

**Minutes of the  
May 6, 2024 Winchester Town Board Meeting**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on Monday May 6, 2024 at the Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom. Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Newton, Treasurer Sell and Clerk Wainio were all present.

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

Chairman Discianno made a motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2024 regular monthly meeting along with the special meetings held April 16 and 25, 2024. Mr. Newton seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.

Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as given. Mr. Newton seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Oversaw Presidential Primary and local election held 4/2; worked with Deputy Clerk processing payroll and accounts payable during month while on vacation; filed quarterly payroll and unemployment tax reports, annual ARPA report, and annual state room tax report with state. Delivered new forms for Liquor Licenses to three eligible establishments in town and assisted individual/groups interested in reserving town facilities to use this year.

**CHAIRMAN & SUPERVISORS REPORTS:**

**Chairman Discianno:** Town Crew reported that the errors in the Peterbilt plow truck build had been rectified; cutting heads 2 and miscellaneous repairs to the recently repaired brusher were made; docks at the town boat landings were installed; road sweeping began; gravel hauling for road shouldering, adjustment to the cement blocks at the South Turtle boat landing and culvert replacements are in the works, along with preparations to re-open the town park. Mr. Discianno relayed information on the Senior Nutrition Program being held at North Lakeland Elementary School (NLES) on Wednesday and Thursday for those 60 and older; is working with Town Clerk to list 2012 Peterbilt plow truck for sale in Wisconsin Towns Assn. (WTA) magazine and website. The electronics and bulk dumpsters are available for residents to utilize at the Transfer Site; a brush day will be held on Saturday 5/18 from 9AM – 4PM.

**Supervisor Grimmer:** The Winchester Lakes Committee met and will provide information on private driveway clearance requirements for emergency vehicles to the town lakes associations for distribution to the association members. The library has 40+ programs scheduled for this summer—all information is available on the library website. A new "BEAD" grant for 2025 broadband projects will begin the end of the summer. The Planning Commission did not meet in April, but is scheduled to meet 5/20; the Winchester Cemetery Association will meet 5/8.

**Supervisor Newton:** All items on the agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Discianno received a copy of the Birch Lake Assn. newsletter, the Town received 3 reminders for septic tank service.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** An event to benefit area veterans named "Ruckn' St. Germain" will be held 5/18 at Cira's Red, White and Blue in St. Germain; and the Winegar Post 480 will hold Memorial Day services and the Winchester Cemetery on 5/27.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1) *Road/Lane name changes:* None at this time.

To facilitate representatives of the bidding contractors present, Mr. Discianno jumped to

**NEW BUSINESS**

1) *Road Bids:*

Chip Seal: Pitlik & Wick (P&W): \$190,000 total with pulverizing

Fahrner Asphalt: \$79,964 without pulverizing

Paving: P&W: \$228,029

American Asphalt: \$234,775.55

Mr. Discianno noted that a decision could be made on the paving bids immediately and that state statutes required the Town to accept the lowest bid received from a responsible bidder. Mr. Grimmer made a motion to accept P&W's bid of \$228,029 to pave Old O, Townsite Rd from Bruette Rd to just north of West Bay Rd and the parking area alongside the park and Townsite Rd. Mr. Newton seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0. Mr. Discianno suggested the Board should review the chip seal bids before making a decision and then returned to

## **OLD BUSINESS**

2) *Building Maintenance Repair Projects:* Northland Sealcoat is prepping to sealcoat the town hall parking lot; Ron Behnke is ordering the additional metal siding for the lower section of the West wall on the town garage; Mr. Discianno contacted Schmidt & Sons Plumbing about the riser needed for the septic at the park and the roofer regarding the repairs needed on the bathroom addition in the fire station, and MBIS is scheduled to start up the sprinkler system. The additional tables desired for the Town Hall meeting room are still on backorder.

3) *Information Technology Update:* The internet upgrades at the Community Building are complete and Mr. Newton has cancelled the service with Brightspeed for that building. Starlink is now functioning in the Town Hall meeting room, Mr. Newton will install a cable to the Fire Department and cancel the internet service with Brightspeed at that point, but will contact our Information Technologies specialist John Eppes regarding the appliance upgrade for the Town office before proceeding with any changes to the internet service there. Everything is ready to move forward and migrate the current website to the new one. Mr. Newton is requesting control of our registrar account to direct email traffic and make DNS changes in the future. Mr. Newton will get price quotes to migrate to a different email platform specifically Exchange Online with Microsoft Office and Premium Services for 40 – 50 users.

4) *Town Logo Project:* Supervisor Newton projected the logos designed by the students at NLES for the audience to view. Sulo Wainio questioned if the logo would include the motto “The Real Northwoods”. The board will share this presentation at the Annual Meeting and other methods to receive input from additional residents/property owners.

5) *Wake Boat Ordinance Amendments:* Mr. Newton reported the DNR approved the amended ordinance with the addition of the word “wholly” to the wording in Section V - Coverage table this defining the lakes covered by the ordinance. Mr. Grimmer requested clarification as to the effective date of the ordinance. Mr. Discianno responded the date would be 60 days after April 2, 2024. Mr. Grimmer made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2024-02. Mr. Newton seconded the motion and Mr. Discianno, Mr. Grimmer, and Mr. Newton all voted in the affirmative to approve.

6) *Driveway Permit Fee:* Mr. Discianno made a motion to table and Mr. Newton seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

7) *Health Insurance Costs:* Mr. Grimmer is continuing comparisons with neighboring towns coverages and costs for private insurance.

8) *Financial Reports:* Mr. Grimmer stated he is pleased with the additional reports Clerk Wainio is providing the Town Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

2) *Hazardous Wake Ordinance Signage:* Mr. Grimmer will get prices from Lange Enterprises and Decker Supply for the required signage, listing 715-686-2123 and [info@winchester54557.org](mailto:info@winchester54557.org) as contacts for questions/complaints.

3) *Town Website & Web Master:* Mr. Grimmer made a motion to hire and pay Erin Newton \$100.00 per month for website maintenance and support. Mr. Discianno seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 2-0-1 vote. Mr. Discianno and Mr. Grimmer both voted aye, while Mr. Newton abstained since Erin is his wife.

4) *Form S-211:* Ms. Wainio explained the process of completing and providing vendors with this form to set up accounts for the Town so purchases are not charged state sales tax.

5) *Vilas County (VC) Highway W Project 2025:* VC Highway Commissioner Troy Schalinske held a meeting with Mr. Discianno, Mr. Grimmer, VC Representative Dick Logan and 2 members of the Presque Isle (PI) Pedalers outlining plans for rebuilding County W in 2025 between County P and County K. The County proposal includes widening the road base 6 feet from 28 to 34 feet. Now there are two 11 feet driving lanes and 3 feet of gravel shoulder. The driving lanes will stay at 11 feet in the proposal with a 3-foot paved shoulder plus a 3-foot gravel shoulder. Since the cost of building a bicycle trail from County P to County J would run in the millions of dollars, Mr. Discianno, Mr. Grimmer, Mr. Logan and the representatives from the PI Pedalers asked what the cost to alter the project by widening the paved portion of the shoulder to create a 5-foot bike trail with a 1-foot gravel shoulder would be. Mr. Schalinske estimated the additional 2 feet of pavement would carry a price tag of approximately \$400,000.00 which would be the responsibility of the Towns to cover. Mr. Discianno contacted Dale White of Bike Trails Inc for assistance in finding possible grant money to use towards the \$400,000,00 Town responsibility, along with a request to EAU for a contribution. PI Chairman John McLean is supportive of the idea and the PI Pedalers have funds available to contribute to the project. Mr. Grimmer voiced his support for the idea, noting that more information will be needed on any potential Town responsibility for maintenance of the

added 2-feet of blacktop shoulder. Mr. Logan reported that the county will not be certain the funding will be available to until their budget is set for 2025.

6) *Future Agenda Items*: Health Insurance, Driveway Permit Fee, Health Insurance Costs, Hazardous Waste Signage, Turtle Dam.

Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve vouchers Paycheck DD1987 dated 4/1/24 through check #31256 dated 4/30/24. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk