

Minutes of the
April 22, 2021 Special Town Board Meeting

Pending Approval from the Town Board

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on Thursday April 22, 2021 at the Winchester Municipal Building. Attending were Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Whitney, Lee Stengele, Craig VanArk, Cory Seigner, Betty Forster, Galen Brownnewell, Mike Potts, Dale White, Donald Melzer, Mark Gerhardt, and Kristi Gerhardt. Participating via Zoom were Clerk Wainio, Sulo Wainio, attorneys Carrie and Greg Milijevich along with several unidentified persons.

1) New Supervisor Assignments: With his insight as to who might be better at each job, Chairman Discianno announced that Supervisor Whitney would be the liaison for the Transfer Site, Park and Fire Dept. Chairman Discianno informed Mr. Whitney that the first brush day for 2021 would be held on May 23rd from 9AM-1PM during which time Mr. Whitney would supervise this activity at the old transfer site. Chairman Discianno advised that due to abuse of access to the old transfer site the Lions Club would no longer have a key to the property, but would have to obtain the key from the Transfer Site attendant Donald Melzer and return the key immediately. Mr. Whitney will also be the “go-to” person for the Lions Club. Mr. Whitney will need to meet with Donald Melzer to “learn the ropes” at the Transfer Site. When Mr. Whitney inquired on postings of Fire Dept meetings and minutes, Clerk Wainio explained that the Fire Dept. was not governed under the statutes requiring public notice of their meetings or minutes.

Since Supervisor Grimmer is already a representative to the Lakes Committee for Harris Lake, Chairman Discianno appointed Mr. Grimmer as the Town liaison to the Lakes Committee. Mr. Grimmer will also be the liaison for the Library and Planning Commission and would need to attend their respective meetings. Mr. Grimmer announced that he would be out of town from April 26 – May 2nd so his participation during that time would only be possible through Zoom. Although not an official liaison, Mr. Grimmer will be the “go-to” person for Bike Trails, Inc.

2) WTA Seminars: The Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) will be hosting a series of virtual training seminars during the month of May 2021 which both of the new supervisors need to attend. Clerk Wainio will email them the link to register for the seminars and after submitting documentation of the expense and participation, both they and Chairman Discianno and Clerk Wainio who are also encouraged to attend will be reimbursed for the expense.

3) ATV/UTV use on County Highways: On April 3, 2021 the previous Town Board of Chairman Discianno, Supervisors Brownnewell and Wainio voted unanimously to support the proposed changes to Chapter 26 of the Vilas County Code of Ordinances which would allow operation on ATV/UTVs on County Highways in towns with year around use of ATV/UTVs on their roads. A letter indicating this decision was mailed to the Vilas County Forestry Dept. Mr. Brownnewell noted that in his 4 years as a supervisor, Special Meetings were only called to handle items of an immediate nature and questioned the chairman why this item was on the agenda. The chairman responded that he left on vacation April 4th, received numerous vile emails and telephone calls, so he was reconsidering his position due to his concerns of safety. Mr. Discianno’s concern was rebutted by multiple attendees with information that ATV/UTVs already ride extensively in various areas of Vilas County, Oneida County and throughout the entirety of neighboring Iron County without problem. Resident and elector Mike Potts advised the board and requested the Clerk to record that Bike, Inc. was pushing the new Town Board to make this change through their representative Dale White. After extension discussion between the Town Board and the public participating both in person and via Zoom Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to “send a letter to the Clerk of the Vilas County Board to withdraw the request from the Town of Winchester to open the County Roads in the Township of Winchester to ATV/UTV use”. Supervisor Whitney seconded the motion. Both Grimmer and Whitney voted aye immediately. Clerk Wainio reminded Chairman Discianno that he needed to call for discussion before a vote. Craig VanArk, Lee Stengele and others requested that Mr.

Grimmer consider either withdrawing or at least amending his motion to at the minimum allow ATV/UTVs utilize the very short distance between South Turtle Road and the Iron County Line on County J, and Old Hwy O and the Michigan state connecting the Town of Winchester to the extensive trail opportunities west and north of the Town. Mr. Whitney would not withdraw his second, nor would Mr. Grimmer withdraw or change his motion in any way. When the vote was properly called, Supervisors Grimmer and Whitney voted in favor, Chairman Discianno voted against resulting in a 2-1 decision to send the letter to Clerk Alleman of Vilas County.

As the meeting was being closed, Mr. Dale White requested the clerk record that he was not representing Bike, Inc. only himself.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan T. Wainio
Town Clerk