

**Town Board Meeting
January 12th, 2021 ~ 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 January 8th, 2021. Approved on motion from Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of December 8th and December 17th, 2020. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the minutes of December 8th and December 17th, 2020. Motion Carried.

Visitors Present: Brian Jopek, Kim Kost and Bob Fuller.

Subjects from floor: Kim Kost inquired about the intentions for the old Fire Station. Hanson responded that a group had expressed interest in using it as a rec center for area youth, but had yet to return with any details. It is currently being used for storage of Town property.

Agenda Items Requested to Speak On: Bob Fuller and Kim Kost requested to speak on the *Proposal for a Dog Park* agenda item. Kim Kost asked to comment on the *Easement for Parkside* agenda item, the *Proposal for Town Hall/Airport/Library Lamp Replacement Project* agenda item, the *Dredging of Clear Lake Bridge Channel* agenda item, and the *Little Star Lake Park Renovations* agenda item. Kost also wished to discuss the *Transfer Station Report* and *Parks Report* Standing Committee Review items.

Old Business:

-- None

New Business:

--**Proposal for a Dog Park:** Bob Fuller provided Chair Hanson with a diagram for a proposed Dog Park using a portion of Rest Lake Park. Fuller expanded, noting that there are a lot of dogs in Manitowish Waters and this would give both dogs and their owners an opportunity for communication. Discussion ensued, with Hanson questioning this location, given the amount of activity there during the summer months and also the possibility of encroaching on Uihlein property. He suggested an alternative location of using the property behind the Koller Library, which would allow for ample parking space using both the Library and Town Hall existing parking, and would also provide more room and less traffic. Chair Hanson agreed to work with Fuller on developing a detailed plan with costs and present this at a future meeting.

--**Airport Management Plan:** Chair Hanson provided all with a written Airport Management Plan, which has technically been in operation since Airport Manager, Don Fields departure last July. The plan can be accomplished using existing staff and will save the Town money in salaries. The plan is available in the Clerk's office for public review. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to adopt the plan as presented. Motion carried.

--**Easement for Parkside:** Several Years ago when the public restrooms were put in at Koller Park, the Town obtained an easement from the owners of Parkside for the septic system. The new owners of Parkside now need an easement to the easement from the town to put a bathroom in the new living quarters which are currently under construction. A motion was made by John Hanson and seconded by Bob Becker to grant the easement to the new Parkside owners. Motion carried. Kim Kost asked if the easement would be recorded with Vilas County, to which Chair Hanson responded, "Yes".

-- **Proposal for Town Hall/Airport/Library Lamp Replacement Project:** Chair Hanson shared two options for LED lamp replacement at the Town Hall, Airport Terminal and Koller Library. Option one would involve putting the LED bulbs into the existing fixtures and bypassing the ballasts. The main drawback to this option is that we would lose UL approval on the fixtures; however this would not impact insurability. Option two would be to replace the entire fixtures, which would obviously involve more expense. Following discussion, it was decided that it was better to spend the extra funds and invest in new fixtures, which with the LED lamps would last a lot longer and save money in the long run. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to replace the fixtures and lamps for a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. Motion carried.

--**Dredging of Clear Lake Bridge Channel:** Supervisor Becker indicated that he had approached Chuck Kramer, (Chuck's Excavating), regarding dredging out the channel under the Clear Lake bridge. Chuck Kramer determined that with approximately 900 yards of material to be removed, DNR permits would be required. Becker was looking for Board approval, so that Kramer could obtain the permits and quote the job. If feasible, the work could be accomplished prior to the 2021 boating season. Chair Hanson pointed out that the removed sand could possibly be recycled and used for road sanding. Becker added that removal of the material would not affect the lake level. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to proceed with the permitting and quote process. Motion carried.

--**Little Star Lake Park Renovations:** Chair Hanson outlined needed renovations to Little Star Park, including putting in modern bathrooms, a small open-concept pavilion, and landscaping. This park is owned by the DNR and we have a land use agreement

with them. Hanson would like to approach the DNR regarding a longer term, (ie. 50 year) agreement with them, which in turn would make the Town more inclined to put some money into the renovations. Hanson added that there could be grant money available for the park improvements but it was likely too late to put in an application for 2021. Hanson will do further research and revisit the subject at the February meeting. No action taken.

--Accountant Service Proposals for Annual Audit: Peterson Metz, who has been performing the Town's annual audit for the past 8 years, sent out a letter in October 2020 notifying the Town that their company will no longer be performing municipal government audits. A solicitation for quotes was sent out to other outside accounting firms and proposals were received from Kerber Rose and Huberty. Proposals were shared in hard copy. Kerber Rose was within \$200.00 of Peterson Metz and Huberty was \$1,500.00 more than Peterson Metz. Services provided were comparable. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to employ Kerber Rose as the Town's accounting firm. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Review:

--Vouchers: Vouchers for December 22, 2020 were \$86,869.26, which included \$57,076.76 to Pitlik & Wick. January 12th, 2021 vouchers equaled \$1,300,610.68, of which \$1,269,382.14 incorporated the January Settlement tax payments to Vilas County and the 3 area schools. 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 were provided to the Board in hard copy.

--Airport Report: Supervisor Becker reported that work continues on the land purchases and easements with neighboring property owners. An advance of \$6,000.00 was paid to one of the property owners in December. The Airport beacon needs maintenance. Overall, the Airport came in under budget in 2020. Hanson added that we just got in 8,500 gallons of Avgas last week and saved \$0.11 per gallon.

--Road Report: Supervisor Kramer noted that December witnessed 3 plowings, which is a slow year for plowing. Kramer went on to share the following comments from Jerry Blach, who retired December 31st:

It has been an honor to work for the Town of Manitowish Waters. I want to especially thank Tom Lentz and Mr. Hanson for making my tenure run smoothly.

The crew has been trimming the trees along the Town roads and the new boom arm mower is working great since the hydraulic issues have been resolved. The new platform steps have been installed at the Transfer Station. The "Snowmobile Crossing" signs were installed on December 4th. Hanson added that Josh Niemiec, who joined the Road Crew is working out well.

--Transfer Station: Supervisor Kramer stated that there was not much to report. We need to look into repairing the broken sections of fencing at the site, or just completely tearing down the fencing. Hanson and Becker both agreed that it should just be taken down. Kim Kost questioned if the contractor fees, private citizen fees and grants are enough to cover the chipping in the fall of 2021. Hanson, Kramer and Hilbert all responded that it was very close to breaking even with the contractor fees and the Wildfire \$4,000.00 grant and added that if needed, contractor fees which have already doubled twice, would be increased again.

--Parks Report: Hanson reported that parks are pretty much shut down. Work on the additional docks for Koller Park will take place over the winter for spring installation. Christmas decorations should be coming down tomorrow. Kim Kost raised a question about the detached floating docks at the Rest Lake Park Boat Landing. Hanson responded that the Town will need to re-engineer how the docks are connected because the current system is not holding up.

--Broadband Committee Report: Chair Hanson is waiting to hear from a gentleman from CenturyLink regarding setting up a zoom meeting. Hanson went on to state that the Bugtussel proposal for a 300' tower near Island Lake is gone and off the table. They are currently looking at another location in the Boulder Junction area, where the landowner is interested in allowing them to use it.

Correspondence: None

A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to Convene to closed session according to Wis. Statute 19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Roll Call: Bob Becker, "Aye"; Mike Kramer, "Aye"; John Hanson, "Aye".

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned from closed session at 8:17pm. No action was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana Hilbert
Clerk/Treasurer