

April 25, 2022

An open letter to Lac du Flambeau Town Chair re: Annual Meeting procedural issues

Dear Mr. Gaulke:

After reviewing the draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Lac du Flambeau, I found some areas of concern.

First of all, in that meeting, there was a discussion of alternative funding sources, particularly the (Wisconsin) Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which has been making attractive loans to municipalities since the 1870s. That discussion has been omitted in the draft minutes.

Additionally, a motion by Bill McCutchin to authorize the Board to pursue purchase of the Francois property was amended after the vote on the motion, and without a vote on the amendment, which renders the amendment ineffective. As that amendment was to authorize the \$550,000 purchase price, that is a big procedural problem.

The asking price is also a problem. A little research on Vilas County Mapping reveals the fair market value of the entire 74.76 acre parcel to be \$148,000 in 2021. We are currently proposing to spend \$550,000 on just over half of that parcel, which would mean that fair market on the 42 acres should be about \$75,000 to \$80,000. I believe we need to set a closed session with Mr. Harrold to discuss our legal obligations and options and how to proceed.

I have been in contact with a local realtor who works extensively in the Lac du Flambeau area, and may have some other possible sites for us.

The issues with the draft minutes can be corrected before the document comes up for approval at the next Annual Meeting.

We should set a special meeting for the discussion of the remainder of these issues, and include a closed session for discussion of legal issues with Mr. Harrold.

Let me know how you want to proceed.

Supervisor Bob Hanson