The Town of Preston met on Monday, March 13, 2023, at the town hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Darrel. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Certification of Open Meeting Law Requirements was met. Roll call was held with Ron, Philip, Darrel, Mary and Cathy present.

Motion by Darrel, second by Ron to adopt the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron, second by Philip to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023, regular board meeting. Motion carried.

The financial report for February was approved with a motion by Philip, second by Ron. Motion carried.

The disbursements for March were approved by a motion from Ron, second by Darrel. Motion carried.

Public comment: none

Patrolman’s report: plowing and fixing trucks.

Presentation by Superintendent Lynn Halverson on Operational Referendum on the April 4, 2023, ballot. The purpose of the referendum is 1. Maintain current operations and offerings. 2. Staff retention and attraction. 3. Rebuild the fund balance.

Discussion on truck quotes was held. Motion by Darrel, second by Philip to approach MidState about ordering the International HV613 truck. Motion carried 2-0.

Rezone request from Peter Jacobchick was discussed. Motion by Darrel, second by Ron to have the clerk send a letter to the Trempealeau County Land Management Environment Land Use Committee in favor of the rezone request from commercial to residential for Peter Jacobchick. Roll call vote: Ron-yes, Philip-yes and Darrel-yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Ron, second by Philip to approve the same road use agreement as last year with Arcade Pumping. Motion carried.

Motion by Darrel, second by Ron to approve the same road use agreement as last year with Pilgrims. Motion carried.

Motion by Philip, second by Ron to use Bradley Road as the County Co-Aid Contract Road for 2024. Motion carried.

Roadwork to look at is crack filling on Tappen Coulee Rd by the junkyard, Peterson Coulee Rd, Rat Rd and Schansberg Rd from Carpenter Bridge towards town.

Equipment update, we are using Ettrick’s spare truck while ours are being repaired.

Motion by Ron, second by Darrel to contract cleaning for townhall with TNL Cleaning on an as needed basis. Cost for a basic cleaning is $55 per time with option for more cleaning when requested. Motion carried.

Motion by Darrel, second by Ron to approve cleaning contract (pending City of Blair approval) for Blair-Preston Community Center with TNL Cleaning on an as needed basis. Cost for basic cleaning is $45 per time with the option of more cleaning as requested. Motion carried.

ARPA fund expenditure report is due April 30, 2023. Motion by Ron, second by Philip to designate ARPA funds for fire department use. Roll call vote: Ron-yes, Philip-yes and Darrel-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Darrel, second by Ron to accept patrolman, Andy Anderson’s resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Darrel, second by Ron to move into closed session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(c) Wis. Stats. to consider employment compensation and performance evaluation of town employees. Roll call vote: Ron-yes, Philip-yes and Darrel-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron, second by Darrel to return to open session. Roll call vote: Ron-yes, Philip-yes and Darrel-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron, second by Darrel to offer both candidates the patrolman’s position. Wage offer of $20.50-21.00. Pay stipend of $600 a month for insurance or retirement fund. $ personal days a year and vacation starting January 1, 2024, of 1 week, January 1, 2025, 7 days, January 1, 2026, 2 weeks + 1 additional day each year after to a max of 4 weeks. Motion carried.

No suggestions presented for next meeting.

Motion by Ron, second by Philip to adjourn at 7:38 PM. Motion carried.