

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.



TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

4550 WOJCIK MEMORIAL DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

1) Call to order: The meeting of the Hull Parks Commission was called to order on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: Dave Wilz, Committee: Mike O’Keefe, Janeen Cooper, Jim Mendyke, Maurice Stoltz, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski

Absent: Roland Schroeder

Excused: Brian Hicks

2) Approval of minutes from July 17, 2013 Hull Parks meeting. *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2013 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Mike O’Keefe. Motion passed.*

3) Citizens wishing to address the commission on non-agenda items. Agenda items are for discussion and possible action: *NONE.*

4) Announcements; Chairperson and Members.

Wilz The big news right now is the building addition to the Town Hall here was approved, overwhelmingly as a percentage, like 90 some percent with about 64 people. Thanks to the members here that did show up, that was important. They did a really good job presenting it. It was very clear. From the start of it to the vote, it was 56 minutes so that was pretty efficient. A lot of things have been happening since that point and it’s changing all the time. We’ve got vendors coming in and bidding and we’re doing final plans. Initially they were looking for an October 1st kickoff date. There are a few things still not completely resolved. They’re working on the financing. The original proposal was an example of 20 years at 3 ½ to 4 percent. What the citizens told us was that we don’t need to pay off this building in 20 years. So it looks like we’ll probably come up with a 15 year financing package based off of 3 ½%. It’s not quite final yet. A household that is worth about \$150,000, which is an average size household in Hull, it will add on about \$12 to \$15 per year to the property tax. It’ll be done in a very good financial way. Here are some of the pictures of the building, we showed these before.

The next thing I wanted to talk about, this mailing – “What’s in Your Well Water?” which came from the Town of Hull. Over the course of the last 2 years the Town has been involved in an in-depth water program trying to understand the various water issues in the Town of Hull, in the state and throughout the nation. We’ve gotten wonderful cooperation from the people sitting on that board, from the water department over at the University. One thing became clear; you can’t continue to give information unless you have data. They’ve had data for 25-30 years on

water samples that have gone to the University but they're hit and miss. One of the things was for us to try to get people involved in this and that's what this flyer is about. It makes it easy to get your water tested. It's got to go through the University because they run all the data and do all the testing (*at their lab*). It's \$49 for the Homeowners Package. Maurie said that sounded a little high. We were told, for that type of package, it's a very price-valued deal. It's probably worth about \$100 or so. It's been at \$49 for awhile.

Stoltz I haven't had mine tested for a few years.

Wilz The concept is, when you want to get your water tested, you had to go over to the University. You had to find a place to park, first of all, so right away it was a bad day, then you had to find the place, then they gave you the bottle and you had to go home and figure out how to do it. So in trying to collect as much data as we can, we want to make it easy for people so as this says here, you can come in on these dates from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., pick up the bottle, pick up the instructions, pay for it here, never have to go to the University. You make your own collection (*of the water sample*). You return it here. It'll be delivered to the University. We hope to do this in a mass turnout, hoping a lot of people will take advantage of it. More importantly, after all that is done, there will be a very excellent educational program on Thursday, November 14th for about an hour and a half. The experts will come in and give you an overall view of the water in Hull and what the concerns should be and will give everybody a good idea of what they just did and why this might be important to them in the future. People all over the country agree that water will become the next gold standard. People for centuries have fought over water and we've been blessed in this country. But it's becoming a problem.

Mendyke Did Point fire up that new well?

Wilz Yes.

Mendyke Do you know if that's affected anybody?

Wilz We were just talking about that. The data isn't in on that.

Mendyke People by Plover Springs over there?

Wilz In that general area Jim. I think people have been drilling wells down there. The data can't support it because the well ran dry or if the old sandpoint finally clogged up as they do over a life-cycle. But there are monitoring wells out there that are supposed to be able to provide data to help people if they do in fact draw down. The City made a pact, the mayor was sitting here, that if anybody's well ran dry because they lowered that water table, they would take care of that. But you've got to prove it. You've got to have data that scientifically said it happened. The well they've got out there is one of, you can help me on this Patty because you've sat in on all this.

Amman It's Well #11 but they've taken some off line so they have maybe 9 active municipal wells now.

Wilz But the configuration of that well, how it's engineered; it's one in a 6 or 7 state area, it's called a collector well. You have to have certain geological things in place to use this kind but it's very efficient. It goes down then it goes way out. She said it can replace a lot of wells. Right away you think, "Great, it'll be pretty dry around that." But it's not that way. I sat and listened to the engineers and why these wells are so efficiently built and how they gather the water.

O'Keefe Do you remember how deep they went?

Wilz It's been so long.

Amman 120 feet I think.

Wilz The laterals go out further.

Amman It goes down 120 feet then the laterals go out from the 120 foot level.

Wilz But they go out further than 120 feet. It's really an amazing engineering feat. So read this and if you're interested...how many people here have had your water tested?

(Several people raised their hands.)

Stoltz I haven't for some years now.

Wilz After we're done with this, and with the water studies that have been done up to this point, I think, from a Town standpoint, it's been our goal to find out what we've got and then learn some things and share that back with the citizens so they understand what they've got and how to protect it. There are some really basic things too that we've learned. When our house was built we were never concerned about that. Like water flows a certain way so why would you put your water well down-gradient from your septic? So there are some real basic things that we can learn now because of the science. If you're going to replace something, maybe it's time to relocate it which will help your nitrate levels.

Are there any other announcements from anybody?

O'Keefe Are these the only 8 compounds tested for in this package for \$50?

Amman That's within the basic Homeowner's Package. But you have the option if you want to add what they call the Metal's Package and a DACT Screen which you would use if you live close to a corn field. They have a Screen that will look for certain types of pesticides that your particular location might be prone to. That's a third test you can get in addition to the Homeowner's Package.

Wilz They packaged the Homeowner's Package like this years ago because it'll take care of 96% of everybody in the area. But yes, they've got water testing that can go into the hundreds of dollars. They'll tell you anything you want to know. They do the tests at the University. The folks that we work with over there, I've been very impressed with them. Some

of them are from Hull and they have a genuine interest that we as a government are concerned or at least we think we should be.

Amman Yes, they're good. Did anybody here not get that (*flyer*) today?

Wilz I don't know if I did.

Amman Because I got mine today. It's a bulk mailing so there are some variables in the delivery dates.

Wilz We hope people will take advantage of it. After we get through all this (*testing*), this committee (*water study*) have identified some problem areas in Hull, primarily over in the area where I live, in the Southeast Sector of Hull. We've have them as sectors for water purposes. I think we're going to go through, in those problem areas, and continually test certain sites for data and those areas chosen, I think the costs of those water tests will probably be shared because we want to get more data, that's why we're doing it.

Amman It's still kind of in the works. We don't know exactly how that will work out because this is the first run where everybody in the Town is being encouraged to do this. Then from that we might do a sub-set where we might do some supplementing of these. We don't know yet.

Wilz Depending upon what data comes in.

Amman Exactly.

5) Proposed Future Park Signage – Dave W. / Pete K.

Wilz Pete had come to me and as you know, we've got all the signs in our parks, which are made of wood, they've been routed out. They look pretty nice, rustic. But there are a few out there that the rot is getting to. Pete had mentioned if there a different way we can do this. I said, what would you propose? Our signs do a few things; not only do they look kind of rustic and cool but it's all one sign and we use it for all the other signs. Pete said he had something he wanted to run by the commission. If you think it's good to go, we would maybe take one park as a trial moving forward.

Kaminski We were talking about our signage off the highway (Torun & Hwy. 66), we were going to check into something different for that. But for the future, I'd like to put like what we're going to put out there, we could put it with our parks too.

Wilz You were talking about a metal one last week. Did I misunderstand you?

Kaminski A metal one, yes. This one here too eventually (*showing a picture of the sign in Jordan Acres Park*) the one by the highway, I would like to have it made out of metal. In our parks, I would like to take and have this one here (Jordan Acres) made out of metal too, aluminum.

Wilz You're talking about this park.

Kaminski I would put, "Welcome to Jordan Acres Park". I would like all of our park signs to match with our sign that we're going to put out there. I'm just bringing it up on the table as something to think about. Unless you guys want to stay with the existing one.

Wilz How are these usually made? Do you know?

Kaminski I've been here 13 years and they were always here. Tom, our previous park guy, he brought in his own router and he knew how to do that.

Wilz He probably had a template and he was handy.

Kaminski We've never done them. Tom did them. We can do them. We'd have to go buy a router and get some lumber and build our own template. But I'm wondering, for the future, do you want to go with that rustic look or should we maybe update it?

Cooper What have you done to replace any? Have you done any?

Kaminski When it rots, we replace all of the signs, planks, everything.

Wilz We haven't had to up to this point. But we're in a life cycle and some of these parks are getting a little rough looking.

Kaminski This one in Jordan Acres Park, you can actually see through it. I took a 1" board out there and put it behind it and painted it brown to match, put it behind it so it'll hold up another year or two until we figure out what we're going to do. To keep doing this or do something new.

Wilz My only concern in replacing something like this with metal is it only takes one bat to ruin the sign. These are pretty hardy. Over the years you've painted them brown and yellow and it's been more of a maintenance routine. But we've got this in two other parks where we'll have to deal with this issue probably in the next year or two.

Kaminski I'm just bringing it up, it's something to think about.

Amman How would you attach the individual metal signs to aluminum?

Kaminski I haven't figured it out yet but I'd do it somehow.

Wilz What Pete had mentioned last week was, depending on how big the "Welcome to" metal part would be, that could be one sign and he could build something for the other things you want to post there.

Kaminski Right now when you look at it, it looks like a bunch of clutter.

Wilz It kind of does, but it's efficient.

Kaminski Yes, it's doing its job.

O'Keefe Does the Town have a logo?

Kaminski This right here. That's what we talked about last time.

O'Keefe What if you went with a smaller sign like the smaller ones here you would actually attach to those?

Kaminski I can make a 30", a 60" a 48", whatever sign you want.

Wilz That's the current Town of Hull logo, the deer with the pine tree and the Town of Hull Sign that looks just like this.

O'Keefe Even if you get one of the smaller signs with the logo on it that says Town of Hull. You could add that to this.

Kaminski If not, I can go and buy a router and keep on doing what we've done.

Mendyke You haven't had much vandalism with them that way.

Kaminski No, I can't say there has been much. There were a few animal feces signs that were swiped.

Amman If you had aluminum signs, would the posts be aluminum too?

Kaminski No, I would still stick in treated posts.

Wilz What would you like the commission to do?

Kaminski Steer me. Do you want to go towards aluminum or go with the way we are doing things?

Cooper What's the price difference? Do you have any idea?

Kaminski I buy signs all the time. Aluminum would probably be \$65. It'll last 10 to 12 years.

Cooper The thickness of those signs there? It'll be thinner.

Stoltz An I-beam type.

Wilz These are what they look like.

Kaminski Those are treated 2x6's painted, routed out. There's a lot more maintenance with this.

Wilz To keep them looking good, you've got to hit them with the paint regularly.

Kaminski I'm thinking for the future, if you want to get away from some of the maintenance, if you buy an aluminum sign, if nobody paint balls it up, it'll last for 15 years. All of our parks have one like that. We're steadily running around painting them.

O'Keefe Who makes these signs that we use?

Kaminski I get them from a guy in Marathon, Rent-A-Flash. They can make any sign but I need help in drawing it up. I'm not an artist.

O'Keefe But it's somebody locally that does that?

Kaminski Oh yes. But if somebody would have some good ideas, with a background with different colors.....

Amman Are there any parks in the City of Stevens Point that have metal signs, aluminum signs?

Kaminski I don't drive by Stevens Point parks much.

Wilz The Director of Parks (*for Stevens Point*), Tom Schrader, do you know him?

Kaminski I think I've met the guy, only once or twice.

Cooper When I think of Iverson and Bukolt, those are all wood.

Stoltz I'm trying to think of that park over there behind Aldi's where the 2 parks are together.

Amman Eastwood?

Stoltz I'm trying to think of the sign that's there.

Kaminski Do they have a sign on the Stevens Point side?

Wilz We have the same thing over on Eastwood, it's wood just like ours is. I'll give Schrader a call. I'll do a couple of things: I'll ask him what he's doing about signs and ask him how he gets his wooden ones made. Maybe they'll make them, if that's an option.

Cooper Actually I like the wood better.

Wilz I really do too. I like the rustic. But I'm not opposed to spending some money to have one made to see what it looks like. Like you said, they're \$85, not \$850. My only concern was that it only takes one baseball bat and we've got a problem.

Kaminski To me, it does not matter. Why don't you authorize me to buy a router then I will keep the existing stuff going. I'm just throwing it out there if you guys want it.

O'Keefe I wonder if they have templates? I know Sears has a template that comes with all these letters and stuff like that. You put it on a screen and clamp it to the wood and router it out.

Kaminski I'm guessing a good router is about \$100. Do you guys know? I've never bought one.

Wilz I would make a motion this way; I would direct you Pete, and we would work with you on this. I'll call Schrader. I'll find out some information from the University because they make the signs right on the University. In fact it was just in the paper and the Chancellor commissioned a whole bunch of new signs. They make signs for all over the Midwest and they don't use wood, they use a non-destructible, eco-whatever.

Kaminski Maybe that plastic laminated board material, something new.

Wilz I don't know, maybe a MDF or something. But give us authorization to get some information.

O'Keefe There are those new composite materials, recycled material.

Wilz Give us the go-ahead to talk to Stevens Point and talk to the University. Give us the authority to make some decisions that way and/or if that doesn't work out, spend some money on a router and templates so we can maintain our parks.

Kaminski So we can make them ourselves.

Stoltz I'll second that.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to have the Parks Commission direct Pete and himself to work on this by Dave calling Schrader with the City of Stevens Point and the University and if that doesn't work out, to spend money to get a router and templates to continue to maintain the park signs ourselves. The motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed without further discussion.

Wilz On this here, were you going to do something with this?

Mendyke Yes, I dropped it off at the University and I'm meeting with them in 2 weeks.

Wilz Okay, great. If we can develop a logo....

Mendyke Are we committed to keeping that same logo? Okay, no. So some of the students can interview some of the people that have been in Hull for a long time to find out what Hull means to them and maybe come up with some ideas.

Wilz Sure, we could do that. The only thing that John had asked me after reading the minutes is don't go moving forward on that sign unless you run it by the Board. Because we are advisory to the Board.

Mendyke Right, but we've got a lot of talent out there.

Wilz So yes, I think we all suffer from what Pete has said. We'd like to see something new but we're not creative enough to know what that is and how to identify that.

Mendyke But it's a good start with the main sign. I think they'll come up with something creative and there's some good talent there.

Kaminski Maybe eventually down the road we can start with just a smaller sign.

Wilz We know we want to do that out there, we're not in a hurry but we want it to look good.

Kaminski I was out there and we measured it. We are 9 feet off of the state road right-of-way so we could inch it a little closer out to the highway. When the time comes, I'd like to take out that back post and turn it more so you can see it from east and west.

Cooper That's a good idea.

Wilz Because it's really a one-way sign as it is.

O'Keefe People complain about that when they're coming down Hwy. 66 from the north, you don't know that you're in the Town of Hull until you are past the sign, then you can see it.

Cooper Are they going to straighten that road?

Amman I think they made it curved there on purpose to slow traffic a little bit.

Cooper Torun, that's the road I'm talking about. Not the state road.

Kaminski The first 100 feet or so off of that belongs to Hull. Right off of Hwy. 66, the first 200 feet. Then it starts, the City. Why that was built that way? That was before my time. Torun Road you're talking about. She's asking why it curves when it comes up to the highway.

Cooper So the City owns on Torun Road?

Kaminski From the highway, we own like 200 feet. Right by White Pine Drive, that starts the City.

Wilz Where does it become Hull again?

Kaminski Back here past Margie and Max's place.

Stoltz So the houses on the east side of Torun Road are in the City? No?

Cooper Some of them are.

Stoltz A saw a sign there today that said city limits.

Kaminski Some of them are.

Wilz Even though Hull is on one side and the City is on the other, because the City has water and sewer services, they own it because they have to be able to service that. That's just like Carol's Lane in my subdivision. It's in our subdivision because they're right up against it, it's a Stevens Point road because they have to have access to it at all times.

Cooper So you have no say so since it belongs to the City.

Wilz Back to what she was saying.

Kaminski Eventually if a guy would ever rebuild Torun Road, we definitely would look at it with engineers.

Wilz If it was a reconstruction.

O'Keefe But it was bent like that because it meets the state standards that a side road has to hit a county/trunk road at a 45 degree angle T.

Wilz That's true.

O'Keefe They've changed that law so when a lot of communities do rebuild, they've got to make them T intersections.

Stoltz Even Airport Road, by you there, at the end, it's straight then it makes a turn at the end so you're at a 90 degree angle where it hits Hwy. 66.

Cooper But we get to decide, that's the point. You don't want to get done and have the state say.....

Wilz What Pete is saying, if there's a total reconstruct, that's your opportunity to make those kinds of changes.

Kaminski But we've got to follow state guidelines too.

Cooper Like we don't want to put that sign up next year, spend the money, then they say, hey, we're going to move all this stuff.

6) Status update of park lawns and trees – Pete Kaminski.

Wilz Pete, talk about the status of the parks as you know it and then I want the members to jump in with what they're seeing going on out there.

Kaminski We cut down all of the dead trees in the parks. We put mulch in all of the parks where it was needed. We painted the equipment. Whatever work you had written down on the inspection sheets has all been completed. We put shingles on the roof. I bought 100 feet more of stainless steel chain. I replaced the chain on some of the swing seats. In Eastwood Park we had two bouncy buttons that were cracked. I have pictures (*they were handed around to look at*). I didn't see it but that's hard plastic so I figured somebody was out there with a baseball bat. I called up Lee Recreation where we bought them from and they are under warrantee. Thankfully since they are pricey.

Wilz We just bought two this year.

Kaminski No. I bought a horse and cow spring rider.

Wilz What did those cost?

Kaminski Those are \$560 each. I needed some pads for the Nucleo for inside Jordan Acres Park. Just a small rubber pad where the kids stand on. One of them was gone, somebody took it. \$180 for 3 little rubber pads. We put in the trail, the chips inside Eastwood Park. We got that done and it looks really nice.

Stoltz Yes, it does.

Kaminski Otherwise everything is done. What we'll do yet this fall is put down fertilizer. I will put down the same winter stuff as last fall. I stuck in the winter coat blend. I called up J-Mar and got 50 bags. I walked through the parks. I've been cutting trees, this and that, and they look good. Our grass looks good for cutting back on fertilizer half way. But when it rains, everything looks good too. Did our fertilizer affect the grass less? I don't think it did. Unless you guys think it did or you've seen something.

Cooper Did you go to Somerset Park lately, have you looked at it lately?

O'Keefe What? Some of the dead grass there?

Cooper Yes.

O'Keefe I think that was due to the drought last year. Last year it looked good until later in the summer.

Cooper Because it looked a lot better before.

O'Keefe We didn't know the impact of last summer until this spring.

Wilz Last summer it was wet way into July. I remember we were cutting all the time, like 4 weeks past normal. The question is this: last year, as a group, we were trying to make a decision – should we cut back on the fertilizer to save money and it was agreed that we would try but we wanted the outcome to not to make it worse. We started fertilizing years ago because it was all quack grass.

Cooper There are parts there that are reminiscent of the way it was. I don't think it looks that great.

O'Keefe That grass area right up against the road, I think it's a result of the winter.

Kaminski I was talking with Randy and Nick who mows out there, Randy does lawns and he figures it was winter kill. It was dry all summer up until now and it was dry last summer.

Cooper It's growing in those tufts like it used to, in large areas.

Wilz If you didn't have shoes on, forget it.

Kaminski What I would like to do inside that park is work it up and plant new grass but you guarantee to me that it's going to rain this year and next year. We've got some grass there.

O'Keefe If I could extend my sprinkler over there from my yard, I could probably hit it every day.

Kaminski If a guy had water out there, we've got the equipment, the little tractor, we could....

O'Keefe With the long winter we had, you get snow-mold underneath there and that affects the grass.

Kaminski I was out there today and I know exactly where you mean, there are clumps of green.

Cooper There are several areas.

Stoltz There are some in Sorenson Park like that too.

Cooper It's just that it looked so good for so long, it's bringing back bad memories.

Wilz We'll talk about fertilizer here in a little bit. Back to the status of the overall parks. I would agree with you. I walked through ours last week because I told you I went over

and went through some more. You guys did the work and the only thing that is starting to become an issue is this sort of thing at one or two of the parks. Other than that, they're in pretty good shape. You guys have mechanically kept things running and they look good.

Stoltz Yes, they do.

Wilz Randy and whoever keep them trimmed up well.

Kaminski I put in one of those bouncy cows at Eastwood and one at Kirschling East (*Pleasant View East*), a bouncy mule. So that's all done. All the equipment is painted.

Wilz Any questions for Pete on the equipment?

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to accept Pete Kaminski's report on the status of the parks. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

7) Tree Program – ATC (brochure).

Wilz A little history on this: those who were here a few years ago, if you recall, we took advantage of a DNR grant new tree program, a 50/50 split. We bought a lot of bare-root trees. Jim helped water them and plant. The neat thing about that program is you can utilize it once in a while. If you start asking for the use of it more often, then they want you to develop a full program which you have to commit dollars to for every year for trees. We've got a lot of trees and we don't need to dedicate planting every year. However, we have lost a lot of trees from that planting of a few years ago and a few other ones because of the drought. Pete had some information that was sent out in your packets about the Trees in Your Community Program from the American Transmission Company (ATC).

Kaminski I don't know much about it, I have the same information you have. The first step is, as we do this, do we want to do this with answering all these questions. Are we going to comply with their rules? I would say yes because you can't plant trees under their power lines. If you guys want to do that, I can fill out the application. It's due by September 30th. I can apply on-line by filling it out.

Cooper I looked on-line too. The high voltage electrical transmission, the only place they have that is....

Kaminski Old Wausau, DuBay Road and it runs through Bobby's Lane, that's the high power line.

Wilz ATC came through parts of Hull.

Kaminski Back in 2006.

Wilz When they were connecting up north. What I read on this was a couple of things. Basically this is a community outreach program to help municipalities. They want to be good

guys because they've gotten some bad press in the last couple of years. Not knowing exactly how this is going to work, it feels like it's completely funded by them.

Kaminski Yes, that's the way I understand it.

Wilz We'll have to do the work but we won't have to pay for trees. Don Kissinger wrote this, who is our DNR representative. He said communities are taking advantage of this. Look into this. They don't all have to be small trees. Some of these can be larger than bare root. It's got a little more flexibility.

O'Keefe Do we have to come up with a specific plan for each park?

Kaminski I would put them in randomly wherever they dried up.

Wilz If this Parks Commission feels they'd like to get behind this thing, give Pete the go-ahead to make the contact and try to work the program the best we can. I don't know that we qualify. They could turn us down. We don't know. This just came in. It's a community outreach program and it's anywhere from \$100 to \$5,000 based upon their funding availability. I'm sure they've set a certain amount aside.

Kaminski How much would you be requesting? See #5. The high would be \$5,000.

Wilz Maybe what I would do before I fill this out, if the group authorizes you to move forward on it, there's a contact person listed on here, give them a call.

Mendyke It was 50/50 before wasn't it? How much did we spend?

Kaminski It cost the Town of Hull \$2,500 and then we got a \$2,500 grant.

Wilz It was through the Wisconsin DNR.

Mendyke I know it was a different program.

Kaminski If I remember, I think we planted 65 trees.

Mendyke We had to replace some too.

Kaminski We pulled out one in North Second. I think there's one or two in yours. I had one inside Sorenson Park . We could probably get by with about 20.

O'Keefe My jack pines are dying.

Kaminski I cut down yesterday 3 in Meadow Manor Park so eventually we'll have to get young ones and plant them back.

O'Keefe There's a blight going around that's affecting red pines. A lot of red pines are being affected.

Mendyke Well we know how to plant them.

Stoltz You had to water them.

Mendyke That was the year I retired and that was my summer job. I got to fill it up at the fire department pump, I thought that was really cool.

Kaminski Those existing trees, we have stumps in the parks, can I get those stumps ground out? I'd have to hire somebody. I'd get somebody and have them give me a quote. Like I said, yesterday inside Meadow Manor I cut a Norway Pine like that. I cut an oak down like that. We're talking some money to have this stuff ground up. If there is any money left in my budget this year, is this something that you guys want to do?

Stoltz It would probably be good to get those stumps ground out.

O'Keefe I would think if they're in the way, or to bury them.

Kaminski We've got them cut as low as we can. A lot of times we can drive over them but there's never going to be nothing there. It's a nuisance.

Wilz My thought would be that if they're in the way or if they're a trip hazard, you'd want to, depending upon where the tree is, if it's along the edge and it's brush anyway, what's a stump, why waste the money?

Stoltz The guy that cuts trees for me, Kevin Fenski, Preferred Trees, he's pretty reasonable. He was for me anyway.

Kaminski I could take that money out of our landscaping budget?

Wilz You can't exceed the budget.

Kaminski Oh no.

Wilz Back to the trees...

Mendyke What's wrong with shooting for \$5,000?

Cooper Yes, if you used \$5,000 before.

Kaminski That's a lot of trees.

Wilz We're going to have a new building.

O'Keefe Yes, you'll need some landscaping.

Wilz That'll work. I'm not saying they'd like it. I don't think they care.

Stoltz There's wording in here that says as long as you don't plant them in their right of way.

Mendyke I know last time we were looking around the parks saying where can we fit all these in. But if we've had some trees dying on us, there's got to be room.

Kaminski Last fall at his park, we cut down 20 spruce. We've got room for trees there right now.

A motion was made by Mike O'Keefe to authorize Pete Kaminski to fill out and submit the application to ATC for the Trees in Your Community grant asking for \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

Wilz I would suggest you give Jayne Vanderlin a call, introduce yourself. They also list the two people down here, if you have questions about it. Let's just make certain, before you spend a whole lot of time filling out an application, that we qualify.

Kaminski The first person I'll talk to will be Don Kissinger. He's the guy that sent that to us. He must know about the program. He knows us, what we did and he will lead me.

Wilz If he says, yes, go for it.

Mendyke If we get it, besides your crew, Maurice was out there digging, everybody pitched in which was nice to get it done quickly.

Wilz Now we've got a tractor and we have some other tools.

O'Keefe Does Stevens Point have a Tree City designation?

Kaminski I believe they do.

8) Review of Budget vs. Actual – YTD.

Wilz Barb gave Patty to send out our year-to-date through the end of September?

Amman It's everything we have up to the end of September.

Wilz It reflects the 86 yards of hardwood chips for the parks. I don't have last years' numbers so I can't really compare but with just remembering, we're in good shape financially it looks like overall. Right Pete?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz We've got half of our budget. With that being said, she doesn't have labor in there for the month of September, which goes against that. And you run labor against those parks pretty much all the way through the middle to end of October right?

Kaminski Middle of October we'll be done.

Wilz We wanted to look at this and see how you felt about that because one of the things we're going to do is make our recommendation to the Board for the 2014 budget.

Kaminski Fertilizer yet will still be about \$1,000 which will come out of landscaping. I would like to get those stumps ground up. Until I get some quotes on those stumps, then we can sit down and talk about it. That would be taken out of the landscaping budget. In Meadow Manor, there's at least 8 of them in there that I know about and it could be \$100 a stump or \$50 a stump, I don't know. There are some inside of Sorenson Park. I cut down 2 big jack pines in Jordan Acres Park. Every park has got some. Some of them I can dig out with my end loader. There will be a big pile and I'll go in and fill it with black dirt. The ones I feel safe in digging. But those big oaks, it takes a half mile of....but I can get some quotes on them and sit down and talk to you.

Wilz That sounds good. The group here has said yes, if we have the money and they are a hazard, we need to try to treat that issue if we can.

Kaminski The main parks that have them are Somerset, Jordan Acres and Meadow Manor.

Wilz We're looking pretty good on the year-to-date budget?

Kaminski Oh yes.

Wilz The reason I wanted your opinion is because I just looked at this for the first time today. I was looking through the month of August and I did a comparison through the month of August. We were at or a little bit below where we were last year. We're tracking really good all the way through. Along with that, I think this was in everybody's packet, if you've seen these before, we literally track every time somebody takes off to do work in the parks. They track the time. It's charged to this budget. We do that for a couple of reasons. #1 we really want to know and #2, if you remember several years ago we used to have 2 part-time people doing the parks. We felt like we wanted another full-time road crew member, because it was a three quarters time job. We decided if we could authorize another full-time job here in the Town of Hull with benefits, we would eliminate the part-time people and we would switch the parks over to that person or, in theory, those hours. Because they would be full-time and efficient, even with the higher wage, we would save money and that's exactly what has happened.

Mendyke Didn't we go to a bigger mower too?

Wilz Yes, we bought a new, bigger mower and that was all a part of that. It worked out wonderfully.

Mendyke So you were able to justify it.

Wilz It worked. The parks look better. The equipment was being maintained better. Part of that whole deal was that we track the time and we continue to track the time. The Board looks at this all the time and asks how much are the parks taking away from his road crew if they've got to be out doing other work. We're running around 20 hours to 24 a week on a busy parks week. If everything is growing, there will be 3 full days per week with a guy cutting. So this all ties in with this. We've reviewed this budget year-to-date. Pete, go ahead and come up with some information on the stumps that are hazards and we can talk. I think everybody is approving that.

9) Discuss preliminary Parks budget for 2014.

Wilz In terms of our budget review, year-to-date, looking at our preliminary Parks budget for 2014, I'm proposing the following: our year end this year, we're going to beat our budget. Would you not agree?

Kaminski Oh yes.

Wilz Our 2014 budget, what I would like to propose for this group to consider and maybe accept is a duplicate to our 2013 budget. Just use the same numbers, zero increase, zero decrease. We'll just take our 2013 budget and make it the 2014 budget.

Stoltz Now if we have money left at the end of the year in the budget, can we put that on the side for equipment for next year?

Wilz By Board action, yes. What normally happens is if you're long or short on a budget item, it's gone. It either goes back to the general fund or you've overspent and now you're short. In the past what we've done with parks, because we have money in a parks designated fund, one year I think when I first came on, there was something big we weren't going to be able to get but I encumbered the money and we put it into designated reserve and in the spring we pulled it out for the tractor or lawn mower. I don't think we're in that situation this year unless you think we are.

O'Keefe What about if we're going to increase the fertilizing? Is that going to add on \$1,000 to the budget?

Kaminski It will but right now we have \$3,700 in there. Our budget last year, we made it the same as the year before and I cut down using fertilizer. We never lowered our budget.

Wilz We never adjusted the budget down when we decided Because when we made the decision, we had already struck the budget for the next year.

Kaminski We will be in good shape.

Wilz Our budget years ago, when we got the major equipment project done, we were running \$40,000 to \$41,000 a year for the Parks budget. Probably half of it was for major equipment because we were spending \$18,000 to \$22,000 a year trying to update these parks. We're beyond that now. So we're in maintenance issues and if there are some neat things we want to do differently but it shouldn't cost an extra 20 grand a year. That's my proposal, 2014 would look like 2013. You feel confident, as I do, that we're going to beat this year's budget?

Kaminski Oh yes, we're going to have money left over.

Wilz So even if we have inflation or cost of goods going up, we should have the room to accommodate that.

Stoltz That bench project over there by the Pipe, is that going through? That Scout project where they want to build that? Not the labor so much but the materials are coming out of the budget?

Kaminski I haven't heard anything about that. Do you know what's going on?

Wilz No.

Kaminski John and I talked about it and he was saying if we could build it and we could take it off every year and then store them, when we get the high water, he was going to talk with you and I haven't heard anything.

Wilz Did he come and buy materials?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz By the way, thank you everybody. That Tanner Hoerter project, you endorsed that. We weren't going to call a special meeting for that. That's what it's about. Getting an Eagle Scout working on something for the benefit of his community. In this case it was in an area that was pretty cool anyway. I think we authorized the two benches which were not to exceed \$225 or \$235 worth of material. The process was, he had more paperwork to get it approved by the Boy Scouts of America. Then he was to come back to us with a parts list and then he was to work with Pete and his schedule. They were going to take the pickup and go down and buy it on the Town of Hull Menard's card, pick the list with him and deliver it to his building site. Then he was on his own. But he hasn't come back to us.

Kaminski I haven't heard anything on it. I don't know whatever happened.

Wilz To answer your question, that will come out of this year's budget and it's about \$235.

Stoltz That's all the materials will cost for those 2 benches?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Unlike some of the projects that Rollie did, those were more but they were actually buildings.

Stoltz Those had concrete underneath.

Wilz Those were like \$1,100 to \$1,200 a piece, so this one is relatively inexpensive. Any other suggestions on our budget or things we should be concerned about or things you have on your minds that you would perhaps like to see done? We've kind of been in that maintenance mode now for a year or two.

Cooper I do have a question: Underneath the swings where you're always putting chips, would it matter, now that you have the tractor, if you dug it out and made alike around the other equipment everything is sunk? Everything else has like that perimeter where the sod is higher and the chips seem to stay in better. Would that make any difference in those areas?

Kaminski I've never actually thought about that. Years ago when I started here, we always did it that way. We threw on fresh chips every year. But yes, it would make sense. We'd have to dig out the sod and buy longer chains. You'd have to drop down your equipment.

Cooper That's what I was wondering too. That was my other concern. I know you've said it in the past and I know it gets kicked out.

Stoltz On a swing that is normal length, they'll drag their feet.

Cooper But they drag their feet underneath those really big slides too. It just seems to me that it actually holds it in there better of what I could see in the other parks.

Wilz What's your suggestion?

Cooper The sod is dug out underneath the equipment so that when they put the chips in, they've got a more defined area, like a bowl, fall area. They would still have the regulation amount of chips.

Kaminski Yes, you've got to have 12" of chips underneath them. That's something for the future. We could start.

Cooper It's just something to think about.

Wilz Would that be a cost item?

Kaminski Yes, it would be more labor since we would need to dig out the old stuff and the sod underneath it.

Amman But would it save in chips because you're not having to put more chips in as often?

Kaminski It might save some chips. It'll be neater and cleaner but they'll still rot the way that they rot. They just won't be kicked out. We're forever raking them back in.

Wilz From a budgetary standpoint, if this group tonight authorizes you to take one park and try this on for next year; it'll take labor to scrape out what you've got and do some landscaping work and define it. When you say labor, how much?

Kaminski I'm just guessing \$1,000.

Cooper Will it help?

Kaminski Right now with labor, we're down to what we have left, \$805.

Wilz That's the one we actually burn out since there are people cutting the grass.

Kaminski We are going to spread fertilizer yet this year. We'll probably have to mow one more time the way it's warm and stuff is growing.

Wilz I'm talking about next year, doing this. Whether it's in the labor or another category, do you think we could get an extra \$1,000 out of this projected budget?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Take one park, experiment with it. Evaluate it at the end of the season and see if it worked.

Kaminski We can do that.

Cooper See if it helps you guys.

Wilz That's a good suggestion because they only look good after he fills them up. A week later, they're all over the place.

Kaminski Yes, I can do that, try it.

Wilz Grab one park you can get at easily where maybe the problem is accentuated or the buildup is worse than others.

Kaminski I think maybe start in Jordan Acres Park. It's got heavy build up in there. Take it all out, dig out the sod, dig out the ground and put in 12 inches of chips and keep it lower. You've got to remember when kids walk in there, it's got to be kind of flat so the little kids that walk in there don't trip either. When that's level, when they're swinging, I think you're still going to have some chips going out.

Stoltz You'll have some when they drag their feet.

Cooper That's necessary, yes.

Wilz Anything else, any other suggestions in terms of potential costs we want to think about for next year?

Mendyke Do you have all the other extra equipment you needed? Did you get that rotor-tiller?

Kaminski No, the rotor-tiller I never got.

Mendyke Would that help you though with that baseball diamond?

Kaminski Well yes, I haven't worked it up because nobody is using it right now. Right now everything is brown again. But for the future, we are going to need one of those things. And I would like to buy a seeder that would go onto that John Deere tractor so we can seed grass, if we eventually put down seed in our parks. It's a 4 foot seeder you put on the 3 point hitch. Yes, that is stuff for the future we are going to need.

Mendyke Would you use a tiller for anything else besides the parks?

Kaminski It would be for parks and I could use it along the ditches too where we have heavy sod build up. Where our gravel roads are higher than the sod so the water can't drain, I could work it up. There would be other uses, not a lot. But if I could find a good used one, they last indefinitely.

Wilz What are you looking at Pete?

Kaminski If I could find a good used one for about \$900 to \$1,000, a used tiller.

Wilz We're not talking about playground equipment, we're talking about equipment and maintenance. That's one of those budget areas we always use whatever we put in it so there's not a lot of build up in it.

Cooper The reason it's in the red this year is because of that machine that you bought?

Kaminski Yes. Whatever pieces I bought, that should have come out of the playground equipment budget but instead the money was taken out of there. It's all the same money.

Wilz It's more of an accounting glitch than anything else.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to increase the equipment and maintenance portion of the 2014 budget to \$3,000 and the overall 2014 budget to \$24,302. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

Wilz We'll be tough pressed to get much more than that because we're tight and we're trying to be frugal with people's money.

Kaminski We'll have some left over from this year that we could carry over.

Wilz I'll see what I can get through the Finance Committee on this. If they say we're not going to give it to you, Dave, then I'll say I want to encumber anything that might be left from this year because we got a piece of equipment that they're not allowing us to budget for.

10) Discuss Fall Fertilizer – Pete Kaminski.

Wilz I looked at the lawn in Kirschling West. I zigzagged and walked it all. I was looking at it from this standpoint: is the weed infestation worse now than it was a year ago when we applied more fertilizer? That's how I approached it. I don't know that cutting back on that fertilizer did any harm. I didn't see an infestation of weeds like they were like you said, 10-12 years ago. Last fall did you cut it down by 50%?

Kaminski Yes. I used to always buy 100 bags. Meadow Manor Park – 7 bags – which is 350 pounds of fertilizer; Sorenson – 6 bags; Pleasant View – 5 bags; Pleasant View East – 7 bags; Conifer – 0; Trader – 0; Eastwood – 11 bags; Jordan Acres – 3 bags; Somerset – 6 bags; Plover Heights – 0; Town Hall – 3 bags. It came to 48 bags last year and that's cutting it in half. We saved approximately \$1,000 because last year our bill was \$900 some bucks. It's usually \$1,800 or right around there.

Cooper But wouldn't it take a couple of years for the....I mean fertilizer fertilizes the ground, it's not a pesticide so it would take a couple of years when the grass dies back in areas for the weeds to come up. So your point of looking at it for a lot of weeds, I think, you know what fills into dead areas. So how does your sod look? Do you have those spots?

Wilz Yes, and I haven't seen that before. Or at least I haven't noticed it before.

Cooper I haven't seen it in years.

Wilz I don't water my lawn that often. I don't want to lose what I have so if it gets dry, I put out a hose but I would agree, my yard wasn't as good this spring as previously because of the long winter. I'd like to hear, what do you think we should do?

Mendyke Could we rotate it? Do it in the full amount one year and half the next?

O'Keefe We haven't seen a major change. It's just that we had that bad, long winter, dry periods, stuff like that. One thing you could do, in the springtime, you've got all that dead stuff, once the ground dries out, run a de-thatcher out there just to lift it up to get the turf up a little bit. But the fertilizing, it's not going to really do it unless it's actively growing.

Kaminski Maybe we should put on fertilizer in the spring and then in the fall, maybe twice a year. But only stick on half now and half in the spring. We give it a boost in the spring and then for the fall, it'll get a boost too.

O'Keefe A fall fertilizer basically helps the root development that you want.

Stoltz So in other words, spread 25 bags of that in the spring.

Kaminski I was suggesting going with 50 bags in the spring and 50 in the fall.

Wilz So we'd go back but do it 2 different times to get 2 different benefits from it.

Kaminski You guys that have homes know that for proper lawn care, you're supposed to fertilize once a month. We do it once a year and we have no water out there so you can't expect....

O'Keefe I used to do it twice a year. If I get weeds out there, I call it a flower.

Wilz We don't want to have to cut the parks twice a week either.

Kaminski No. Right now, if it rains, we're in there 3 days a week.

O'Keefe Spring is set up so that you get a lot of nitrogen to those plants so it'll green up and grow. Then the fall one is for root development which is what you want.

Wilz So is that a recommendation you are making? Go back to the full amount but split it so we get 2 different benefits?

Kaminski We can try that.

Stoltz Try that for one year.

O'Keefe Do we have a de-thatching machine?

Kaminski We have a small one like 4 feet wide. But with my John Deere I have a landscape rake. I bought a little landscape rake I can pull it and pick it up.

O'Keefe That would be one way to lift it up, get it up.

Wilz I like the fact that we will still be fertilizing. There's not too many municipalities that will spend money on fertilizer. Stevens Point doesn't do it. Portage County doesn't do anything. It's a cost factor. But on the other hand, I like it when the little kids are running around and the babies are rolling on it.

Mendyke How much more labor is that for you then?

Kaminski I bought a spreader this last year for the 3-point hitch for the little tractor. We'll get this all done, all the parks, inside one day. Before it took us 3 days or a week.

Wilz They really fly with this thing.

Kaminski One day and everything will be done. If we don't meet in the spring, I can just go ahead and do it?

Wilz Yes. You know what to do with the fertilizer, when are you going to do that?

Kaminski Usually in the first part of October. When it's cool and nobody goes out there. We don't want the children walking on there when we put the stuff on.

A motion was made by Janeen Cooper to authorize Pete to go back to fertilizing using the full amount of fertilizer for our parks, but divided into 2 applications. 50 bags in the fall- the Winter Coat Blend and 50 in the spring using Greener by the Yard in the spring. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.

11) Date of Next Parks Meeting – Thursday, April 24, 2014.

Amman We're going one week later than what it said on the original agenda because April 17th of 2014 fell into Holy Week with it falling on Holy Thursday. That's the only evening services churches have and it would conflict with this (on the 17th).

Wilz We've had our first meeting for parks sometimes in early April or late March. This year we kept putting it off because it's kind of hard to do park inspections when you're walking through the snow banks (*first 2013 meeting was beginning of May*). Hopefully the weather will be more stable for us moving forward.

I want to thank everybody for your service to the Town of Hull. I know our citizens appreciate it. We've got a great group here and a great group of a lot of volunteers that sit on a lot of different committees. We appreciate it.

Cooper You too.

Mendyke Yes, thanks for chairing us.

12) Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with a motion made by Dave Wilz and seconded by Janeen Cooper. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Parks Commission Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County