

**Minutes of the  
March 4, 2024 Winchester Town Board Meeting  
Pending Approval of the Town Board**

Chairman Discianno called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on Monday March 4, 2024 at the Winchester Town Hall and via Zoom. Chairman Discianno, Supervisor Grimmer, Supervisor Newton, Treasurer Sell and Clerk Wainio were all present.

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 February 5, 2024 regular monthly meeting along with minutes of the February 21, 2024 special meeting, seconded by Mr. Newton and approved 3-0. Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as given. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Prepped for the February Primary including sending out absentee ballots, conducted the February election, initiated WRS reporting, researched methods of electronic payment of HSA contributions, normal bill payment, and response to constituent requests.

**CHAIRMAN & SUPERVISORS REPORTS:**

**Chairman Discianno:** The repair shop is waiting for one last solenoid switch for repair of the brusher; the crew inspected the new plow truck and will pick the truck up this week; the crew has been working on equipment in the garage; road restrictions are in effect; there were ATV/UTV violators staying at the Bear Lodge several weeks in a row – several weeks in a row Mr. Discianno went in there and asked them kindly not to, Mr. Discianno contacted the management company VACASA and requested information be included in the Bear listing that Winchester is not ATV friendly; attended the Fire Department holiday party; the Transfer Site is accepting bulk items again and the Town purchased a rolling magnet for use in the Transfer Site parking lot; Bo Jenness agreed to service the Town's generators; the fundraiser for Fire Fighter and EMR Matt Schmidt held at the Manitowish Waters Fire Company was very successful.

**Supervisor Grimmer:** There was a meeting with Spectrum to see if Spectrum could pick up the houses on Circle Lily Road from their Manitowish Waters service since that area is not included in the Broadband proposal with Brightspeed; Mr. Grimmer registered for 2024 Board of Review training; the Cemetery Association will be doing repairs on the road in the cemetery.

**Supervisor Newton:** Will be covered under agenda items.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Numerous letters were received after the Public Hearing Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> on hazardous wakes, all but 2 were in favor of the action being proposed by the Town; the Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts is putting on a concert fundraiser March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Northland Pines High School in Eagle River; Mr. Grimmer received an email from Michelle Vipond regarding her fire number on Little Papoose Lake Road.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Mark Ghiloni requested the following statement from G and G Northwoods Venue LLC, 942 Campfire Drive, Sun Prairie WI 53590, Owners of The Bear Lodge be read aloud by Clerk Wainio and entered into the public record: "This is a statement to the Town Board of Winchester WI 54557. In the past year we have been subject to no less than three incidents at the Bear Lodge in the town of Winchester, some of which involved ATV/UTV issues and other non-named issues. Some of these situations involved police action. All of these issues/actions, we believe were the result of actions by a current member or members of the Winchester town board being involved and acting as a town representative(s). The result of these occurrences have resulted in bad experiences by customers staying at the Bear Lodge. We also believe these actions may, in the future affect other businesses in the area. This is only a notice to the town of Winchester that we are investigating these situations further in the form of possible legal action. Signed Mark Ghiloni 3/4/2024".

**NEW BUSINESS.**

1) *Presentation by Jamie Van:* Mr. Discianno introduced Jamie Van, Water Program Director at the Discovery Center. Ms. Van reported on the activities and progress made during 2023, presented the goals for 2024 and encouraged everyone to participate in training June 8<sup>th</sup> on Birch and Harris Lakes. Supervisor Grimmer noted that the Harris Lake event will take place at his home and refreshments will be served. Anyone is welcome to contact Jamie directly at the Discovery Center with questions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

2) *Building Maintenance Repair Projects:* Mr. Discianno is awaiting an estimate from Ron Behnke on an estimate to install the additional sheet metal on the East side of the Town Garage.

- 3) *Information Technology Update:* The new StarLink for the Town Hall was delivered. Mr. Newton requested if the installer needs to be insured which was verified. Mr. Grimmer expects to receive citizen funding for this project since it is not in the budget. After the wireless access point for the library is received, installed, and tested Mr. Newton will be discontinuing the Community Building internet service with Brightspeed. Mr. Newton is requesting information on the telephone service for the Community Building after the internet service is dropped.
- 4) *Turtle River Dam Repairs:* Routsala Construction provided Mr. Discianno with an estimate of \$16,500 with no excavation expected. This project should be covered under the County culvert program for 50% of the cost. Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve the \$16,500.00 bid from Routsala for repair to the crack in the south wall of the culvert along with other small repairs. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.
- 5) *Prizes for North Lakeland students Town Logo project:* Discussion only, no action taken.
- 6) *New conference table & chairs for Town Hall meeting room:* Mr. Discianno made a motion to purchase 40 chairs from Amazon for no more than \$2,000, seconded by Mr. Grimmer and approved unanimously. Mr. Newton will investigate setting up a tax-exempt purchasing account with Amazon to avoid paying sales taxes on the purchase.
- 7) *Lighting Ordinance Violation:* Having received correspondence from the accused owner indicating his willingness to discuss the situation, Mr. Discianno will make plans to meet with him.
- 8) *Recognition Program:* Parameters need to be set for the honorees. Laser Innovations estimated the cost for individual plaques at approximately \$40. Lenelle Scholl will provide Mr. Newton with a contact at Highline Corp. since Nicholas was unable to get in touch with anyone there.
- 9) *Wake Boat Ordinance:* Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the ordinance in their hands as prepared by the Planning Commission which was seconded by Mr. Newton and approved 3-0. Mr. Grimmer then made an additional motion to send the Wake Ordinance back to the Planning Commission to remove Section 6D exempted lakes. Mr. Newton seconded the motion to send the ordinance back to the Planning Commission which was approved on a 3-0 vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

- 2) *Driveway Permits:* Mr. Newton made a motion to approve the changes made by the Planning Commission to Ordinance #2023-5 Driveways including a \$100 permit fee. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0. Mr. Newton will forward the ordinance as amended along with the permit application.
- 3) *Connelly Caretaking contracts:* Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the 2024 contract with Connolly Caretaking for services as provided in 2023 for a total cost of \$15,520.00. Mr. Discianno seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0. Mr. Grimmer made a motion to approve the contract for the gardens at the Community Building for a cost of \$5,000.00 in 2024. Mr. Newton seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.
- 4) *Room Tax Ordinance Changes:* Mr. Newton made a motion to approve the Accommodations Tax Ordinance as revised by the Planning Commission, replacing Ordinance #2023-07 Accommodations Tax. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.
- 5) *Room Tax Ordinance Forms:* Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve the Town of Winchester Accommodation Tax Quarterly Return and Town of Winchester Application for Accommodation Tax Authorization. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.
- 6) *2012 Peterbilt Plow Truck:*
- 7) *Upcoming road projects & 2024 LRIP Program:* Discussion only, no action taken.
- 8) *Health Insurance Costs:* Tabled on a motion by Mr. Discianno seconded by Mr. Newton.
- 9) *New Members to the Lakes Committee:* Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve the following new members to the Lakes Committee: Birch Lake: Tim Douglas, Primary; Dave Burger, Alternate; Harris Lake: Jim Evans, Primary; Brian Schumacher, Alternate; Papoose Lake: Nate Petreman, Alternate; Rainbow Lake: Bill Schein, Alternate. Mr. Newton seconded, and it passed on a 3-0 vote.
- 10) *Future Agenda Items:* Quick Books Reports, Document retrieval, Fire Truck, out of budget projects.

Mr. Discianno made a motion to approve vouchers DD 1912 dated 2/1/24 through bank fees dated 2/29/24 in the amount of \$1,310.31. Mr. Grimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM  
Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Wainio, Town Clerk