

## **SPECIAL MEETING - MARCH 1, 2004**

On Monday, March 1, 2004, the Town Board of the Town of Salem, held a Special Meeting. At 4:30 PM, Chairman Walsh called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Tom Walsh; Supervisors, Diann Tesar; Dennis Faber; Patrick O'Connell and Joseph Meier. Also present were: Town Clerk, Toni Seitz; Deputy Clerk, Linda Terry; Land Development Coordinator, Brad Zautcke and Town Attorney, Richard Scholze. At that time, the Board convened to **Closed Session for the purpose of conferring with the Town's legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the Town with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with Section 19.85(1)(g) of the Wisconsin Statutes, ON A TESAR/O'CONNELL MOTION. The Board was polled - motion carried unanimously.**

After discussion regarding the above, the Board moved to **open session at 5:25 PM, ON A TESAR/FABER MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE TOWN STARTING YOUTH RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL.**

Town Chairman Walsh stated that he had spoken to Crysti Neuman regarding taking over the existing Youth Recreational Softball League. It is presently for children ages 4 - 14; however, they would like to include an age group for 15 - 17 year olds as well.

There are games two nights a week, which would be held at Salem Grade School. Chairman Walsh suggested that the Town's Highway Department groom the fields (2 men, 2 nights a week, if necessary). The estimated cost for this labor would be about \$3,000.00.

He also said that the program was self-supporting.

At this time, Crysti Neuman gave a brief overview of the fundraising regarding offsetting the sign-up fees.

Chairman Walsh hopes to add this as a line item in next year's Town Budget.

Gail Dziki asked who previously groomed the fields? She also asked what happened to the volunteers?

Chairman Walsh stated that either the school had done it, or Paul and Crysti Neuman.

Mrs. Neuman stated that as far as the volunteers, some have moved on, and some of the people were disappointed with the present leadership - they were not getting the answers they needed.

Mrs. Dziki asked if there was any, and how much money was in the present softball account?

Mrs. Neuman stated that there is money, but does not know how much.

Mrs. Dziki stated that at the present time, the Town of Salem does not have a "Recreation Director"; who will administer this program?

Chairman Walsh stated that Crysti Neuman would be doing this.

Clerk Toni Seitz stated that as soon as something like this gets in the paper, the Town Hall will be bombarded with telephone calls.

Gail Dziki stated that the Town is in a growing period and we may be getting to this point; however, she felt that the Town is putting the cart before the horse. If this program is not administered properly, the children will suffer. She then asked how the highway department figure was achieved?

Chairman Walsh and Mrs. Neuman spoke with the Town's Director of Public Works, George Vujovic.

Clerk Seitz stated that, as a resident and Town Clerk, she has a real problem with the highway department doing the field work, considering that there are some residents that have been on a waiting list for as many as three years to get trees cut, or culverts cleaned. The Town Board just hired two new highway employees because they have been "overwhelmed" with work, and now, the Town Chairman thinks they should groom ball diamonds? What about the work?

Supervisor Tesar stated that she too, has received numerous telephone calls regarding the work of the highway department. She feels the Town is not ready for this yet this year.

Mrs. Neuman suggested reimbursing the Grade School for grooming the ball diamonds. That way, the highway department would not be involved.

Supervisor O'Connell has concerns regarding telephone calls coming through the Town Hall.

Clerk Seitz asked about other parents volunteering?

Supervisor Faber asked what happens if the Town were to have people appointed to this, and the softball league doesn't get along with those people?

Clerk Seitz asked where the softball league board members come from?

Chairman Walsh stated that this would be for 10 weeks.

Clerk Seitz questioned that statement, due to the fact that sign-up is in March, and the games don't get over until July.

Supervisor Faber was bothered by the fact that this may be taking Town employees away from their regular work.

Supervisor O'Connell felt the program was worth savings.

Mrs. Neuman has spoken to the Town's Treasurer, Chris Lamb, and there is an account already in the Town's budget for recreation.

Chairman Walsh stated that all the money would be accounted for.

Clerk Seitz reiterated her statement that Town Business must come first.

Supervisor Faber still feels that the Town's Highway Department should not be doing any fieldwork.

Clerk Seitz asked what other municipality runs a softball league?

Mrs. Neuman stated that the Town of Bristol does.

Clerk Seitz feels that this is not the Town's responsibility - the Town should first establish a Recreation Department.

Supervisor Meier stated that the Town does not have a Recreation Department. He feels that all of the problems could be solved. Any sort of calls that come through the Town Hall should be given a number to phone after 4:30 pm. The school could do the fieldwork. Having a phone tree would be a good idea - people could call each other regarding cancelled games, rather than people calling the Town Offices. He would recommend still having officers for the softball league - a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. The treasurer of the league would be responsible for maintaining all the money, and mailing out bills, etc. On a monthly basis, a "treasurer's report" would be shown to the Town Board for approval.

Supervisor O'Connell felt that the Town could work through any problems.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TAKING OVER THE LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL, MADE ON A MEIER/TESAR MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**Minutes submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk.**

**Minutes prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Clerk.**