

# **VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee of the Whole meeting, of the Village of Wrightstown, was held at Village Hall, 352 High St., Wrightstown, WI, on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Village President Dean Erickson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Village President Dean Erickson; Trustee Sue Byers; Trustee Mark Leonard; Trustee Andy Lundt; Trustee Terry Schaeuble; Trustee Keith Wendlandt. Absent – Trustee Dan Segerstrom

Also present: Ed Byrne (Brillion News); Brian Roebke (Wrightstown Spirit); Administrator Travis Coenen, Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Seidl; Public Works Director Andy Vickman; Police Chief Greg Deike; Fire Chief Mike Schampers, Fire Inspector Nathan Helbing.

Attending due to proposed Golf Cart/ATV/UTV Ordinance: Gary Kaster, Jesse Petersen, Darren Cornelissen, Greg Gutzman, Sarah Nelson, Jason Nelson, Craig Micke, Dustin Kersten, Jason LeBrec

Attending due to annexation of property on CTY U: Pete Albers, Peter Albers, Nick Novak (*virtual*)

Motion made by A Lundt with a second made by K Wendlandt to open the Committee of the Whole Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by A Lundt with a second made by K Wendlandt to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, September 21, 2021. **Motion carried.**

### **Ordinance amending Chapter 185 Vehicles and Traffic; §185-6 Off-Road Vehicles to Chapter 185 Vehicles and Traffic; §185-6 Golf Carts and creating §185-6.1 All-Terrain Vehicles/Utility Terrain Vehicles**

Chief Greg Deike provided a map of state and county highways, leading into the Village, that Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's are not allowed on per state statute

Each board member was asked to share their views on the proposed ordinance:

- Trustee Sue Byers – Notified by residents who shared their concerns about allowing these types of vehicles on Village roadways. She appreciates the concerns that ex Trustee Scott Reignier shared during the last meeting about Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's not having speedometers and how posted limits would be adhered to. Since the Village has no trails and very few sidewalks, pedestrians would be put at risk. Because there is little access to the Village from Golf Cart/ATV/UTV trails coming from the Townships, because additional police resources would be required to monitor and enforce the new ordinance and expensive signage would need to be purchased and placed, she does not see any benefit of approving

- Trustee Andy Lundt stated that the benefit is that people that own Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's can use them. And although there are limited ways in and out of the Village, there are certainly neighborhoods that can be weaved through to get around. He heard from numerous residents in favor
- Trustee Terry Schaeuble is in favor of the new ordinance. Allowing operation of Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's has been successful in other communities and could be in the Village of Wrightstown as well. Driver's that do not adhere to the rules can have their privileges revoked. People in the community that he spoke with are for it
- Trustee Keith Wendlandt is not in favor of the new ordinance. He foresees additional road obstructions, hazards and accidents. Because access into the Village stops at the round-a-bouts, this is where there will be traffic backup. Since the meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>, he has not heard from anyone either for or against the new ordinance. However, he has seen Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's on Village streets, even though they are not legal at the moment. He feels the police department will have difficulty with enforcement
- Mark Leonard had no additional comments to add

President Dean Erickson opened the floor to the public on this matter:

- Eric Welhouse, 15 Red Clover Ln., is a trail boss for Apple Creek Snowmobile Club, which maintains trails from Wrightstown to HWY A in Appleton. This organization worked on getting a lane on the Wrightstown Bridge designated for snowmobile traffic, to be used during the winter months, without success. Because Golf Cart/ATV/UTV trails are opening up both to the north and south of the Village, the Village would be the one road block, between Milwaukee and Copper Harbor, if the proposed ordinance is voted down.
- Lee Martin, 232 Alison Ct. likes going across the bridge and visiting farmers on this ATV
- Jason LeBrec, 75 Washington St. feels passing this ordinance would help Village businesses
- Dustin Kersten, 209 Haymeadow Ct., supports the new Golf Cart/ATV/UTV ordinance. He was unaware until recently that driving this type of vehicle in the Village was illegal. He feels that laws can be established to control Golf Cart/ATV/UTV traffic and would like to see the ordinance passed to take small trips for food, groceries etc.
- Jesse Petersen, 1381 Wayside Rd. in the Town of Holland, noted that Brillion currently has an ATV/UTV ordinance. From his 8 years living there, he did not experience issues with ATV's/UTV's racing. He found that legal street vehicles seem to cause more issues. He challenged the Village Board to reach out to neighboring communities that have Golf Cart/ATV/UTV ordinances and ask them if the experience has been positive or negative. Jesse's parents live at 719 Main, Wrightstown, and it would be cool to take an ATV to grandma and grandpa's with his kids
- Gary Kaster, 6 Red Clover Ln., is for the Golf Cart/ATV/UTV ordinance. Go to Brillion and sit on a side road and you will be surprised to see most Golf Carts (especially) are driven by the elderly and disabled. It is one more avenue of transportation and supports a "community" feel. Gary's 2003 Yamaha ATV has a speedometer

- Greg Gutzman, 306 Janet Ct., is in favor of the new Golf Cart/ATV/UTV ordinance. He normally trailers his vehicle to Brillion to ride. He feels that the Village should not expect to see a large volume of Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's since they are driven more by people of his age than a broader age group
- Jason Nelsen, 22 Red Clover Ln., asked that the Village Board keep an open mind rather than denying the ordinance just because "it is not wanted"
- Craig Micke, 11 Red Clover Ln., supports the new Golf Cart/ATV/UTV ordinance. Until a few months ago, he had access outside the Village from his property, since he lived on the Village border. Now that surrounding communities are allowing Golf Cart/ATV/UTV traffic, the Village needs to jump on board to accommodate the farmers commuting back and forth to fields and residents wishing to plow their driveways with utility vehicles

Trustee Sue Byer indicated that she is not looking for reasons to not be in favor of the proposed Golf Cart/ATV/UTV ordinance, but residents that contacted her are not in favor of the loud noise and the safety issues that could arise with pedestrians that have children and pets

A comment was made that the noise and safety excuse is poor since feed/manure trucks cause more issues than a sport utility vehicle would

Andy Lundt noted that his responsibility as a Village Trustee is to take into account the wishes of the constituents that voted him into office. Since the discussion about implementing this ordinance began, no one has appeared before the board and asked that the proposed ordinance be denied. He feels that it should be tried and if issues arise, the new ordinance could be rescinded

Chief Greg Deike explained that on his map, all areas marked in red are state or county highways with posted speed limits over 35 miles per hour. Golf Carts/ATV's/UTV's, by state statute, are not allowed to travel on these roads: Cty D, Los Dauphin, a portion of Rosin Rd... Hwy 96 has also been marked in red due to the congestion, although it is posted with a speed limit under 35 mph. The two allowable entrances to the Village are on Fair St. and Rosin Rd., which is currently under construction. Traveling through the Village from one end to the other will be very difficult due to this

In the long term, route signs will be needed, requiring manpower to put them up. Also, the Village will require vehicle inspections and annual registration for all operating vehicles, which would be managed by the police department

**Village's Contribution toward Alliance Plastics and J Fleischman Solutions (Drexel) Rail Projects** – Administrator Coenen is working with state economic development groups to recover rail grant funding that is no longer available to us through the CRISI grant. The goal is to keep the contributions by the Village, Alliance Plastics and J Fleischman Solutions (Drexel) to what was outlined in the already signed development agreements. Bay Lakes Regional Planning, East Central Regional Planning and the WEDC have assisted with locating grant funding

Motion made by K Wendlandt with a second made by S Byers to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.

Michelle Seidl

Clerk/Treasurer