1291 County Highway N ~ Columbus, WI 53925 ~ Columbia

Mailing Address – N2455 County Road A, Columbus, WI 53925

July 15th, 2025

**Agenda/Meeting Notice Posted** - Posted at the Hampden Town Hall, Sassy Cow, and Leeds/Hampden Recycling Center.

**Call to Order** - Chairman Tuschen called the meeting to order at Call to Order at 5:30pm.

**Roll call** - Town board members present - Chairman Tuschen, Supervisor Taylor Dahl, Supervisor Bill Hoffman and Clerk Nanette Hensen. Treasurer Lori Toutant was absent. **51 Citizens present.** Justin Foss and Bethann Lesnick/McKensie representing Columbia Wind and Scott Hazeltine, Columbus Fire Chief, were also present.

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by Chairman Tuschen.

### **Citizen Comments/Correspondents/Announcements -**

- **Wind Tower Discussion** duration was a little over an hour. *Note that these minutes are the clerk's best attempt to summarize the discussion and are not all encompassing.*
  - Survey results were reviewed
    - 66.3% response rate, 181 responses of 273 surveys sent.
    - 137 No, 37 Yes and 7 Blank
  - Scott Hazeltine, Columbus Fire Chief, responded to questions about potential fires.
    - If there is a wind tower fire, the fire department will focus on scene safety and will call Alliant Energy to get a team in.
    - With such high towers, it will be difficult to reach fires and unsafe for fire fighters to go inside towers.
    - Smoke spread would be based on humidity.
    - Unknown if lithium batteries would be housed at the substation.
    - Emergency services will be assisted and transported to the scene, if needed.
    - Alliant Energy has not had a wind tower fire in 20+ years.
  - Justin Foss from Alliant Energy commented and responded to the following -
    - Alliant Energy is building resources in Wisconsin to meet the significant need for electricity projected over the next 10 years.
    - Columbia wind tower program was purchased by Alliant Energy in 2024. The plan is to build the towers in 2027 with completion in 2028.
    - There is substantial regulation and studies required prior to approval from several government agencies including the DNR, FAA, Department of Defense, Columbia County, Public Service Commission, etc.
    - Since these wind towers are more than 99 megawatts, the state laws govern; however, Alliant Energy is working with townships to share and answer questions.
    - After studies are complete around September-October, Alliant Energy will submit 58 potential sites within Columbia County.
    - Alliant Energy is optimistic about receiving federal funding.
    - Land is leased and there are no contract provisions to take ownership of the land.
    - There will be 2 substations located in Fall River business park owned by ACT and Alliant Energy.

- Tax credits offset costs and will favorably benefit all Alliant Energy customers and the county and township will receive shared revenue payments.
- Bethann Lesnick/McKensie from JGC, contractor for Alliant Energy, described a complex level of payments to landowners that contract with Alliant Energy. Some items include sign-on bonus, acreage, if residence located on acres, compensation of legal fees, etc.
- Alliant will work with landowners to position location.
- Alliant Energy will not utilize eminent domain.
- 350 leases signed and recorded on public deeds.
- There is an emergency plan for all energy sources including an oil leak. Depending on the type of turbine, there could be 80-300 gallons of oil. Alliant is considering the use of electric power vs. hydraulics.
- Hunting will not be restricted.
- Size of the towers will be around 650 feet tall and dependent upon manufacturer. Alliant Energy is reviewing 4 different manufacturers and has not yet chosen one.
- Alliant Energy is considering using an aircraft detection system that will activate lights upon radar.
- Noise is regulated by the state at 45 decibels, about the sound of a refrigerator. Once a wind tower manufacturer is chosen, Alliant Energy will share expected noise levels. Alliant Energy may consider agreements with neighboring landowners that are negatively impacted.
- The setback is set by the 2011 state law at 1250 feet.
- Alliant Energy provides a parental guarantee on file with county. Apex is bonded.
- The cement pads are about 15 feet deep so unlikely to impact aquifers.
- Alliant Energy will work with the town if internet or televisions signals are disrupted.
- **Cole Cemetery update** - Rezoning with adjacent landowner in progress. The cemetery is located on Hall road with 5 burial sites dated around 1867. Approval is pending approval from the state historical society and finding the prior landowner.

**Minutes** - Hoffman made a motion to approve minutes from the June meeting. Seconded by Dahl. Motion passes.

**Treasurer's Report** - Dahl made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Hoffman. Motion passes. Total Funds of \$400,423.05 (Checking Account \$19,557.46 and Government Pool Fund \$380,965.59).

**Payment of Bills** - Dahl made a motion to approve payments of \$8728.09. Seconded by Hoffman. Motion passes.

#### **Chairman Report -**

- Park shelter status - Contractor is in process of obtaining permits. Stakes behind the town hall mark placement.
- WTA Annual Convention Oct 12-14 Wisconsin Dells - Board members to reach out to clerk if want to attend.
- Fall Workshops - September 9-10th Fond du Lac or 9/22-9/25 webinars. Board members to reach out to clerk if want to attend.
- Don and Melissa Young requested to add a stand to sell sweet corn and other vegetables. The stand will be self-serve and will be open from end of July to mid-August.

There would be no impact to hall rentals. Dahl made a motion to approve a vegetable stand on west end of property on the parking lot (off grass). Hoffman seconded. Motion passes.

#### **Plan Commission -**

- Wind tower ordinance was recommended by the Plan Commission. The town will work with town attorney, John Miller, to review. The Public Service Commission regulates large wind towers.
- Road right-of-way ordinance will be reviewed by the Board and John Miller in relation to wind towers. The clerk will send ordinances to the Board.
- Hoffman made a motion to approve Prideview Acres rezoning as described by the CSM. Dahl seconded. Motion passes.
- If citizens are interested to be on the Town Plan Commission, please reach out to Taylor Dahl. Tony Trapp, Bob Kalter and Ann Plata expressed interest during the 7/14/25 Plan Commission meeting.

#### **Road Maintenance -**

- Applications for Surface Transportation Program (STP) 2026-2031 due 10/31/25 will be tabled until next month.
- WISLR Local Road Certification and Pavement Ratings due 12/31/25. Chair Tuschen is working with Columbia County Hwy to provide ratings.
  - Workshops available Aug 14th Deforest - Hensen will sign-up Tuschen and Dahl.
- Scottt Construction is working on road repair on Krantz road.

#### **Other Business -**

- Town web site has begun development with tentative launch in late September/October.

Hoffman made a motion to adjourn. Dahl seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Next Town Board Meeting – August 18, 2025, **Monday**, at 5:30pm at the town hall.