

**Town Board Meeting**  
**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Manitowish Waters Town Hall**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Town Chair John Hanson and Board Supervisors Bob Becker and Mike Kramer.

**Visitors Present:** The meeting was attended by 30 visitors, including Robert Stowers, Gretchen Stowers, George Stowers, Bob Skrobot, Jennifer Thoma, Delp Schafer, Al Barry, Barb Ings, D. Zierer, Paul Sedivy, Beth Sedivy, Tom Hanchette, Bridget Hanchette, Lynn Schroeder, John Hilbert, Chuck Kreml, Dan Stella, Tara Stella, Kelly Johnson, Barry Johnson, Gayle Strand, Bob Fuller, Bill Draudt, Reene Draudt, Phil Kweton, Kelley DiLeonardi, Frank DiLeonardi, Judy Barry and two illegible signatures.

**Approval of Agenda** as posted on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Approved on motion from Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** of July 13th, 2021. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the minutes of July 13th, 2021. Motion carried.

**Agenda Items Requested to Speak On:** Lynn Schroeder requested to speak on the *Slow-No-Wake in Voss Bay on Spider Lake* agenda item. Lynn Schroeder and Dan Stella asked to comment on the *Proposed Use of Old Fire Hall for Rec Center* agenda item.

**Subjects from floor:** Chuck Kreml addressed the current placement of the buoys in the two large openings in the channel between Stone and Rest Lake. Kreml feels this is confusing to boaters, leading them to think that they can increase their speed in these openings. Supervisor Becker responded that the Water Safety Committee will be looking at this and trying to come up with a better solution for the future.

### **Old Business:**

**--Proposed Dog Park Survey Results:** Chair Hanson announced that this was a carry-over from the last Town Board meeting agenda and should not have been left on tonight's agenda. Hanson went on to note that some of the Dog Park supporters were in the crowd and asked for a progress update on the status of a comprehensive proposal that was requested at the last meeting. Bob Fuller responded that they were working on it and were not ready to present anything at this time. Kelly Johnson asked if she could add something to the minutes from the previous meeting. Johnson went on to say that *"the Town had administered a survey that received quite a few responses and it was kind of proposed that someone had answered the survey 50- 70 times, two people, and the Clerk had adjusted the results of the survey by removing some of the responses. So at the last meeting, I mentioned that I shared my survey link, or my mom's survey link, with family, friends and neighbors in Manitowish Waters. I also shared the links with the #dogsinmaniwaters Instagram users and a local newspaper posted to my link to their Social Media page and the link was reshared by five additional users."* Johnson stated that she felt it was inappropriate for the Clerk to remove the responses that she worked so hard to obtain and also inappropriate to accuse two people of taking the survey multiple times. Clerk Hilbert responded that no accusations were made however, she could not include multiple responses that all came from the same two email addresses because there was no way to verify who they came from and whether or not they were part of the target group that the survey was originally intended for. Hilbert added that including the multiple responses did little to affect the results she provided in the previous meeting minutes and she was standing by what she reported. Supervisor Kramer added that he saw no other way to interpret the survey results, given the circumstances. Supervisor Becker defended the actions of the Town, stating that when we sent out the survey, we intended it to survey the Town and not all of southern Vilas County. For the record, the original survey was sent out to 680 known residents, seasonal residents, repeat vacationers and tax payers, all with a vested interest in the Town of Manitowish Waters. Of that 680, only 128 recipients chose to respond, including all first responses from duplicate emails. Additionally, Ms. Johnson never sought approval from the Town to commandeer their survey and share her mother's and her own links with unknown recipients and the social media page of a local News Paper that is not exclusive to Manitowish Waters, but rather serves five other communities. Johnson asked what the population of Manitowish Waters is, to which Hilbert responded approximately 580. Johnson stated *"So, a hundred people answered they'd be interested, there was quite a bit of support"*, however, as Clerk Hilbert pointed out, there is no way to validate 41 out of the 100 responses. Johnson stated that the appropriate way to handle the situation would be to re-administer the survey. Hilbert responded that at this point in time, the survey has little to do with a decision from the Town Board and that the comprehensive proposal is what is really needed. Chair Hanson added that we are asking you to come back to us with a comprehensive plan and then at that time we can evaluate and if we think it would be appropriate to resurvey.

### **New Business:**

**--Repurchase of Cemetery Plots:** Clerk Hilbert shared that a gentleman had reached out to her regarding the two cemetery plots his parents had purchased in Pine Lawn Cemetery. His parents opted to be buried in Oklahoma and the plots were no longer needed. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to repurchase the two plots for the original amount that was paid. Motion carried.

**--Slow-No-Wake in Voss Bay on Spider Lake:** Chair Hanson explained that just prior to this meeting, a Public Hearing was held regarding making this bay slow-no-wake. Testimony was taken, both for and against making Voss Bay slow-no-wake. Hanson added that it was now a Town Board decision. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to deny the request to make Voss Bay slow-no-wake. Discussion ensued with Supervisor Becker acknowledging that there is good reason for making the back part of the bay slow-no-wake because it's a dead end, however, he is normally not in favor of doing anything beyond the 100 foot

buffer that everyone is afforded. Becker went on to note that there are a lot of small bays on our lakes and this could open the doors to additional requests for slow-no-wake. Becker also noted that once a buoy goes in, it would be very difficult to reverse the decision. Supervisor Kramer suggested that a *Dead End* or *No Outlet* sign would be a better way to deal with the situation. Supervisor Becker mentioned that he would like to look at this with the Water Safety Committee and see if they could come up with a better idea than adding a slow-no-wake buoy. Chair Hanson stated that rather than trying to do this piecemeal every time we receive a request, the whole chain should be examined in terms of potential slow-no-wake areas. Hanson added that any ideas would have to be run past the DNR prior to implementing. A vote was taken on the motion to deny the request: all "ayes". Motion carried. Chair Hanson explained that he voted against making this a slow-no-wake area because he feels it would be a better idea to take a comprehensive look at the entire chain.

**--Proposed Use of Old Fire Hall for Rec Center:** Dan Stella described how more and more families have moved to our area and there is less and less for our local youth to do, especially since the grade school is no longer offering open gym to this age group. Stella went on to say that this isn't a permanent solution, but for the time being, would afford area youth an indoor facility for sports and socialization. Chair Hanson stated that he went over today and did some measuring, noting that there would be room for one pickle ball court, a basketball hoop and a batting cage. A visitor mentioned involving the Boys and Girls Club to accomplish this goal, but unfortunately this organization does not exist here in Town. Chair Hanson suggested that he and Stella look at the space together and put together some numbers to present to the Town Board. Bob Stowers questioned how this would be managed and staffed or chaperoned, and also his concern if it were going to involve taxpayer dollars. Stella agreed to work with Chair Hanson to put together a presentation. No action taken.

**--Room Tax Committee Recommendations:** This item was tabled, pending the scheduling of a Room Tax Committee meeting.

**--Planning Commission Recommendation to Delete Section 5.8 Condominiums from the Town Zoning Ordinance:** Chair Hanson read aloud an amendment to the Manitowish Waters General Zoning Ordinance 2007-1 that would essentially strike Article 5.8 (Condominiums) in its entirety from the Ordinance. Vilas County shall become the sole authority to review, approve and regulate the creation and amendment of Condominiums and Condominium Plats in the Town of Manitowish Waters and shall become the authority to ensure compliance with statutory requirements. The Planning Commission, by a majority vote of the entire Commission at a meeting held on August 3, 2021, recommended to the Town Board the adoption of the proposed Amendment. The Town Board of Manitowish Waters hereby adopts the proposed Amendment to the Town of Manitowish Waters General zoning Ordinance 2007-1. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the full membership of the Town Board, submission to, and approval by, the Vilas County Board of Supervisors, and publication or posting as required by law. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to adopt the Ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

### **Standing Committee Review:**

**-- Vouchers:** Vouchers for July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were \$67,708.94 with \$26,000 attributed to Airport tree clearing, \$11,000 towards a room tax payment to the Chamber and \$12,700 to the Discovery Center for the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of the AIS program. August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 vouchers equaled \$115,015.39 including \$47,000.00 for a loan interest payment, and \$14,700.00 offset by donations. 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 and /Bank Balances were provided to the Board in hard copy.

**--Airport Report:** Bob Becker reported that 5 acres had been cleared for the development of new hangars. The Terminal building has been painted and re-landscaped. The generator needs to be checked to determine if it kicked in during a recent power outage. There will be a Hamburger Fly-in on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 that will be open to the public.

**--Road Report:** Reports were provided to Board Members in hard copy. Supervisor Kramer read aloud from the Roads Report prepared by Foreman, Tom Lentz. The mower was installed on the 6330 John Deer and mowing along the roads has started. The 924 K Loader blew a hydraulic hose. Stumps were pulled along Marathon Road to make ready for new blacktopping. Trees and limbs from the storm damage were cleaned up and low hanging branches along the roads are being limbed. Compost continues to be turned. All Town roads have been graded. The Parks truck is in need of new tires.

**--Transfer Station Report:** Iron County came to check out our Transfer Station and were very impressed.

**--Water Patrol Report:** Clerk Hilbert reported that in the month of July, the Water Patrol made contact with 1,859 boats, issued 183 verbal warnings, 27 written warnings, and 6 citations and put in 162 patrol hours.

**--Parks Report:** Chair Hanson reported that all of the parks are getting used a lot and all things are running smoothly. Having EAU take over maintenance and upkeep of Rest Lake Park and Koller Park has been a huge help.

**--Cemetery Report:** Supervisor Becker noted that a doghouse to be placed over the new pump is underway but a time frame is yet to be determined.

**--Broadband Committee Report:** Chair Hanson recently learned that Lumen (formerly CenturyLink) is selling all assets in 17 States to an investment group. Hanson will be trying to contact them to see if they will continue to work on the Manitowish Waters proposal.

**Correspondence:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dana Hilbert  
Clerk/Treasurer