

**Minutes of the
January 8, 2024 Winchester Town Board Meeting**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on Monday January 8, 2024 at the Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom. Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Newton, Treasurer Sell and Clerk Wainio were all in attendance.

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

Supervisor Grimmer made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2023 as corrected along with the minutes of the special meeting December 21, 2023. Mr. Newton seconded the motion which was approved 3-0.

Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as given. Mr. Newton seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN & SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

Chairman Discianno: Truck Equipment of Green Bay will start the build of the new Peterbilt plow truck next week. The public hearing on the proposed hazardous waste ordinance will take place at the Town Hall at 10:00 AM, Saturday February 10, 2024. Rural Insurance has a new agent located in Presque Isle. Mr. Discianno met with Chris Connolly and gardener Annie earlier in the day and discussed expanding the groundskeeping to include care of the gardens at the Library and Town Hall. If this expense exceeds the budget for 2024, other sources of funding may be available. Jon Hanson, Manitowish Water (MW) Chairman is meeting with Charter Communications January 9th and will inquire why Charter has not contact Winchester regarding internet service. Repairs to the John Deere brusher are still not complete. The Town is still waiting on proposals to repair a crack in the side of the Turtle River dam tunnel. The group "Engage Winchester" is planning to host a party at the Winchester Park May 26, 2024 and trying to create a Facebook page. Mr. Discianno will try to get a sample chair to replace the current chairs in the Town Hall for the February meeting. The Town's application for 2024 LRIP funding was approved for approximately \$27,300 and will be used for repairs to Old O

Supervisor Grimmer: Mr. Grimmer will contact Mr. Jelinski at the grade school to check on the status of suggestions for a new Winchester logo by the students.

Planning Commission: Mr. Grimmer forwarded the Community Forest paperwork to the DNR.

Library Board: The library is back on its regular schedule after disruptions due to illnesses.

Lions Club: Their snowman project benefiting Secret Santa was successful.

Supervisor Newton: Mr. Newton was unsuccessful in his attempt to contact Highline Corp regarding plaques. All other subjects are on the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Scholl Community Impact Group sent the Town a thank you note for the assistance in installing warning signs for the riding stables at the intersection of Harris Lake and Old W Road. A letter was received from Xcel Energy regarding rates for street lighting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Carole Hochhalter requested status of repairs to the driveway of the Winchester Cemetery. She was referred to Lee Stengele, President of the Winchester Cemetery Association, the owners, and managers of the property.

OLD BUSINESS

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

2) *Building Maintenance Repair Projects:* Mr. Discianno reported that everything has been caught up except for the repair to the roof in the new addition on the east side of the Fire Station.

3) *Information Technology Update:* Mr. Newton reached out to Town Web, Webs by Wagner, and Web Work Life to discuss the changes he would like to see for the Town website. Mr. Newton will work with the Town's IT advisor John Eppes regarding the use of Star Link vs. Brightspeed for the clerk in her election duties and remote access. In February Mr. Newton will report his findings on internet services at the library.

4) *WFD Grants:* Mr. Grimmer will work with EMT Benjamin Darien on potential grants. Mr. Discianno hopes to get a grant writer to work with Winchester, Presque Isle, Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters on applying for grants.

5) *MW Tourism Entity Agreement:* Although some minor changes may still be needed, Mr. Grimmer made a motion to authorize Mr. Discianno to sign the agreement as is. Mr. Newton seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.

6) *Pumper/Tanker Fire Truck*: The board is waiting for additional information from Kevin Pomasl regarding changes discussed at the December 27, 2023 meeting. Mr. Discianno also contacted other fire equipment companies for additional proposals.

NEW BUSINESS.

1) *Lighting Ordinance Complaint*: Mr. Grimmer made a motion asking Mr. Discianno to write a letter to the accused violator along with a copy of the ordinance via Registered mail. Mr. Newton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2) *Planning Commission Applications*: None were received. Clerk Wainio will update the posting on the website extending the application date to February 5th.

3) *Appointment of EMS Director to EMS District*: Mr. Discianno made a motion to appoint Steve Hertzberg to the position of EMS Director for Winchester on the Northwoods EMS District Board of Directors. Mr. Newton seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

4) *Broadband for the Town of Winchester*: There are no open Public Service Grants open at the this time. Brightspeed has presented a plan that would cover 90% of the township which would require a 1.3-million-dollar cost to the Town. The Broadband committee will continue to work with Brightspeed at this time.

5) *Funding for Broadband*: The Town will continue to research options.

6) *Future Agenda Items*: Website, LAN/WAN

Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve vouchers DD1850 through Liability Check EFT 1231 dated 12/3/23. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0

Mr. Discianno made a motion to go into closed session under SS19.85(1)(c) at 7:50 P.M. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grimmer and approved 3-0.

At 8:49 P.M. Mr. Discianno made a motion to reconvene to open session, which was seconded by Mr. Newton and approved 3-0.

During closed session employee vacations, HSA contributions, enrollment in the WRS, employee compensation, and parameters for future "in lieu of benefits" were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk