**Town Board Meeting**

**August 13th, 2020 ~ 7:00pm**

**Manitowish Waters Town Hall**

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 August 11th, 2020. Approved on motion from Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer. Motion carried.

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

**Visitors Present:** Dennis Reuss, John McFarland, Barbara McFarland, Ann Egan, Pat Egan, Nancy Wenten, Marilyn Sevey, Carl Sevey, Sandy Goggin, Jody Miller, Greg Holt, John Horter, Pat Horter, Jerry Yencich, Kim Yencich, Kim Kost, Phil St.Clair, Jackie Quinleven, And Mike Quinleven.

**Subjects from floor:** None

**Agenda Items Requested to Speak On:** Greg Holt requested to speak on the ***Koller Park Docks agenda*** item and the ***Dead Pike MOU*** agenda item. Kim Kost asked to comment on the ***Air Burner for Brush Pile*** and **E-Bike Proposal** agenda items. Jerry Yencich wished to discuss the ***Transfer Station Report*** Standing Committee Review item. John McFarland, Kim Kost and Sandy Goggin asked to speak on the ***Advisory Referendum Regarding Whether or Not to Allow ATV’s on Town Roads to be Placed on The Ballot for the November 3rd, 2020 Election*** agenda item. John Horter requested to comment on the ***Planning Commission Recommendation on Quinleven Request to Amend Land Use Map*** agenda item.

**Old Business:   
--Koller Park Docks:** The 2 boardwalks have been successfully built and installed. The four floating fingers that were to extend out from the ends of each boardwalk have been delayed due to problems with purchasing the floats. Chair Hanson plans to find a new vendor for the floats and the floating piers will go in next spring.

**New Business:**

**--Air Burner for Brush Pile:** Supervisor Kramer shared information he gathered at an Air Burner demonstration he attended in Conover, detailing a program for safely burning brush rather than chipping it. Air Curtain burners, also called FireBoxes, were designed principally as a pollution control device. The primary objective of an air curtain machine is to reduce the particulate matter and smoke or “black carbon”, which results from burning wood waste. The largest machine can burn is excess of 12 tons per hour. The mass reduction is 95% - 98% leaving a residue of sterile wood ash, that can in turn, become a highly desirable soil additive for improved growing. Kim Kost expressed concern over the idea of burning, stating that it’s wasteful and not good for the planet. Supervisor Becker, who also attended the Conover demonstration, responded to Kost’s concerns, acknowledging that the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) not only recognizes the air burners as an environmentally sound way to dispose of wood waste, but something they utilize with owning their own air burner . Becker went on to note that this could lead to eliminating having to pass along the high cost of chipping to residents bringing in brush. The annual cost of chipping is currently between $11,000.00 and $12,000.00. Kramer will continue to research this and no action was taken.

**--Airport Manager Position:** Chair Hanson noted that the Airport is currently without a Manager. Airport Committee discussions have yielded that for the time being, the managerial will be divided up between Committee Chair, Jerry Wilke and Town Chair, John Hanson. Transfer Station part-time Town employee, Scott Clendening has been helping out a great deal at the airport and doing an outstanding job. The town will be looking for an additional part-time employee, particularly for winter plowing.

**--Bids for Road Work:** Chair Hanson will be placing an ad in the Lakeland Times for road bids for 3 separate road projects. This year’s projects will include a segment of Circle Lily Road and 2 sections of Alder Lake Road. The Board will take action when selecting and approving the desired bidder. Greg Holt inquired about completing the 2nd half of Marathon Road, to which Chair Hanson explained that he would be working with the Bureau of Aeronautics on a portion of Marathon Road and it will get done next year.

**--Broadband Forward Community Ordinance:** Chair Hanson will be asking for approval of a Broadband Forward Community Ordinance. This would be an ordinance that says the Town of Manitowish Waters will cooperate with vendors and make it easier for them to come in and do broadband projects. Having this ordinance in place will put us in a better position to go after grant funding. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to approve a resolution designating Manitowish Waters as a Broadband Forward Community. Motion carried.

**--Dead Pike MOU:** The Town and Dead Pike Lake Association (DPL) have been negotiating with the DNR on a Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU). It is just about completed, pending a few issues that have to be resolved. The MOU will be the order that will allow us to operate the Water Control Structure at the outlet of DPL. The Water Control Structure will be owned and operated by the Town. The MOU defines the relationship between us and the DNR and their operation of the Powell Marsh. We will hopefully have this completed in time to bring back to our September Meeting.

**-- E-Bike Proposal:**  Supervisor Becker obtained a copy of St. Germain’s E-Bike Resolution and adapted it for Manitowish Waters. He read aloud the resolution and made a motion, seconded by Mike Kramer, to adopt the resolution for Manitowish Waters. Motion carried

**--Phone System Proposal:** Chair Hanson shared information on a proposed phone system that could save approximately $1,800.00 annually, however all of the existing phone numbers would be changed. Following a brief discussion, Chair Hanson recommended that we retain our existing system and phone numbers.

**--Manitou Drive Proposal:** Chair Hanson requested to defer action on this item because he will be meeting with a representative for Manitou Drive tomorrow.

**--Advisory Referendum Regarding Whether or Not to Allow ATV’s on Town Roads to be Placed on the Ballot for the November 3rd, 2020 Election:** Following a lengthy discussion regarding polling the registered voters, and how to poll the opinion of non-registered Manitowish Waters taxpayers, a motion was made to adopt a resolution placing an advisory referendum on the November election ballot to obtain public input on the ATV/UTV use of Town roads. The motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker. Motion carried. Chair Hanson added that with an advisory referendum, the final decision would be made by the Town Board.

**--Planning Commission Recommendation on Quinleven Request to Amend the Land Use Map:** Following a joint meeting with the Planning Commission last week, the Planning Commission is recommending that the Town Board amend the land use map to change the Quinleven property from recreational zoning to residential zoning. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to amend the land use map. Motion carried.

**Standing Committee Review:**

**--Vouchers:**  Vouchers for July 25th, 2020 equaled $45,517.08, and August 11th, 2018 vouchers were $50,512.05. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to approve the vouchers as stated. Motion carried.

**--P & L/Bank Balances:** P&L’s and Bank Balances were provided to the Board in hard copy.

**--Airport Report:** Airport Reports provided to the Board in hard copy. Supervisor Becker reported that Sand Hill Cranes are creating quite a disturbance as of late, with one bird strike with a plane. There was no damage to the plane and there is now one less crane. All the Airport fire extinguishers were incorrectly replaced with 5 lb extinguishers, and we are almost finished switching them out for the correct 10 lb extinguishers. The AWOS power issue is still outstanding with repairs not yet scheduled. We are working with the state to take care of replacing the aluminum wiring with copper wiring. Jerry Wilke is also the Chairman of the committee. There is one more person looking to build a private hangar. Clerk Hilbert shared a thank you note received by Don Fields for assisting a seaplane pilot that failed to switch to solid ground landing gear while landing their seaplane at the airport. Fortunately there was no major damage to the airfield or the seaplane. Fields assisted in jacking up the plane so the wheels could be dropped. The pilot was extremely thankful for Don’s assistance

**--Road Report:** Provided to the Board in written form. Supervisor Kramer reiterated that the boardwalk sections at Koller Park have been completed. The two boat landing launch docks at Rest Lake Park need to be anchored properly. A new “drop in” toilet was installed at Serbin Park and Jerry Blach, Roads Foreman, is recommending that we do the same at Star Lake Park. Filling in the shoulders of the town roads has been done, and mowing of the shoulders is currently underway. We’ve had some problems with the John Deere 6330 tractor. A valve bank has been ordered from Serwe Implements and should be arriving soon. Chair Hanson expanded on the Road Report, noting that the culvert on Alder Lake road needs to be dropped down to put an end to the overflow problems. This will be done after the fall draw down.

**--Transfer Station:** TheTransfer station was already covered during a previous agenda item.Supervisor Kramer added that surveillance cameras have been installed and are up and running. These will be used to keep an eye on after-hours activity.

**--Water Patrol Report:** Supervisor Becker reported on an accident that recently occurred in the slow-no-wake area between Clear Lake and Fawn Lake resulting in minor personal injuries and excessive boat damage. Multiple citations were issued. Another incident included a blatant speeding violation in the Rest Lake/Stone Lake channel resulting in serious property damage and multiple citations as well. Clerk Hilbert shared the following stats for the month of July: 172 Patrol Hours; 2,202 Contacts with Boaters; 176 Verbal Warnings; 20 Written Warnings; and 1Citations. Hilbert reminded visitors of the effectiveness of using cell phones to deter violations – the word is out and boaters are becoming more and more leery of the use of cell phone videos in reporting infractions to the Water Patrol Officers.

**--Parks Report:** Already covered during previous agenda items.

**--Broadband Committee Report:** Chair Hanson reported that the committee had been meeting and just recently had a teleconference with some individuals from Madison. Hanson was approached by a company called Bugtussle. They are a company that puts up communication towers and they are interested in putting up a tower in Manitowish Waters. Hanson has a few leads on where they could put up towers in Manitowish Waters, taking into account regulations around the airport. If they are able to install 3 towers, that would completely cover Manitowish Waters. We are making progress and Hanson will keep us apprised on what’s going on. Kim Kost expressed concern about flashing lights on the towers and Greg Holt questioned the security of town-wide WIFI. Hanson agreed that the light situation would need to be looked into and that WIFI security was not likely a concern for a reputable installation company

**Correspondence:** Vilas County Public tested the water at the Town Hall, Rest Lake Park and the Koller Bathhouse, and all were negative for Coliform and E. coli bacteria. It’s safe to drink the water.

**Adjournment:**  The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Hilbert

Clerk/Treasurer