

**Town Board Meeting
May 10th, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.
Manitowish Waters Community Center**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Town Chairman John Hanson and Board Supervisors Eric Behnke and Chuck Rayala III

Approval of Agenda as posted on May 5th, 2016. Approved on motion from Chuck Rayala III and seconded by Eric Behnke. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of April 5th, and April 18th, 2016, April 19th, April 26th, and May 3rd, 2016.. Approved on motion from Eric Behnke and seconded by Chuck Rayala III. Motion Carried.

Visitors Present: Henry Bauers, Dan Sleight, Amy Kobussen Chris Troller, Ron Troller, Rob Hanson, Eric Johnson, Chuck Kramer, Bob Becker, Linda Long Wohlleber, Bob Skrobot, Tom Lentz, Ty Rayala, Greg Holt, Rita Mazur, Fred Wienke, John Butler, David Bartling, Kevin Griffith, Karen Dixon, Barbara McFarland, John McFarland, John Hilbert, Jack Wittry, Barry Hopkins, and Lisa Hopkins.

Subjects from floor: Bob Skrobot requested to speak on the **Fire Company Lease** agenda item. Dan Sleight asked to comment on the **Appointment of Steering Committee for Commercial Corridor Development** agenda item. Dan Sleight, Bob Becker, Kevin Griffith, Linda Long Wohlleber, David Bartling, Amy Kobussen, Ty Rayala, and Greg Holt requested to speak on the **Rest Lake Boat Landing Engineering Proposal** agenda item. Ty Rayala and Dan Sleight asked to discuss the **Bike Trail Bridge Letter to the DNR** agenda item. Chuck Kramer and Dan Sleight asked to discuss the **Walleye Stocking Letter to Cathy Stepp** agenda item.

Old Business:

--**Fire Company Lease:** Chair Hanson outlined recent changes to the Lease Agreement and Bob Skrobot asked that a few small adjustments be made. A motion was made by Eric Behnke and seconded by Chuck Rayala III to approve the Fire Company Lease with the addition of the 24 hour notice under **Section 9 – Right to Access**. Motion carried.

--**Abandoned Vehicles:** Clerk Hilbert provided information she obtained by researching Wisconsin Statute 342.40, contacting legal counsel from the Wisconsin Towns Association, and speaking at length to a Vilas County Deputy who is specifically in charge of abandoned vehicles. Rayala III disagreed with her findings and asked that it be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

--**Highway W Bike Trail Bridge:** Eric Behnke requested to hold off on this agenda item for another month.

New Business:

--**Appointment of Steering Committee for Commercial Corridor Development Plan:** Chair Hanson explained that at last Tuesdays Town Board/Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission came up with the recommendation that the Planning Commission should be the Steering Committee. Hanson recommended that in addition to the Planning Commission, and based on a strong recommendation from the planners that will be doing the Comprehensive Plan and Corridor Development Plan, that we include Sarah Pischer/Chamber Director, Barry McLeane/Vilas County Economic Development Coordinator, and Steven Bartling/Housing and Labor Committee Lead. Hanson went on to express concern that the Planning Commission would already have their hands full with reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. Dan Sleight voice that he felt they were capable of handling both tasks. Chuck Rayala III felt that adding additional members to the Steering Committee would become too cumbersome. Eric Behnke stated that the 3 aforementioned individuals, along with Elizabeth Gering, would be great consultants, and the committee should take advantage of any and all expertise, however the voting should remain with the Planning Commission only. Despite the recommendation of Bruce Mommaerts from Granite Development Resources, Behnke motioned to set the Steering Committee as the Planning Commission, but include the 4 individuals that were discussed as non-voting consultants. Chuck Rayala III seconded the motion; motion carried.

--**Bids for Powell Road:** Bids came in as follows

American Asphalt	\$174,368.00
Pitlik & Wick	\$140,155.00
Angelo Lupino	\$142,248.00

A motion was made by John Hanson and seconded by Chuck Rayala III to award the Powell Road project to Pitlik & Wick. Eric explained that he would like to see a section by the Transfer Site included with Pitlik & Wicks bid and amended the motion to add paving at the Transfer Station site. A motion was made by John Hanson and seconded by Chuck Rayala III

to approve the amendment. Motion carried. A motion was made by John Hanson and seconded by Chuck Rayala III to approve the motion, as amended. Motion carried.

--Hourly Employee Wage Increases: Clerk Hilbert expressed that specific employees should be considered for a wage increase. Randy Richter, who is a great employee and does a fantastic job with our parks and helping the Road Crew with winter plowing should at least be in line with the Transfer Station employees and receive a \$1.00/hour increase. Likewise, the 3 person cleaning crew, who have worked for the Town for a long time, and recently took on the added responsibilities of a former cleaning employee who vacated her position, Hilbert requested a \$1.00/hour increase. A motion was made by John Hanson and seconded by Eric Behnke to approve the recommended increases. Motion carried. Let the record show that Chuck Rayala III abstained from voting, in lieu of the fact that Randy Richter is his brother-in-law.

--Prescheduled Meeting Attendance: Concerns were expressed to Hilbert regarding the rescheduling of the March and April regular monthly Board meetings. It was their understanding that these meetings are cast in stone, to be held the second Tuesday of every month, and Board members are fully aware of this when they are elected. Additionally, the Annual Town meeting is always held the 3rd Tuesday of April and should be fully attended. Hanson stated that they would try to do a better job of adhering to this schedule in the future. No action taken.

--Room Tax Committee Appropriations: The Room Tax Committee met on April 27th, 2016 and approved the following appropriations:

Bauer Field Maintenance	\$ 200.00
Skiing Skeeters for a gas card	\$ 200.00
Chamber Antique Boat Show	\$ 400.00
MW Snow Skeeters	\$ 500.00
Music in the Park	\$ 500.00
MW Fire Company	\$1,000.00

The Committee also decided to hold \$5,000.00 towards the fish quality enhancement.

Committee member, Henry Bauers noted that the Bauers Field appropriation was actually intended for the Little League Team, and not for maintenance. A check will be issued directly to the Little League Team. A motion was made by Chuck Rayala III and seconded by Eric Behnke to accept the recommendations from the Room Tax Committee. Motion carried.

--Rest Lake Boat Landing Engineering Proposal: John Hanson expressed concern that neither himself nor Supervisor Rayala III were aware of Behnke's independent action to talk to the DNR and an Engineering Company. He felt this shouldn't have been done without any prior Town Board involvement. Eric Behnke responded that Hanson set a precedence by doing preliminary work on the project when he filed the DNR permit without Town Board discussion. Hanson responded that filing the permit didn't cost a dime, however the engineering study that Behnke is suggesting would cost around \$13,000.00. Following a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the Parks and Trails Committee would meet and compile a list of pluses and minuses to moving or leaving the location of the boat landing, and also more detailed specifications. Their findings will be presented to the Planning Commission, who will in turn, make a recommendation to the Town Board.

--Bike Trail Bridge Letter to the DNR: Eric Behnke asked to have this item tabled until a future date.

--Walleye Stocking Letter to Cathy Stepp: This item was covered at the beginning of the meeting, due to scheduling overlap on the part of the presenter, Chuck Kramer. Chuck Kramer had previously sat down with Supervisor Rayala III regarding concerns about fish levels in the Manitowish Waters Chain of Lakes. The local biologist responsible for our chain is also in charge of 11,000 Wisconsin lakes, and too thinly spread to be comprehensively tuned in on the issues our chain is facing. A number of factors have contributed to decreased fish population, however, we are currently ineligible for fish stocking operations of any kind and our chain is considered to be self-sufficient. In lieu of these circumstances, we likely need to go to a higher authority to try and obtain the right to stock our lakes. Chuck and Chuck will get several talking points compiled prior to the next Board meeting and then they will sit down with the Town Clerk to draft a letter to send to Stepp and other representatives of our State Government.

Addendum:

--Rest Lake Park Pavilion Maintenance Agreement: A copy of the proposed maintenance agreement was provided to the Board Supervisors prior to the meeting. It is the exact same agreement as the signed Bike Trail Maintenance agreement, substituting the work *Pavilion* for *Bike Trail*. Chuck Rayala III stated that he thought this should go before the Planning Commission. John Hanson pointed out that it was a Town Board decision and not the Planning Decision. Eric Behnke questioned why there was any need for a Maintenance Agreement for a brand new pavilion. John Hanson made a motion to accept the proposed agreement. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Standing Committee Review:

Vouchers: Vouchers for April 12th, 2016 = \$39,559.21 and vouchers for April 26th equal \$7,949.15. Vouchers for May 10th equal \$140,300.00 of which 82,021.00 constitutes a payment for the runway project and \$12,639.40 for crack sealing. A motion was made by Eric Behnke and seconded by Chuck Rayala III to approve the vouchers. Motion carries.

P & L/Bank Balances: P&L's were provided to the Board in writing. Bank Balances are as follows:

Reconciled Bank Balances: (As of April 30th, 2016)	Actual Bank Balances: (To date)
General Account: \$ 177,856.61	General Account \$ 87,747.88
Tax Account: \$ 196,872.70	Tax Account: \$ 196,872.70
Investment Account: \$ 124,052.28	Investment Account: \$ 42,031.28

Economic Development: A very productive meeting was held with representatives of Century Link to update internet service. Our area received 2.2 million for this project. Presque Isle and Boulder Junction are already completed and Manitowish Waters will be completed in 2016

Airport: The Airport Runway project is going along very well. A projected finish date is the end of June, however, the runway will reopen by the end of May.

Road Report: The Road Report was provided to the Board in writing. Sweeping and crack sealing are completed. Alder Lake Road will be brushed earlier than the rest of the Town roads.

Bike Trail: Blacktopping up to the new bridge will be completed next week.

Parks: Covered under other agenda items.

Transfer: Amnesty Week will occur June 1st through June 12th.

Rest Lake Dam: The MOU is done and the dam is being operated according to requirements of the MOU. There is a link on the website for anyone who would like to read it.

Correspondence:

The A letter from Liz and Dick Uihlein was read aloud by Dana Hilbert.

John Hanson shared an incident of a complaint lodged against Pitlik & Wick for pumping water from the Rest Lake Boat Landing into their trucks for construction purposes. Hanson signed a document granting them permission to continue to pump water from Rest Lake Boat Landing.

John Hanson read aloud the following letter:

**MANITOWISH WATERS BIKE TRAIL, INC.
P.O. BOX 308
MANITOWISH WATERS, WI 54545**

To: John Hanson Chairman
Town Board of Manitowish Waters

5/9/2016

John,

At the last Town Board meeting, one of the Supervisors indicated that he had unilaterally contacted a "Bridge Construction Company" with regards to the construction of the new Hwy w bridge section recently completed. The Supervisor indicated that the company cited deficiencies in the present construction of the bridge. As safety is always a concern in all public projects, we would like to contact the company and the representative that inspected the structure. We are respectfully requesting the name and all contact information in order to address all concerns. Please read this letter and all contact information into the minutes and forward the same to us.

Sincerely,
Dale White
Manitowish Waters Bike Trail, Inc

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Hilbert
Clerk/Treasurer