



**Annual Town Meeting
April 21, 2015 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 Henry Bauers and seconded by Chuck Rayala III to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting: A motion was made by Bill Schumann and seconded by Dan Sleight to approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Introductions: Town Board members, Chuck Rayala III, Henry Bauers, John Hanson and Dana Hilbert were introduced, along with Vilas County Board member, Charles Rayala Jr. In addition to Board members, 34 community members attended the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was available in hard copy at the door and read aloud by Dana Hilbert. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Dennis Hill to approve the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion carried.

2014 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. Hanson pointed out that the budget overage was the result of replacing the entire Town's fire numbers; however, the new fire numbers were appropriated for 2 years ago.

Set Date for Next Annual Meeting: The 2016 Annual Meeting, scheduled to fall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, was set for April 19th, 2016, and approved on a motion from Rita Mazur and seconded by Bob Becker. Motion carried.

MW Chamber of Commerce Report: Chamber Director, Sarah Pischer introduced herself and Assistant Director, Julie Hoffmeister, expressing tremendous thanks for all of Julie's hard work and assistance. Pischer recapped key items that the Chamber has worked on over the past year, including *membership communication, branding/planning, and events*, paying particular attention to *Chamber After 5, working with area businesses, and a new event, the Solstice*

Festival. The Chamber has and will continue to devote a great deal of attention to the Manitowish Waters Bike Trail, referring to it as a huge asset to the Town. It was also noted that Chamber membership has increased. Looking forward to 2015, Sarah highlighted a few new things, including attending Sports Shows to get our local tourism information out there, Pole Banners that will be going up soon to welcome visitors, and a new and improved Activities Guide that will go out to a larger distribution area.

Recycling Report: Eric Behnke was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, but provided information for Chuck Rayala III to report on his behalf. In April, Don Fields resigned his position as Transfer Station Attendant, and John Butler was hired to replace him. The brush pile was partially burned and the Town will continue to find ways to better handle it, while still providing a service to the community. The compost pile is open and available to the public. Construction on a new Transfer Station Attendant Hut is expected to begin in early May. Hours of operation continue to be fine tuned, with Wednesdays now offering noon to 6pm hours. Single stream recycling continues to be collected, and we pay to haul garbage, but not recyclables, so we all need to do our part to recycle. The **Amnesty Week** will be June 1st through June 13th, 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: After announcing the names of the Planning Commission Board, Dan Sleight informed us that 2014 saw a decrease in the number of permits issued, valuation, and fees collected compared to 2013. The year 2014 also witnessed a decrease in the number of new home construction permits. The language of the subdivision ordinance was revised this year, and the hobby farm definition will be reviewed in 2015. The Planning Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Cemetery Report: Eric Behnke, via Chuck Rayala III, stated that there was nothing new to report on with the cemetery at this time. Chuck went on to provide the names of the members of the Cemetery Committee.

Parks and Recreation Report: John Hanson noted that given the small size of our town, we are fortunate to have four outstanding parks. At this time, no changes are planned for the park located by the Community Center. For the time being, Star Beach Park will continue to have pit toilets. The permits have been obtained for the new pavilion at Rest Lake Park and construction should begin in May and be completed by late summer or early fall.

Water Patrol Report: Henry Bauers explained that Water Patrol Officer, Dan Cardinal, is working with the County Sheriffs Dept. and the DNR to provide additional patrol on the Manitowish Waters chain.

AIS Program: Chairman Hanson stated that the Town of Manitowish Waters has contracted with the Discovery Center again and is working year-round with Ann Kretschmann to manage and improve our chain of lakes. The presence of Curly Leaf Pondweed in Rice Creek and Island

Lake is much larger than originally believed. 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. Approximately \$400,000.00 in State grants has been procured. Lake Management planning, boat inspections and volunteer hours are vital to controlling invasive species and protecting our chain.

Library Report: According to Librarian, Janelle Kohl, the Library has 1,529 registered borrowers, and owns 21,528 books. There are 2,252 Audio books, 3,937 DVD's, and 65,935 EBooks available. In 2014, a total of 26,812 materials were checked out of the library, including 5,937 borrowed by other libraries. EBooks checked out by patrons last year totaled 1,076. The 4 public computers were logged on 1,357 times; however, they are unable to count Wi-Fi users. The amounts for materials purchased in 2014 include \$10,179 for printed items and \$6,083 for Audio/Visual materials. Other services offered by the library include monthly Book Club, a meeting room for local groups, free programs for children and adults, upcycling craft series by Discovery Center staff, Carl Christensen History Event, book talks and signings, Summer Storyhour and Reading Program for the children with special performers, Mike Biszak— Veterans Officer from Vilas County, Paul Sturgul – Elder Care Attorney, and an AARP driving course. Winter/Spring projects included weeding books in preparation for inventory and rejuvenating the community room for a refreshed new look. The library continues to work on Manitowish Waters History and plan to apply to the Wisconsin Historical Society. 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: Bob Skrobot reported that in 2014 there were 90 calls, 4 wild land fires, 5 accidents, 5 false alarms and 31 mutual aids. 2014 purchases include a new ambulance, a pickup truck, and a new compressor. In 2015, 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. discussed the new Vilas County jail and out-building. Remodeling of the Courthouse began but still needs to be completed. Future projects should not impact taxes, but an addition to the jail is needed and a lot more money needs to be designated to maintaining county roads. Highway funding is a severely small portion of the County budget and needs to be increased; however Charlie went on to say that we have one of the best Highway Departments in the State. The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation supports the efforts of the Vilas County Board.

Road Report: Henry Bauers explained that 2 miles of Town roads were repaved and 3 separate roads were crack sealed. A new Caterpillar Wheel Loader was acquired on a 5 year lease with a \$1 dollar buy-out. A 2013 basic pickup truck was also purchased to eliminate over-use of the big patrol trucks. 2014 saw 15 plowings, 11 scraping/sandings, 13 scrapings, and 350 cubic yards of salt/sand mixture were used. The addition to the Town Garage was completed and the crew can now raise the dump box on the patrol trucks to work on them indoors.

Airport Report: Mark Riegelman noted that most of the tree cutting has been completed and additional avigation easements have been obtained in preparation for the runway project. The Parsons land purchase is done but remaining structures need to be removed to return the land to its natural state. The 2003 New Holland Tractor was sold and a 2014 New Holland Tractor was purchased to replace it. An outdated backup diesel generator was also sold. The Town owned Phase V Hangar is at 100% occupancy. The reconstruction of Runway 32/14 will hopefully begin this year. Only 5% of the expense for this project will fall on the Town, with the other 95% being State and federally funded. On May 20th, the Chamber will be hosting a *Chamber After 5* in the Airport Terminal. A Young Eagles event is planned for June 27th, featuring free airplane rides for youth. A 2014 Hamburger Fly-In/Drive-in is scheduled for September 3rd and the public is encouraged to attend.

Subjects from the Floor: One presenter asked to make a correction to information provided earlier.

Lands Traded, Gifts, Easements: None

Chair Hanson concluded the meeting by expressing deep gratitude to Henry Bauers for his dedicated 12 years of service as a Town Board Supervisor. Henry was presented with a plaque of appreciation and all were invited to remain for cake and coffee in honor of Henry.

Adjourned: 8:00pm