

**Minutes of the
December 5, 2022 Winchester Town Board Meeting**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on Monday December 5, 2022, at the Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom. Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Whitney, and Clerk Wainio were all in attendance. Treasurer Sell participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to approve the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Whitney and approved on a 3-0 vote.

Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7 board meeting and the budget meeting held November 14th with a spelling correction and explanation that only the Lakes Committee meetings would not be held during the Winter months. Supervisor Whitney seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0. Chairman Discianno made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as given. Supervisor Whitney seconded Mr. Discianno's motion and it was also approved 3-0.

CHAIRMAN & SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Chairman Discianno: Nothing has changed on the anticipated construction and delivery of the Peterbilt plow truck. Bill Sell is talking with Monroe Truck since Casper's is not providing any updates. Mr. Discianno will attend another meeting at NLES on 12/7 regarding school safety. There is no update on the possibility of new cell tower(s) construction in the area. Clerk Wainio will post a possible quorum notice regarding the Xcel Energy open house scheduled 12/7.

Supervisor Grimmer: *Library:* The Secret Santa Workshop held 12/3 was a success with 25 volunteers and 39 children participating. Participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System by part-time employees was questioned and will be researched.

Planning Commission: Building set-backs and turn arounds will be included in the road ordinance that is being composed. The sign ordinance is near completion.

Supervisor Whitney:

Fire Department: Supervisor Whitney reported the Ambulance is at Marston Ford in Minocqua awaiting repairs after an electrical fire. New helmets for the department were purchased from Pomasl. \$100,000 of the department's volunteer funds will be invested in 4 laddered CDs of \$25,000 each. Officer elections were held in November.

Transfer Site: The electronics bin has been removed for the Winter.

Bike Trails & Lions Club: Christmas Lights have been installed on trees along the bike trail along Hwy W at Papoose Lake Rd.

CORRESPONDENCE

RC Construction informed the Town of upcoming price changes to their services effective 1/1/23. Letters were received expressing concerns over cell tower placement and commending the board on the budget meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Presque Isle Chairman John MacLean recommended Winchester keep the dialogue open with Xcel Energy regarding the proposed upgrades to the power lines.

Chairman Discianno requested Dan Peterson begin his presentation before addressing Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1) *Rural Health Care:* Mr. Peterson noted he has been in contact with Sue Richmond, Director of the Vilas County Aging, Disability & Resource Center; representatives of the area Native American Tribes, and Gogebic County Michigan, to develop a strategic plan and host public forums on development of a Regional Health Network to address area needs such as senior services and nutrition, better primary care, increasing EMS/paramedic services and expansion of public transit. Mr. Peterson will provide the Town of Winchester with a letter to participate in this project and continue use of Vilas County representative Richard Logan as the Town's representative.

Mr. Discianno then returned to

OLD BUSINESS

1) *Road/Lane name changes:* None.

2) *Building Maintenance Repair Projects:* The replacement garage doors for the Transfer Site will be installed on Tuesday 12/8, the gas meter relocation at the Town Garage is on hold until Spring, the lights at the Town Garage are working properly. Ron Behnke is working on an estimate for the stairs and storage area above the garage office. Mr. Discianno will prepare a bid request for replacing the floor in the Park Pavilion.

3) *Broadband Update:* Mr. Grimmer reported the committee is still working with Brightspeed on possibilities to reach all residences in the town. A meeting to continue the conversation is scheduled for Thursday 12/8.

4) *Republic Waste Contract:* Mr. Whitney will contact Jim Whitinghill of Republic with requests for changes to the new contract received from Republic.

- 5) *Discovery Center Contract*: Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the 2023 contract with the Discovery Center. Totaling \$21,971.00. Mr. Discianno seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.
- 6) *Shipping Container Ordinance*: Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the Temporary Shipping Container Ordinance as presented by the Planning Commission. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 7) *Cooper Engineering Contract*: Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the contract with Cooper Engineering for an inspection of the Turtle River Dam in 2023 not to exceed \$3400.00. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion with was approved 3-0.
- 8) *Revised billing from Pitlik & Wick*: Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve payment of the revised billing from Pitlik & Wick for paving the area around the new garage in the amount of \$50,285.83. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion and it was approved on a 3-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS.

- 2) *Appointment of Emily Turner to the Library Board*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve Emily Turner's appointment to the Winchester Library Board. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.
- 3) *Approval of 2023 Fire Department Officers*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to table action until after the December 13th meeting of the Fire Department. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0.
- 4) *Maintenance Contracts with Quality Heating & Clean and B Well*: After reviewing the systems included in the service agreement with Quality Heating, Mr. Whitney will contact Quality to request the old Town Garage be added to the cleaning schedule. During the meeting Mr. Whitney clarified the services provided by Clean and B Well with proprietor Julie Brownwell. When Ms. Brownwell verified she had been cleaning areas of the Fire Department for no charge since 2019, Mr. Discianno, Mr. Grimmer and Mr. Whitney agreed an extra charge should added to her billing for this service.
- 5) *Planning Commission Applicants*: The only application received for the open alternate position on the Planning Commission was from Nicholas Newton. Mr. Grimmer made a motion to appoint Mr. Newton as an alternate to the Winchester Planning Commission which Mr. Whitney seconded. All 3 Board members voted in agreement on the motion.
- 6) *Direction to the Planning Commission to draft a Room Tax Ordinance*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to direct the Winchester Planning Commission to draft a Room Tax Ordinance for consideration by the Town Board. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion and it was approved on a 3-0 vote.
- 7) *Employee Review Date*: The Board will meet with Bill Sell at 8:00 AM December 12th and with Don Melzer at 4:00 PM December 12th.
- 8) *Date for January 2023 Town Board Meeting*: Due to the holidays, the Board will meet on Monday January 9, 2023 for their regular monthly meeting.
- 9) *Future Agenda Items*: Tables for Town Hall, participation in WRS for part-time employees, cell tower placement and Fire Department Officers.

Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve vouchers Check #30561 dated 11/1/22 through Quick Books Payroll service dated 11/30/22. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44M
Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk