

**Minutes of the
April 4, 2022 Winchester Town Board Meeting**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on Monday April 4, 2022, at Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom. Attending in person were Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Whitney and Clerk Wainio. Treasurer Sell attended via Zoom.

Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to approve the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Whitney and approved on a 3-0 vote.

Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 Town Board meeting which was seconded by Supervisor Whitney and approved 3-0.

Treasurer Sell read her report, Chairman Discianno made a motion to approve the Treasurer report as given. Supervisor Whitney seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN & SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Chairman Discianno: Mr. Discianno participated in the Vilas County ATV sub-committee meeting on March 28th in Eagle River discussing possible ATV routes through the Towns of Winchester, Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction and Plum Lake. The sub-committee will meet again in April. Mr. Discianno also met with representatives of the local ATV club and residents of West Circle Lily Road regarding the possible use of West Circle Lily as part of the proposed ATV route system. The residents who participated expressed their appreciation with being included in the discussion.

Mr. Discianno credited the Town Crew and Fire Department for all of the work done after the recent ice storms to clear the roads of downed trees and power lines.

Mr. Discianno has been in contact with Delmore Consulting and the Vilas County Highway Department regarding possible upcoming road paving projects. Delmore will not be able to inspect the roads until the roads clear from the Winter snow and the County has not yet received the master list of recipients for 2022 TRID/TRIS funding so Mr. Discianno is not yet aware whether Winchester will receive any assistance.

The Town will be looking at paving the approaches to the entrances of the Town Garage to protect the concrete aprons and replacing the current pad used to mix salt and sand for road use. Mr. Discianno noted that he cannot predict when the current town road weight limits will be lifted.

Supervisor Whitney:

Fire Department: No meeting was held in March.

Transfer Site: Another repair was made by Ace Equipment to the compactor. Ron Behnke made necessary repairs to the shed roof which was separating from the Transfer Site main building. Vilas County Zoning will be providing Winchester with vouchers which help residents minimize the cost to dispose of certain items.

Town Park, Bike Trails & Lions Club: Nothing to report.

Supervisor Grimmer:

Library: The survey has been sent and responses are beginning to be received. 7 libraries, including Winchester have received a \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association which will be used to sponsor author speakers from May 1 to August 31, 2022.

Community Garden: 4 individuals have volunteered to date, but more interest in the project is needed to move forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Town received an updated price list from RC Inspection Agency for services which is identical for all 20 Towns they oversee.

After receiving a request from Theresa Schmidt for assistance in disposing of litter picked up by residents from the Town road rights-of-way, Chairman Discianno added a message to the Town Website advising those people interested contact the Town Crew to request a pick-up.

Mr. Whitney received a telephone call regarding disposal of contractor debris from jobs performed in town.

Mr. Grimmer received calls regarding plowing issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Clem asked for clarification of Item #3 of New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

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

2) *Building maintenance repair projects:* Plover Power will be completing the LED lighting upgrades for the Town Hall meeting and Fire Station April 15th or 16th. After the project is completed, Mr. Whitney would like the cleaning company to clean the lenses of the fixtures in the Town Hall meeting room. Mr. Whitney is finalizing the bid specifications for coating the original section of Fire Dept. bay flooring. Clerk Wainio will provide Supervisor Whitney a sample to use for wording of the newspaper posting. Mr. Whitney will update the sketch for landscaping at the Emergency Services Bldg. to include a path to the area for the flagpoles. Mr. Discianno reported that Winchester Woodworks has completed repainting both the Library and "Art Laha" sign. Existing

problems with the overhead door in the Fire Dept were resolved by an owner of a company who is a friend of Don Melzer after being approved by Chairman Discianno. Mr. Discianno requested this business owner check the overheads in the Transfer Station and provide the Town with estimates for repairs and potentially increasing the door height from 8 to 9 feet. Mr. Grimmer reported that Ty Rayala of Great Escape Technologies is putting together a proposal for upgrades to the cameras, etc. in the E.S. Bldg. after the walk-through completed March 8, 2022.

In order to complete the discussion on maintenance repair projects, Mr. Discianno then opened discussion on 5) *Air Conditioning/Furnace replacement for Town Hall meeting room*: Mr. Whitney presented the bids received from Quality Heating for both the air conditioner install and replacement of the current furnace in the Town Hall meeting room. Since the current budget does not include a new furnace, Mr. Grimmer made a motion to purchase the Comfort Series #1650 Air Conditioner to include installation with the electrical piping on the exterior of the building. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion. During discussion Mr. Whitney agreed to Mr. Discianno request to have Quality Heating extend the intake and exhaust pipes of the furnace for the office addition when they are working on the new furnace install. After further discussion of the advantages of replacing the old furnace during installation of the air conditioner, Mr. Grimmer amended his motion to add the Comfort Series furnace at the quoted price of \$4,125 along with the air conditioner quoted price of \$6,250. Mr. Discianno seconded the motion. Mr. Grimmer, Mr. Discianno and Mr. Whitney all voted in favor of the amended motion. Mr. Discianno stated that the Board would have to cut \$4,000 off of something else in order to cover the additional expense.

3) *EMS Shared Service*: Mr. Grimmer attended the most recent meeting in Presque Isle of the chairs of the surrounding towns since Mr. Discianno could not participate. Both Boulder Jct (BJ) and Manitowish Waters (MW) did surveys to determine interest of their populace. Chairman Hanson of MW projected the cost to fund 8 EMTs at \$100,000 each per year or an increase of \$125 per year on a \$200,000 home. Another meeting will be held 11:00 AM April 28th in Presque Isle.

4) *Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*: Mr. Discianno expressed his aggravation with the stipulations to qualify for these funds, and requested assistance since this process is so complicated. The firms who were involved in building the Turtle River dam, the "bridge" between North & South Turtle Lakes, Delmore Consulting, Coleman Engineering of Ironwood MI and MSA Professional Services of Baraboo WI should be able to give us additional advice. Mr. Grimmer will contact Paul Anderson at Coleman to ask whether Coleman feels Winchester could benefit from BIL.

6) *Transfer Site "Free Store" options*: Mr. Discianno read a presentation he delivered in the Fall of 2021 explaining the Town Board's reasoning for ending this practice.

7) *Acceptance of contractor debris at the Transfer Site*: The Town Board will determine contractor fees for use of the Transfer Site.

8) *Broadband Grant Status*: Brightspeed (formerly Lumen) will be advised by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission of the grant status request prior to 12/31/22.

NEW BUSINESS

1) *Planning Commission Assignments*: Shipping Container, Operator License Issuance, Joint Papoose Lake ordinances. Land and Equipment inventories.

2, 3, 4) *Possible BIL Projects*: Will be tabled until it is determined if there is a process that makes sense.

5) *Future Agenda Items*: Maintenance project list, ARPA, Joint Papoose Lake ordinance, Patrol Truck Update, Brush Day announcement, Agenda template, Storage solutions, Last financial audit, Harris Lake deed restrictions.

Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve vouchers Liability check Quick Books payroll dated 3/1/22 through Liability check Quick Books payroll dated 3/31/22. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk