

**Minutes of the
February 7, 2022 Winchester Town Board Meeting**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on Monday February 7, 2022 at Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom. Attending in person were Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Whitney and Supervisor Grimmer. Clerk Wainio and Treasurer Sell attended via Zoom.

Supervisor Gimmer made a motion to accept the agenda at the discretion of the chair. Supervisor Whitney seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/3, 1/10 and 1/19 meetings with the following modifications, January 10 meeting: add that the Town Board considered prices for the Peterbilt patrol truck from the Peterbilt dealer in EauClaire WI; and January 19 meeting clarify that the letter regarding ATV/UTV use would be signed by Chairman Discianno. Chairman Discianno seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Sell read her report which Mr. Discianno moved to accept as given. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion. Motion to approve passed 3-0.

CHAIRMAN & SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Vilas County Unit Meeting: Mr. Discianno attended and reported the increase of approximately \$14,000 in the DNR Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to the Town this year.

Emergency Services Bldg: Klopatek Plumbing replaced the pressure tank for the building, replaced the water heaters in the Fire Department bathrooms, and unfroze the water supply line to the Fire Department bathrooms. The water line to the urinal is in an outside wall and is frozen so the urinal is currently turned off. Further work will need to be done to remedy the water line problems. Lake State Roofing is still trying to procure the roof snow guards we contracted for in 2021 but has reimbursed us the advance payment we made in 2021. Quality Heating will meet with Jeff Whitney on 2/25 and prepare an estimate for adding air conditioning for the Town Hall meeting room.

Road Programs: The town is enrolled in both the TRIP and TRIS programs for funding of road projects more than \$100,000.00.

Northwoods Review: Is requesting a 375-word update on Winchester happenings every other week for their newspaper. There may be a possibility to use Betty Forster's Lakeland Times report.

Supervisor Whitney:

Fire Department: January membership meeting was cancelled due to illness.

Transfer Site: Don Melzer is progressing with the clean-up of the facility. Ace Equipment will be replacing the motor in the recycling compactor. Fees charged by neighboring towns will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

Supervisor Grimmer:

Planning Commission: Wants to improve communication between the Town Board and Commission and review and prioritize open items.

Broadband Committee: Is working through the grant application. The Public Service Commission approved the Telecommuter Forward Resolution passed by the Town Board.

Library: Is working on a survey regarding building and service expansions.

CORRESPONDENCE

A request to camp on a property located on Harris Lake Rd. was received. Mr. Discianno will respond in writing. Mr. Grimmer and Whitney responded to a lengthy email received from Ed Beierlein expressing concern over the Town Board's actions on items like eliminating the "Free Store" at the Transfer Site, paying an outside contractor for mowing Town properties instead of continuing to utilize Town employees, and the anti-ATV stance of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Smith commented on the camping request and Steve Herzberg expressed his support of the idea of a proposal to combine EMS services and indicated his willingness to volunteer in this quest.

OLD BUSINESS

1) *Road/Lane name changes:* None.

2) *Stand-by generator for Town Garage:* Mr. Discianno received a revised estimate of \$11,424.72 from Adams in Hazelhurst for an 18kw unit. After discussion, Chairman Discianno will request information on a smaller unit.

3) *Building maintenance repair projects:* Ty Rayala will do a walk-through of the E.S. Building for upgrades to the security cameras and network in this building. The electrician will be retrofitting the lighting in the Fire Station on February 13 and 14. Mr. Whitney will do more research on the sprinkler system and landscaping after receiving information from Vilas County and Schmidt & Sons Plumbing on placement of the septic systems at the E.S. Building. Per a request from 406 Inc. Mr. Whitney prepared a sketch of the work desired for landscaping. Chuck Benson is still interested in doing the work on the Turtle Bridge façade.

- 4) *Community Gardens*: Locations are still being considered.
- 5) *Pest Control Contract*: Mr. Grimmer made a motion to renew the contract with Minocqua Pest Control in the amount of \$1,476.00 for 2022. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion which was approved on a 3-0 vote.
- 6) *Shared EMS service*: This was discussed at the Unit Meeting in Boulder Junction. Both Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters are awaiting responses to surveys the two towns sent to property owners.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) *Additional funding for WisDot construction projects*: New federal funding is being made available for 2022 and 2023-2026 for projects like road re-surfacing and bridges. Vilas County is expected to receive 1.2 billion dollars from this new source of which 15% is to be distributed to municipalities. Mr. Discianno will review the requirements and contact outside consultants like Delmore and Coleman Engineering for advice and assistance. This was discussed at the Unit Meeting in Boulder Junction. Both Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters are awaiting responses to surveys the two towns sent to property owners.
- 2) *Modifying levy limits*: Retired County Supervisor Chuck Hayes had contacted the Winchester Town Board regarding joining the County in their Resolution 2021-63 to the Wisconsin State Legislature requesting changes to the calculation of levy limits. No action was taken, but Supervisor Grimmer will check with the Presque Isle (PI) Town Board to determine the best way to manage this request.
- 3) *Posting of agendas and meeting minutes*: Mr. Grimmer will continue to work with website coordinator Mary Quass with ideas.
- 4) *Resignation of Joe Osfar*: Chairman Discianno made a motion to accept the resignation of Joe Osfar as the Chair of the Winchester Planning Commission effective immediately. Supervisor Grimmer seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.
- 5) *Appointment of new Planning Commission Chair*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to appoint Jim Logan Chair of the Winchester Planning Commission effective immediately. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- 6) *Appointment of new Planning Commission member*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to appoint Michael Eichhorn to the Winchester Planning Commission, Mr. Whitney seconded the motion. On a vote of 3-0 Mr. Eichhorn was approved.
- 7) *Participation in County ATV/UTV sub-committee*: Chairman Discianno was contacted by Holly Tomlanovich of the Vilas County Board about Winchester's participation in this new sub-committee and Mr. Discianno agreed to be the spokesperson for Winchester.
- 8) *Library Projects*: The library is researching a building addition to include expanding services like workstations with internet access. Discussion of an idea by Mr. Grimmer to use the Emergency Services Building's Town Hall in addition or in lieu of expanding the size of the Community Building raised questions like accessibility to this building. No action was taken.
- 9) *Broadband Committee Logo*: Tabled
- 10) *Operator's License Approval*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve an Operator's License for Rachel Schwanz from Smokey's. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.
- 11) *Successor Agent for Smokey's*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve the appointment of Rachel Schwanz as Successor Agent for Smokey's because of Jim Zett's retirement pending receipt of the final paperwork. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
- 12) *Continued service of Sulo Wainio on Winchester Fire Department*: Prior to reading a statement he had prepared after consulting with the Town Attorney and additional members of the Fire Department, Chairman Discianno requested that everyone respect whatever decision the Town Board would make. After discussion, Chairman Discianno made a motion to keep Sulo in the Winchester Fire Department. Supervisor Whitney seconded the motion, which was approved on a 3-0 vote.
- 13) *Future Agenda Items*: Priest Point sign, flag lighting, maintenance list, operator's license ordinance.

After Ms. Wainio answered multiple questions posed by Mr. Grimmer, Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve vouchers #EFT062516 -Associated Bank through EFT062550-Wisconsin Unemployment. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59PM

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk