

Statement from the Town Board of Anson
May 24, 2024
Regarding a Minimum Lot Size of 20 Acres

The 20 acre minimum lot size proposal was introduced & motioned at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors by a resident of Anson with the objective of limiting overdevelopment. The Annual Town Meeting is a meeting where any resident can propose a change or allow an advisory vote to the Town Board (see “Q.” below explanation from the Wisconsin Towns Association). It’s important to distinguish that this was not initiated by the Town Board. However, it’s our duty to follow through. The Anson Plan Commission is accepting feedback from residents & evaluating the information, while also referring to our current Comprehensive Plan & our most recent community survey in order to provide the Town Board with a recommendation. The Petition that has been distributed to residents was not approved or sanctioned by the Town Board. In fact, the first time we reviewed it was when it was delivered to everyone else. Further, there is no organization tied to launching the petition and it contains non-factual information. As stated, the issue has been tasked to the Plan Commission to study, evaluate, and make a recommendation to the Town Board where a final decision will be made at a properly noticed Town Board meeting. This recommendation could include a myriad of options, including (but not limited to) keeping things as they currently are or possibly modifying residential minimum lot size to something more palatable to all residents.

Q. Can the town electors raise any issue they want from the floor at the annual meeting? A. No agenda is required for the annual town meeting. However, the annual meeting may act with authority only on those things authorized by statute. [Most of those items are listed in Wis. Stat. § 60.10]. The chair may allow anything to be discussed at the meeting and the electors may give advice to the town board. However, if the electors do not have statutory authority to act on an item, any resulting vote or advice is advisory to the town board and not binding. It is generally recommended that the chair explain this at the start of the meeting to avoid confusion. The chair may decide not to allow an advisory vote or the chair may decide to allow a vote but explain that it is advisory only. The town board members should do a certain amount of preparation for the meeting by familiarizing themselves with the items listed in Wis. Stat. § 60.10.