



**Annual Town Meeting
April 19, 2016 7.00 p.m.
Town Community Building**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman John Hanson.

Chairman Hanson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence in honor of local community members who have passed, as well as, US Troops overseas.

Approve Agenda as Posted: A motion was made by Dan Sleight and seconded by Bob Becker to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting: A motion was made by John Hanson and seconded by Bob Becker to approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Introductions: Town Board member, Chuck Rayala III, was introduced. Board member Eric Behnke, along with Vilas County Board member, Charles Rayala Jr. were unable to attend the meeting. In addition to Board members, 13 others attended the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was available in hard copy at the door. A motion was made by Dan Sleight and seconded by Greg Holt to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. Motion carried.

2015 Clerk's Financial Report: Main categories of the Financial Report, (available in print at the door), were read aloud by Chairman Hanson with ample time for questions or comments.

Set Date for Next Annual Meeting: The 2017 Annual Meeting, scheduled to fall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, was set for April 18th, 2017, and approved on a motion from Dan Sleight and seconded by Bob Becker. Motion carried.

MW Chamber of Commerce Report: Chamber Executive Director, Sarah Pischer introduced herself and Assistant Director, Julie Hoffmeister, expressing tremendous thanks for all of Julie's hard work and assistance. She went on to announce their new summer intern, Morgan Johnson, who will be starting May 17th. Sarah outlined the restructuring of the *Working Groups* that stemmed out of the Roger Brooks Branding Committees, detailing that there are 5 *Chamber Working Groups* and 4 *Economic Development Groups*. Noteworthy upcoming events include the first **Boat and Car Show**, to be held Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Weekend at Little Bohemia. The 2nd Annual **Solstice Festival** will be held June 18th and 19th. The Chamber will be working cooperatively with The Manitowish Waters Historical Society to bring a new

event, **Dillinger Days**, in 2017. Additionally, **Chamber After 5** has become increasingly successful over the past year; on Thursday, April 21st, Little Bohemia will be hosting a Chamber After 5, and the Rustic Roadhaus will be hosting Chamber After 5 on Tuesday, May 17th. Highlights of 2015-16, include the huge success of the expanded Manitowish Waters Bike Trail, with efforts to link to Mercer already underway, which will total over 60 miles of bike trails. Chamber membership has increased, as has the Activity Guide, adding additional pages and printing 5000 more copies. The Christmas Display was incredible this past season, and will continue to grow. Last, but not least, the Chamber launched a new website in December that is much more interactive and current; visits have already increased by 35 percent.

Solid Waste and Transfer Station Report: Eric Behnke was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, but provided information for Chuck Rayala III to report on his behalf. The Transfer Station Building was torn down and rebuilt. All 3 compactors failed in the last 18 months and 2 have been replaced, expecting another 25 years of operation. The entire brush pile was removed by a grinding service that will come back annually to keep on top of it. **Amnesty Week** will be June 1st through June 12th, during which time, electronics and white goods can be disposed of at no cost. Check with the Transfer Station Attendant, as some restrictions do apply. The *Contractor Access Gate System* program will continue to be offered.

Planning and Zoning Report: Dan Sleight announced that the Planning Commission is in the process of redoing the Comprehensive Plan. They will also be working on some Ordinance rewrites and additions. He did not have the exact numbers from the Zoning Office but believes that permits were up slightly over 2014. Seasonal hours of the Zoning Office are posted in the window of the Clerk's office. The Planning Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Cemetery Report: Chuck Rayala III provided names of the Cemetery Committee members. He went on to state that the crosses in the cemetery have been re-painted and portions of the fence will be put back up.

Parks and Recreation Report: John Hanson noted that we are fortunate to have outstanding parks in Manitowish Waters. Randy Richter from the Town Crew does an outstanding job keeping our parks beautiful. The new Rest Lake Park Pavilion has been completed, with minimal landscaping left to be done. Relocating the Rest Lake Park boat landing continues to be addressed. It is the intention to replace the pit toilets at Little Star Beach with an updated version of Portable toilets. All of our parks are in good shape.

Water Patrol Report: On behalf of Eric Behnke, Chuck Rayala III read that a new Water Patrol Officer, Ben Grenzer, was recently hired to work with Dan Cardinal. The Board is committed to an increased Water Patrol presence and will be focusing on *slow no wake* zones, ski show safety, and promoting safe boating. When you see the Patrol Officers on the water, stop and say hi and introduce yourself.

AIS Program: Chairman Hanson stated that the Town of Manitowish Waters has contracted with the Discovery Center again and is working year-round to manage and improve our chain of lakes. The presence of Curly Leaf Pondweed in Rice Creek and Island Lake is a serious concern. It has also been identified in the channels between Island and Spider Lake, and between Stone

and Rest Lake. It is imperative that this be kept away from the dam. Curly Leaf Pondweed is the 2nd most aggressive invasive species, next to Eurasian Water Milfoil. State grants have been procured and we are fortunate to have so many generous donors in Manitowish Waters to help offset expenses. Lake Management planning, boat inspections and volunteer hours are vital to controlling invasive species and protecting our chain. Karen Dixon took the opportunity to thank the Town for their continued support and funding.

Library Report: According to Librarian, Janelle Kohl, the Library has 1,353 registered borrowers, and owns 21,323 books. There are 2,252 Audio books, 3,937 DVD's, and 65,935 EBooks available. In 2015, a total of 24,903 materials were checked out of the library, including 5,288 borrowed by other libraries. EBooks checked out by patrons last year totaled 1,282. The 4 public computers and WIFI were logged on 2,227 times. The amounts for materials purchased in 2015 include \$9,153 for printed items and \$5,195 for Audio/Visual materials. Other services offered by Koller Library include monthly Book Club, a meeting room for local groups, free programs for children and adults, book talks and signings, Summer Storyhour and Reading Program for the children with special performers, including Mike Biszak—Veterans Officer from Vilas County, Fox Valley Ghost Hunters, Mark Moran – Antique Appraiser, and an interview with Betty Koller—Cranberry Pioneer. The Library also hosted Chamber After 5, an open house for the newly renovated Community Room, and participated in the Smithsonian Art Tour. The Library was awarded a new grant for \$920 to be used, in partnership with the MW Historical Society, to purchase equipment that can be used to create and store area history. Friends of the Library staffed a book sale, brat sales and Library Libations to raise funds for the Library. They also started a new program, *New York Times Best Selling Author* Book Talk and Signing. Last year, 2015 featured William Kent Krueger. 2016 will bring James Bradley, author of Flags of our Fathers on Thursday, June 30th. Appreciation was expressed for *Friends of the Library*, Mrs. Uihlein for donated grounds care, the many community members who donate their time, and to private donors.

Fire Company Report: Fire Chief, Bob Skrobot reported that in 2015 there were 61 Ambulance calls, 1 small natural gas explosion, 1 washing machine fire, 4 false alarms, 3 wild land fires, 6 lines down, 9 accidents involving fire and EMS. Mutual aid runs included 2 structure fires in Boulder Jct., 2 structure fires in Sherman/Springstead, and 1 structure fire in Winchester. In 2016, members of the Fire Company will again be taking on the responsibility of the Annual 4th of July Fire Works to be held at Rest Lake. The Fire Company will again be raffling a Harley Davidson motorcycle and doing the 50/50 Raffle.

Vilas County Supervisor Report: County Board Supervisor, Charles Rayala Jr. was unable to make the meeting. John Hanson noted that the addition/remodeling at the courthouse is why the County portion of our real estate taxes increased noticeably. We rely on Vilas County for our Police/Sheriff services. Our Town, along with neighboring Towns are supporting the proposed landfill expansion.

Road Report: Chuck Rayala III explained that the 2006 Patrol Truck is in very poor condition and needs to be replaced. Roads receiving attention this year will be North Stone Lake, Clear Lake, Fawn Trail, Fawn Rest Road and Shadow Lake Road. Work will also be done on South

Townline Road, with the Town of Boulder Jct. sharing the cost. John Hanson added that we currently have two pieces of equipment, the wheel loader and tractor, which are leased with a \$1 dollar buy-out. The tractor lease will be completed in 2017, and the wheel loader lease will conclude in 2018. Overall, the roads in Manitowish Waters are in good shape and well maintained.

Airport Report: Mark Riegelman spoke enthusiastically about the *Young Eagles Event*, the hugely successful *Hamburger Fly-in*, and hosting a *Chamber After 5* in the recently remodeled Terminal Building. This year's *Young Eagles Event* will take place on Sat., June 25th. Reconstruction of the runway began yesterday, which is critical for safety reasons. Ninety-five percent of the project will be covered by Federal funding, with the Town only responsible for five percent. Mark expressed gratitude to the Town for their portion of the funding. An upgraded Security System is also in the works. The Town owned hangars that were constructed several years back have been continually occupied, and actually paid for themselves within 18 months. The Manitowish Waters Airport is currently ranked in the top five airports in the State of Wisconsin. Upon completion of the runway project, we will be ranked in the top three. The project will be good for at least 25 years.

Subjects from the Floor: None

Lands Traded, Gifts, Easements: None

Adjourned: 7:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Hilbert
Clerk/Treasurer