

**Minutes of the  
October 20, 2022 Special Town Board Meeting  
Town of Winchester, Vilas County  
Pending approval of the Town Board**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 8:30AM on Thursday October 20, 2022 at Winchester Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Whitney, Clerk Wainio, along with the agent from Rural Mutual Stella Westfall, Craig VanArk, Sulo Wainio, Ian Derber and Galen Brownwell. Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to accept the agenda at the discretion of the chair. Supervisor Whitney seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

**New Business**

1) *Property Insurance Review:* Only the agent representing Rural Mutual was able to attend. Over 60% of the Towns in the State are insured through Rural Mutual. The agent highlighted increased coverages offered in the proposed policy compared to that offered by our current insurer. She noted that our current Workers Comp experience rate was elevated due to the claim in 2020. Rural Mutual will not offer liability coverage for the Turtle Dam, but they have sent our most recent dam inspection to their statewide services for coverage. In order to compare the policies, Mr. Grimmer made a motion to table any action on the insurance. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.

2) *Wisconsin Retirement System:* Mr. Grimmer made a motion to appoint Clerk Wainio agent for the Wisconsin Retirement System pending the board's adoption of participation prior to 11/15/22. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.

3) *Newsletter/funding request in tax bill:* This needs to be coordinated in advance and will not be included in the tax bill.

4) *Removal of a Planning Commission Member:* Mr. Discianno voiced his desire that the Town needs positive thinking on the Planning Commission and members who will drive the requests from the Board for completion in a timely manner. Mr. Discianno has discussed the circumstances with the Chair of the Commission (Jim Logan) and feels that a particular individual tends to be negative and should be removed. Mr. Discianno began to make his motion, then paused to reiterate the fact that the Town Board has the authority to both appoint and remove under State Statute. Mr. Whitney then commented that he has also attended these meetings, discussed the situation with Jim Logan, agrees this individual is not being constructive but being more trouble and agrees with Mr. Discianno. Mr. Grimmer stated that he has been Town Board liaison to the Planning Commission since April 2021 and concurs that this has been a problem and wants to believe the Board will be more constructive, positive, and effective going forward without this individual. Mr. Discianno then made a motion to remove Craig VanArk from the Planning Commission. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Mr. Discianno, Mr. Grimmer and Mr. Whitney all voting aye. After the vote was made multiple individuals questioned when the board had met in open session to discuss the problem with Mr. VanArk's position on the Planning Commission. Mr. Discianno, Mr. Whitney and Mr. Grimmer denied any violations of Wisconsin's Open Meeting Laws.

At 9:12AM Mr. Discianno made a motion to go into closed session under SS19.85(1)(c) for discussion/possible action replacement for town crew member, compensation and benefits package for town employees.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:06AM by Mr. Discianno, seconded by Mr. Whitney, approved 3-0.

Mr. Discianno made a motion to replace Town Crew member Joe Moll with Derrick Kresser with a start date of 10/31/22. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion. Mr. Discianno, Mr. Grimmer and Mr. Whitney all voted aye. Mr. Grimmer made a motion that effective 11/1/22 the Town of Winchester reimburse full-time employees working 30 hours per week or more the cost of an HSA eligible health plan. The employee will own and manage the plan, with the Town of Winchester compensating the employee for the premiums paid as an addition to the employee's paycheck. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

Mr. Grimmer made a motion for the Town of Winchester to make an annual contribution to an HSA Savings Account for the full-time employees being reimbursed for an HSA eligible health plan. The amount for 2022 is \$3650 for an individual/\$7300 for a family. This amount will be adjusted annually as determined by the IRS. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Mr. Grimmer made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Winchester, Vilas County authorizes and approves participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System on the effective date of January 1, 2023. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

**Old Business**

1) *2023 Budget*: The Board continued discussion on the proposed 2023 budget. The board will meet at 8:30AM October 24<sup>th</sup> to finalize the numbers.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan T. Wainio, Town Clerk