

**Town Board Meeting
February 11th, 2020 7:00 pm
Manitowish Waters Community Center**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Town Chairman John Hanson and Board Supervisors Bob Becker and Mike Kramer.

Approval of Agenda as posted on February 6th, 2020. Approved on motion from Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from January 14th and January 20th, 2020. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the minutes of January 14th and January 20th, 2020. Motion Carried.

Visitors Present: Dan Stella, John Butler, Sharon Keyser, Greg Holt, Roger Young, Brian Jopek, and Kevin Griffith.

Agenda Items Requested to Speak On: Roger Young requested to speak on the **Bus Service to Woodruff** agenda item, and Kevin Griffith asked to comment on the **Water Safety Committee Recommendations** agenda item.

Subjects from floor: None

Old Business:

-- **Bus Service to Woodruff:** Roger Young was invited to speak about his program. Young provided a detailed summary of the program, including the pick-up and drop-off schedule, the pick-up and drop-off locations, and the associated rates. Young responded to several questions from visitors and Board members. Following a brief discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to try out the program for the annual fee of \$2,500.00, and re-assess the demand after a one year period. Motion carried.

-- **Fire Company Agreement:** Chair Hanson reported that we are still waiting to hear back from our Attorney. This item was tabled for the time being.

New Business:

--**Airport Project Petition with Bureau of Aeronautics:** Chair Hanson explained that petitions need to be resubmitted every 6 years for State and Federal funding from the Bureau of Aeronautics for the Manitowish Waters Airport. A Hearing was held for this purpose at 6:30 pm, just prior to this meeting. Information from the Hearing will be presented to the Airport Committee, who will in turn make recommendations to the Town Board. The Town Board will then submit a petition to the Bureau of Aeronautics. Federal and State funding will be used for the following purpose:

Sealcoat and crack seal airport pavements; land acquisition in runway approaches; install generator for runway lighting; hangar area development; construct hangars; construct security improvements; expand terminal apron; upgrade fuel system; clear runway approaches as stated in Wis. Admin Code Trans §55; relocate Marathon Road; purchase snow removal and mowing equipment; upgrade/rehabilitate Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS); replace rotating beacon and beacon tower; replace wind cone, and any necessary related work.

--**Water Safety Committee Recommendations:** Supervisor Becker shared information from the last Water Safety Committee meeting. Speed limits on the chain were considered in-depth, but ultimately it was decided this was not the direction that Manitowish Waters should take. A good amount of time was spent on creating a map of the chain, depicting buoys, hazards, a list of hours, boating laws, slow no wake etc. Committee member, Dan Stella is working with the Chamber on creating the map. The maps could be available at boat landings, boat rental places, the marina, the Chamber and Town offices, and area businesses. He went on to add that he would like to see the map include points of interest and businesses that can be accessed by water. Advertisements could be sold on the back side of the map to help offset printing costs. Chair Hanson added that the Room Tax collection could also be a source of funding. Becker went on to share information about a survey that committee member, Frank Dileonardi is putting together to gather public opinion on the current state of Water Patrol effectiveness, and then reassess public opinion a year from now to determine what improvements have been made or are needed. A motion was passed during the meeting to place a buoy 100 feet from shore at both the Rest Lake and Clear Lake landings to provide boaters with a visual of what 100 feet from shore looks like. Placement of additional buoys will involve working with the DNR. Other topics covered during the Water Safety Committee meeting included developing simple but effective signage to be placed at the boat landings; discouraging the purchase of a portable breathalyzer; hiring a new, part-time, very experienced Water Patrol Officer, Phil Horter; not changing the current paint job on the patrol boat; and the use of cell phones to record violations. An additional suggestion was to install a camera on the patrol boat as an educational tool to show violators their offenses. The next Water Patrol Committee meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2020.

--**World Championship Musky Classic Contract:** Chair Hanson alluded to the fact that each year we enter into a contract with the World Championship Musky Classic to host a portion or all of the annual event. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to approve and sign the contract. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Review:

--Vouchers: Vouchers for January 28th, 2020 were \$73,997.77, of which more than half consisted of insurance premiums for the Town and Fire Co. February 11th vouchers equaled \$1,386,370.52 which included \$1,178,423.18 in tax settlement payments to Vilas County and the three schools, a \$148,917.49 payment to Pitlik & Wick for paving Marathon road, and \$11,450.00 that will be offset by donation. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the vouchers as stated. Motion carried

--P & L/Bank Balances: P&L's and bank balances were not available for the meeting, but will be emailed to Board members in the next day or two.

--Airport Report: Airport Reports provided to the Board in hard copy. Supervisor Becker reported that we are still having trouble with the Overflow Alarm Box, which is currently out for repair. The cable for the AWOS Station will need to be dug up and completely replaced in the spring. The Town Road Crew had to commandeer the Airport plow truck when one of their trucks was sidelined due to extensive repairs. The Airport plow broke during Road Crew usage and was swapped out with the truck being repaired. The damaged plow was eventually repaired as well.

--Road Report: Road Reports provided to the Board in hard copy. Supervisor Kramer shared that January witnessed 6 plowings, 2 scrapings, 2 sandings and 1 winging. Time was also spent opening and widening intersections and turnarounds. January was laden with mechanical breakdowns but all is currently repaired and operational. All 300 watt incandescent bulbs in the Town Hall basement were replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting.

--Transfer Station: Supervisor Kramer reported that a vendor should be coming next week to take all of this year and last year's chips for a fee of \$8,000.00. Long-time Transfer Station employee, Larry Becker has retired. Dave Krembs and Josh Niemiec will be covering his shifts for the time being. We thank Larry for his many, many years of service.

Correspondence: Clerk Hilbert drew attention to an email that was shared with the Board, announcing a significant increase in 2020 Fire Inspection fees with the new Fire Inspector.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Hilbert
Clerk/Treasurer