



**Public Hearing – Shooting Range**  
**Minutes– July 17, 2024 – 7:00 pm**

**1) Call to Order**

Chair Schack called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2) Roll Call & Recognition of Visitors**

Present: Chair Brad Schack, Supervisor Becki Tomlinson, Supervisor Paul Becker, Clerk Tammy Gorman, Treasurer Becky Walters. Chair welcomed 32 visitors.

Guests: Bob Nack DNR; Brett Johanen DNR; Captain Matt Menard Columbia County Sheriff's Department; Pete McCormick DNR; Jon Plumber Wisconsin State Assembly Representative

**3) Pledge of Allegiance**

**4) Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda by Becker; seconded by Tomlinson.

**5) Chair Comments on Meeting Expectations**

**6) Public Comment/Discussion**

Brian Showers (State Rd 22 - Harvest Moon Pond owner) – excessive noise; impact to business; personal property value impact; circulating petition; absorbing panels; charge of fees; possible weekend closures; after-hour use; safety concerns.

John Crase (Traut Rd) – pistol range repetition of rounds; duration and number of days open.

Ena Carson (Traut Rd) – noise/no buffer; semiautomatic/automatic weapons; loss of use of personal property due to noise; persons with disabilities; war zone; loss of rural environment.

Travis Anderson (Goose Pond Rd) – shooting range does not fit with Town of Lowville Comprehensive Plan); initial discussions outlined small number of residences nearby and quietest range as possible. What is board's plan to address? What do residents need to do - attend future meetings and restate same grievances?

Darleen Lerum (Traut Rd) – peaceful community; noise; property values; rapid fire.

Gretchen Crase (Traut Rd) – shooting tubes do not help; her doctor sent letter re: suffering from migraines – no action/response; no family functions/graduations; has contacted the Sheriff after 6pm to stop so she can walk; requested limit time to half of what is currently occurring; lines of people attending; no supervision; pets' reacting (like a firecracker); disrupts bowhunters/gun hunters.

Daryl Steinhorst (King Rd) – never contacted about shooting range being put in; collected 2 5 pails full of pistol rounds; 750 yards from range; war zone; users not aware people live nearby; no supervision; volunteers are not enforcing; wants regulations; veterans could not handle it; colored water coming from shooting range (pollution).

Phil Dean (Traut Rd) – akin to neighbor from hell; effects property values; lead pollution. Who is the decision maker when making changes?

Mark Vroman (Hwy CS) – Does Town have success criteria for noise? What is DNR authorization to do this? Why is it open for anyone to attend not just county? Why is there no fee charged? Close 2 days of gun season.

Andy Knuteson (King Rd) – traffic; lowering speed limit.

Scott Felician (Hwy CS) – Was shooting range area lined to prevent pollution?

Paula Woodward (County Rd B) – Can still hear even when she's not close. Real estate agent – duty to disclose when selling home.

Dennis Annen (Mountford Rd) – When will it hurt property values?

Dennis Lerum (Traut Rd) – bigger berms on all sides, wood barrier

Dennis Grady (Traut Rd) – Donated 26 acres to Mud Lake (rare/unique birds) – beauty, natural wildlife, nature. People not able to use land to experience nature. What is the DNR intent of land?

Bob Garske (Birchwood Dr) – Loves using range. Previously attended the DNR meetings with the 7 potential townships when DNR looking for site, heard the presentations – same arguments from back then. Safety of stray shots; animals affected by range; range moved from County Road P.

## **7) Discussion of Town Board and attending government agencies**

- **Noise**
- **Increased traffic/roads**
- **Range volume**
- **Safety/supervision**
- **Hours of operation**
- **Possible solutions**
- **Other concerns**

General discussion/comments by Town Board and attending agencies:

Bob Nack – DNR Hunting/Fishing/Trapping - 11 state owned ranges in State. Intent of range: sight-in for hunting. Spoke on shooting ranges being free, limited supervision. Illinois residents do not have the same facilities in Illinois. DNR positions available. Recent Michigan study on walls – sees value looking into solutions.

Brett Johanan – DNR Public Shooting Manager – Spoke on remoteness of other ranges which have been established longer (Mud Lake being newest). Looking to continue communication regularly with Town Board.

Captain Matt Menard – Role of Sheriff: Help DNR, safety, often contact local warden with complaints. Spoke on after hours shooting complaints.

Pete McCormick – Conservation Warden – Spoke on after-hour shooting – citations.

John Plumer Assemblyman – Acknowledged frustrations, lack of quality of life. Spoke of how to expedite compromises. Will send letter to DNR Secretary to expedite changes. Suggested inviting Governor Evers to area to make him more aware.

Becki Tomlinson – Do the other 11 ranges have similar issues? More supervision on weekends when busier to limit number of rounds, enforcement.

Brad Schack – How is Lowville's use compared to others? Safety. Increase supervision.

Paul Becker – What is working well or not working well at Yellowstone facility? Have they run into other complaints that we haven't heard about yet?

## **8) Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn by Schack; Tomlinson seconded. All in favor/MC. Adjourned at 8:45.