

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2021 TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF WINCHESTER, VILAS COUNTY**

Pending Approval from the Town Board

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Monday February 1, 2021 via Zoom. Attending via Zoom were Chairman Discianno and Treasurer Sell. Supervisor Brownwell, Supervisor Wainio, and Clerk Wainio attended from the Town Hall.

Supervisor Wainio moved to accept the agenda at the discretion of the Chair, seconded by Supervisor Brownwell. The motion was approved 2-0.

Supervisor Wainio made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Budget Hearing and Meeting of the Electors held 11/30; monthly Board meetings 12/7/20 and 1/4/21 along with Special Town Board Meetings held on 12/14, 12/21 and 12/23. Supervisor Brownwell seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

Supervisor Brownwell motioned to approve the Treasurer's report as given by Treasurer Sell.

Supervisor Wainio seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

Supervisor Brownwell

Library: The Library Board is having oak shelving constructed by Joe Osfar to replace some of the current metal shelving and is wondering what they should do with the metal shelving when the new shelving is installed in May. The Town Board will start to discuss this in March. Library President/Treasurer Dick Smith was instructed to reconcile the Library's checking account with the Town Clerk on a quarterly basis after he completes the 2020 reconciliation. The Library Board is working on a Long-Term Plan which they will be finalizing in May.

Transfer Site: As reported in the December 2020 meeting, Eagle Waste is no longer accepting #3-7 plastics for recycling. Please remember to check the coding on your plastic containers and only place #1 & 2 plastics in the recycling compacter. ALL other plastics need to be disposed of with regular trash. There also has been a problem with people placing electronics in the regular trash. Everyone will need to hold on to their electronics until we obtain the electronics dumpster in the Spring.

Lakes Committee: The Lakes Management Plans have been completed and are available from the Discovery Center. The Discovery Center will hold AIS training on 4 dates this Summer, with dates to be announced. A Dissolved Oxygen Meter was purchased out of the Lakes Committee Budget. The members of the committee will be trained on its proper use.

Computer: The donated computer for Town Crew use was delivered to our IT Specialist to set up.

Supervisor Wainio

Fire Department: Our EMS continued to provide hospital transports during the month of January. Fire and EMS members participated in a mock snowmobile training Tuesday January 26th off County W east of East Birch Lake Road.

Planning Commission: Is busy revising the 2030 Land Use Plan. Jay Woolf, Connie Ghiloni and Ann Wilson are working on historic information to include in the report. Anyone with historic information is requested to contact Jay Woolf. A meeting with the consultants preparing the Land Use Plan update is planned for February 22, 2021 at the Town Hall. Due to COVID-19 protocols, only the Town Board and Planning Commission members will attend in person. The public will be able to participate in the meeting via Zoom.

Cemetery Committee: Did not meet in January.

Chairman Discianno

After many attempts, Chairman Discianno was able to connect with the proper person at Xcel Energy regarding hanging our Christmas Decorations on the power company poles. The required permit will be submitted and hopefully the Town Crew will be able to install our decorations for the 2021 holiday season.

Internet: Chairman Discianno had a conversation with Bill Niemuth of the Vilas County Economic Development Corp. about broadband expansion and would like to set up a meeting to get more information. Chairman Discianno will forward information to Craig VanArk who is working on this project for the Planning Commission.

Correspondence: All board members received an email from Theresa Schmidt regarding the ATV survey, and the Town received letters from Vilas County regarding their Deer and Beaver Removal Programs for 2021 which are on the agenda and will be handled during New Business.

Old Business

- 1) *Road/Lane Name Changes:* Supervisor Brownwell made a motion to approve naming the easement road off Harris Creek Lane "Lonesome Pine Lane" and the road between South Turtle Lake Rd and Black Forest Road "Keystone Trail". Supervisor Wainio seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.
- 2) *Culvert purchases:* The manufacturer agreed to deliver our culverts to each installation location when we are prepared to install them. Since the manufacturing time is approximately 1 month, the Town will pay the full amount now to guarantee none of our culverts are delivered to another purchaser.
- 3) *2010 Plow Truck Sale Price:* In November 2019, the Village of Rosholt expressed interest in purchasing our 2010 Peterbilt and is asking the minimum price we will accept. Due to the recent loss of heavy equipment in a fire at the Boulder Junction Town Garage Supervisor Wainio suggested that Boulder may also be interested. JX Truck Center valued our 2010 Peterbilt at \$45,000 when we purchased the new 2021 last Fall. Because there is a snowstorm predicted here within a few days and the Village of Rosholt will not be able to decide until their meeting Monday February 8th, Supervisor Wainio will contact Boulder Junction Town Chair Dennis Reuss on Tuesday 2/2 to advise him our truck is available for \$45,000.
- 4) *Snow guard installations:* A motion to accept the proposal in the amount of \$6,575.00 from Lakes States Roofing to install two rows of snow bars this Spring was made by Supervisor Brownwell and seconded by Supervisor Wainio. This motion was approved 3-0.

New Business

- 1) *Purchase of software and accessories for Garage Laptop:* The laptop is being set up for use by our IT specialist John Eppes with the basics for the Town Crew's use. Supervisor Brownwell would like to see the ability of the crew to enter daily information on the crew's activities.
- 2) *Resignation of Fire Dept. Treasurer:* Supervisor Wainio reported that Fire Chief John Melzer received a letter from Danny Schmidt resigning from the position of Treasurer for the Fire Department as elected in November 2020. Chairman Discianno made a motion to accept the resignation of Danny Schmidt which Supervisor Wainio seconded. The motion was approved by all.
- 3) *Replacement of Fire Dept. Treasurer:* At their January meeting the members of the Fire Dept. elected Cory Seigner to fill the Treasurer vacancy after Danny Schmidt's resignation. Supervisor Wainio made a motion for the Town Board to approve the election of Cory Seigner to the position of Fire Dept. Treasurer for 2021. Supervisor Brownwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.
- 4) *Request for change in Emergency Services Ordinance:* Fire Chief John Melzer is requesting a change in the Emergency Services Ordinance allowing unbudgeted purchases to be increased from \$500 to \$1000. Supervisor Brownwell made a motion to approve the request and forward this to the Planning Commission for a change to the Emergency Services Ordinance. Supervisor Wainio seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.
- 5) *Investigation of Ordinance Enforcement Position by Planning Commission:* Supervisor Wainio made a motion instruct the Planning Commission to investigate the requirements and justifications to establish an Ordinance Enforcement Officer for the Town of Winchester with the possibility of sharing that position with the Town of Presque. Chairman Discianno seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.
- 6) *Participation in 2021 Vilas County Deer Removal Program:* In 2020 Winchester chose not to participate in this program. Supervisor Wainio made a motion to decline participation in the 2021 Vilas County Deer Removal Program which was seconded by Supervisor Brownwell and approved by all.
- 7) *Participation in the Vilas County Beaver Removal Program:* Chairman Discianno made a motion to participate in the 2021 Vilas County Beaver Removal Program. Supervisor Brownwell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- 8) *Future Agenda Items:* Installation of culverts, repair, or replacement of range in Town Hall kitchen, application for federal grant(s) to purchase Fire Department equipment, South Turtle Boat Landing rebuild.

The meeting was adjourned to public participation at 7:47PM. Darrell Smith was advised the culvert replacement in Papoose Lake Rd cannot be initiated until the water level lowers since it is classified as a Trout Stream, the County Beaver program is only available for townships not lake associations, and since the Fire Department's Volunteer Funds account is reconciled with the Town Clerk it does not have to be audited upon change in Treasurers. Marjean Schuelke expressed concerns over potential costs involved with both the establishment of an Ordinance Enforcement Officer position and upgrades to the South Turtle Boat Landing. Duncan Bachman was advised the ATV survey was being tabulated and could not be discussed.

At 7:57PM the meeting was reconvened. Supervisor Wainio made a motion to approve December 2020 disbursements dated 12/1/2020 through 12/31/20 in the amount of \$228,339.78 which Supervisor Brownwell seconded.

The motion was approved 3-0. Supervisor Brownwell made a motion to approve January 2021 disbursements numbered 29786 through 29809 amounting to \$585,707.83. Supervisor Wainio seconded the motion, and the motion was approved 3-0.

Chairman Discianno adjourned the meeting at 8:02PM

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk