

**Town Board Meeting**  
**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**Manitowish Waters Community Center**

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

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

**Approval of Agenda** as posted on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Approved on motion from Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to approve the minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Motion Carried.

**Visitors Present:** The meeting was attended by Dan Meier, Paul Puccinelli, Delp Schafer, Jo Ann Klug, Jo Ann Miller, Kevin Griffith, Greg Holt, Karen Dixon, Kim Kost, Dave Rause, Mike McKeon, Pat Pohl, Rick Wilson, Jim Bertagnoli, Joe Mazur, and John Hilbert.

**Subjects from floor:** John Hanson noted that a request was received to use the parking lot at Rest Lake Park for overflow snowmobile, trailer and vehicle parking. The Town does not restrict public parking at any of our parks so this should not be an issue. The lot will be plowed by a private individual.

**Agenda Items Requested to Speak On:** Kevin Griffith, Jo Ann Klug, Jo Ann Miller, Karen Dixon, Greg Holt and Kim Kost requested to speak on the *MW Chain Water Lowering Schedule* agenda item. Greg Holt and Kim Kost asked to comment on the *Bike Trail Report* and *Parks Report* Standing Committee Review items.

**Old Business:**

--None

**New Business:**

--**Upgrade Town Hall Speaker System:** Chair Hanson shared a proposal from Great Escapes Technology to redo the Audio System at the Town Hall for a fee of \$2,679.83. Following minimal discussion, a motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to accept and move forward with the proposal. Motion carried.

--**Purchase of New Pickup Truck:** Chair Hanson noted that the current 2004 Flatbed Dump Truck was in need of replacing. A quote was obtained from Dave Marston Motors for \$64,738 for a Ford replacement. With the sale of the old truck at an estimated \$20,000, there should be enough funds left in the paving budget to cover this. Including this purchase, Roads equipment would be in good shape for the next 10 years. Supervisor Kramer shared that he had received phone calls regarding the necessity of replacing this truck and inquired about the mileage and approximate maintenance costs on the old truck. Hanson did not have those exact numbers but guessed 55,000 to 60,000 miles. Hanson also noted that he would be receiving a quote from Casper Truck on a Ram replacement. Supervisor Becker thought it would be better to get a second quote from Eagle River Ford to eliminate trying to compare two different brands. Hanson agreed to obtain another quote. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to table this agenda item until the next meeting. Motion carried.

--**LRIP Roads Meeting Summary:** Supervisor Kramer shared that he attended a LRIP, (Local Roads Improvement Project), Meeting in Eagle River. Funding for this program becomes available in Vilas County every two years, with only half of the Towns drawing funds per year. Therefore, funding becomes available to each Town every four years. Manitowish Waters received their funding during the last draw, and have up to six years to use their unspent funds on roads projects. No action needed.

--**MW Chain Water Lowering Schedule:** Citizens of Manitowish Waters are disconcerted over how fast the water level has dropped this fall. A great deal of discussion ensued, and it was determined that according to the MOU, (Memorandum of Understanding), water lowering should not have commenced until October 1<sup>st</sup>, however this year it began on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chair Hanson reached out to Robert Olson from Xcel Energy and asked why the drop started before Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Hanson read aloud the following response from Robert Olson:

*Hi John,*

*I received the operational records for the last 10 days or so to see what we have done for reservoir levels and discharge. I have summarized the info in the attached spreadsheet. I just talked with Bill Dietz as well.*

*We have 42" of water that we must take from the chain by November 1 based on the new order. We must up ramp the flows by no more than 75 cfs at the onset of the drawdown, which takes some additional days to get the chain to come down initially. Based on 31 days in October, we must draw approximately 1.4" per day to reach our target (42"/31 days). This does not include precipitation, or increases from cranberry operations that occurs every year. We cannot exceed 2" per day based on the operating order.*

*Like last year, we started to un-ramp our discharge in late-September so that we would have some additional time to hit our target 5'0" by November 1. We even did this under the old order at the end of Colorama weekend. If the moving of Colorama weekend into the first weekend in October is the cause for concern, I would recommend moving it back to the last weekend in September, which should assure higher water levels than the first weekend in October.*

*Bill indicated that he has had some comments on the lower water levels. Under the new operating order, these are the limitations that we are living with. I supported the 5'0" by November 15, which gave us some additional time to get the water down and to allow for stabilization of the reservoir and river downstream over a longer period. The November 15 date was considered too late for turtles and frogs that are hibernating at that time.*

Although the Manitowish Waters Chain Defense organization was granted the opportunity for input, ultimately authority over the Rest Lake Dam lies with the DNR and the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company, (CFIC – a unit of Xcel Energy). At the end of the day, the price tag for keeping our higher water levels during the summer months and winter draw down level of 5'0" is an earlier conclusion to the fall draw down. The MOU, signed in April of 2016, will be in effect for 4 years.

. **–Address Sign Fee:** Clerk Hilbert brought to attention the current rate of \$20.00 for an address sign application, which falls considerable short of the actual cost to the Town of \$39.90 per sign. In essence, tax payers are paying for half of all new address signs. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to increase the address sign application fee to \$40.00. Motion carried.

### **Standing Committee Review:**

**--Vouchers:** Vouchers for September 26<sup>th</sup> = \$37,880.51, of which includes \$12,833.33 constituted the AIS payment to the North Lakeland Discovery Center. Vouchers for October 10<sup>th</sup> = \$55,235.36, including a \$10,000.00 invoice that the DNR will be reimbursing and approximately \$7,500.00 in donations. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

**--P & L/Bank Balances:** P&L's were provided to the Board in writing.

**--Airport Report:** Reports were provided to the Board in writing. Supervisor Becker commented that it had been a quiet month until the airport runway was struck by lightning causing considerable damage. With insurance, the Town will still be responsible for the \$2,500.00 deductible. This has not affected overall operations; however FAA inspection of the PAPI's, (Precision Approach Path Indicators), will be delayed.

**--Road Report:** Provided to the Board in written form. Supervisor Kramer reported that approximately 300 highway signs will have to be replaced in effort to meet federal compliance. This will be accomplished over the next 3 years, replacing approximately 100 signs per year. Equipment was covered under previous agenda items. Crack sealing quotes have been acquired and submitted. The Water Patrol boat has been removed and stored for the season. Town Hall parking lot lights have been replaced. New Transfer Station employee, Dave Krembs started his first full day on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**--Bike Trail Report:** A "Bike Trail Crossing" sign is needed coming out of Eight O' Clock Blvd.

**--Parks Report:** Erosion control work at Rest Lake Park is awaiting final go ahead from Quita Sheehan. A shelter at Little Star Beach was brought up at a previous Parks and Trails Committee meeting. For a 12 X 16 cement slab with a roof, the cost would be about \$3,600.00. Steve Peterson from the DNR had no problem with it, (Little Star Beach is on State owned land), however, Steve is no longer our contact for the park and no one has checked with the new contact. Hanson mentioned his intent to approach the DNR for grant money to fund a portion of the project and that something needs to be done with the pit toilets at Little Star Beach because they have failed and are leaking. Hanson will be working on this over the winter.

**--Transfer Station:** Already covered under previous agenda items.

**Correspondence:** Chair Hanson reported that the Applied Ecological Services is working on a Management Plan to solve the Dead Pike Lake problem. A Master Plan will be presented at the DNR's March 2018 meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dana Hilbert  
Clerk/Treasurer