



Town Board Meeting
June 14th, 2022
Manitowish Waters Town Hall

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

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

Visitors Present: Jamie Vandenlangenberg.

Approval of Agenda & Addendum as posted on June 10th, 2022. Approved on motion from Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of May 10th, May 11th, May 13th, and May 17th, 2022. A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the minutes of May 10th, May 11th, May 13th, and May 17th, 2022. Motion carried.

Subjects from floor: Jamie Vandenlangenberg shared that the Discovery Center has been busy surveying the Chain for curly leaf pondweed. They surveyed Rest, Fawn & Stone Lakes thus far and are hoping to get over to Island Lake this week if the weather permits. They have hired Antara, a consulting firm, to work with for this surveying. Antara conducted a more in depth survey on the same lakes since there has been known curly leaf pondweed in the past so it is means of double checking. APM (Aquatic Plant Management) out of Minocqua was ready with the permit for dash harvesting of the curly leaf, but since there was minimal curly leaf found between Antara and Discovery Center, they will be snorkeling and hand-pulling instead. Rest Lake was not originally part of the scope when this grant opened in 2015 because funds were expected to be spent on Fawn Lake so some of that funding will be utilized pulling curly leaf from Rest Lake before the grant expires this year. Jamie went on to share that there are three new grants for this year which will be applied to Point Intercept surveying method, surveying both native and invasive aquatic plants. This is recommended to be updated every 8-10 years to stay eligible for grants. The Discovery Center encourages residents to participate in volunteer surveying, which the Discovery Center will train for. Any residents that might be interested can contact the North Lakeland Discovery Center.

Old Business: None

New Business:

--Slate of Liquor/Tobacco Licenses for Board Approval: Clerk Hilbert read aloud the following list of published liquor/tobacco licenses for Board approval:

Class A Liquor

Maria & Bob Winter/Cranberry Square

Class A Combination

Dietz's Service, Inc./Dietz's Service Station
T.A. Solberg Co., Inc./Trig's Village Market

Class B Combination

Springer Creek Partners, LLC/Aberdeen Lodge
Paul Habram LLC/Angler's
Theisen's Aurora Borealis/Aurora Borealis
The Blue Bayou Inn Restaurant/Blue Bayou Inn Restaurant
Caretakers LLC/Chippewa Retreat
Florian's World Loppet Lodge, Inc/Cozy Cove
Greer's Pier, Inc./Greer's Pier Marina
Howling Dog Saloon, Inc./Howling Dog Saloon
Little Bohemia Lodge, Inc./Little Bohemia Lodge
MW Parkside Ops, LLC/Manny's Parkside
Pea Patch Motel & Saloon, Ltd./Pea Patch Motel & Saloon

Class B Combination (continued)

Tammy's Tiki Tavern, LLC/Tammy 's Tiki Tavern
Pea Patch Motel & Saloon, Ltd./Pea Patch Motel & Saloon
Audrey Voss Dickerson Trust/Voss' Birchwood Lodge
Ye Olde Shillelagh, LLC/Ye Olde Shillelagh

Class B Beer/Class C Wine

The Coffee Shop at Manitowish Waters
The Lodge at Manitowish Waters

Tobacco License

Dietz's Service, Inc./Dietz's Service Station
Greer's Pier, Inc./Greer's Pier Marina
Howling Dog Saloon, Inc./Howling Dog Saloon
Little Bohemia Lodge, Inc./Little Bohemia Lodge
Pea Patch Motel & Saloon, Ltd./Pea Patch Motel & Saloon
T.A. Solberg Co., Inc/Trig's Village Market
Ye Olde Shillelagh, LLC/Ye Olde Shillelagh

A motion was made by Bob Becker and seconded by Mike Kramer to approve the entire slate of liquor/tobacco licenses. Motion carried.

--**Blanket of Approval for Clerk/Deputy Clerk to Issue Picnic/Operator Licenses:** A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by John Hanson, granting the Clerk/Deputy Clerk blanket approval to issue Picnic and Operator licenses. Motion carried. These licenses will be periodically presented to the Board for approval at monthly meetings.

--**Repurchase 6 Graves in Section #13:** Clerk/Treasurer, Dana Hilbert stated that Roemer Trust had contacted her regarding 6 unused graves that they wished to sell back to the Town. A motion was made by Mike Kramer and seconded by Bob Becker to repurchase the 6 graves for the original purchase price of \$600.00 (\$100/grave). Motion carried.

--**Archiving Town Records:** John Hanson explained that the library has a scanning device that can be used to scan the earliest existing Town record books we have which date back to when Manitowish Waters was known as the Town of Spider Lake (1928-1940). The print in these record books is too light for the scanner to read. The MW Historical discovered an app that allows you to take a picture of a document with a cell phone and then upload it. John Hanson made the recommendation that either a MWHS intern or an individual employed by the Town, work on this project to convert valuable old record books into an electronic format. Hanson will gather more information on what the estimated cost will be and present at a future meeting for Board approval.

Standing Committee Review:

-- **Vouchers:** Vouchers for May 24th, 2022 were \$36,481.66 which included a \$14,913.00 payment to the Chamber for 1st quarter Room Tax. Vouchers for June 14th, 2022 equaled \$56,534.09 of which \$4,600.00 will be 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 were provided to the Board in hardcopy.

--**Airport Report:** An Airport report was provided to the Board in hardcopy. Chair Hanson shared that operations are going well. Snow removal equipment has been stored and grass mowing has started. Hanson stated we will likely need to order fuel soon and prices are frightful. Supervisor Becker added that it's not going to get cheaper any time soon and suggested ordering as much as we can now. Hanson had obtained quotes for both a full and half tank fill. A full tank came out to about \$0.20 cents cheaper per gallon. Hanson gave an update regarding the Airport's hangar expansion project stating that the BOA along with Karl Kemper from Becher-Hoppe Associates, are still trying to convince Jon Simonsen, from WI DNR's storm water site permitting department, that what he is requiring for the storm water system is ridiculous and unnecessary. To date, Jon Simonsen won't budge. Hanson reached out to DNR Secretary, James Yach, outlining the Airport's position on this matter, along with other correspondence supporting the Airport's position. If nothing gets resolved, Chair Hanson stated he is prepared to send a letter to WI State Senator, Felzkowski, Representative, Swearingen and the Natural Resources Board. In closing, Chair Hanson mentioned that the Chamber After 5 at the Airport on June 8th was a good turnout.

--**Road Report:** Mike Kramer read aloud from the Road Report prepared by Road's Foreman, Tom Lentz. The crew cleaned up the cemetery, star beach and playground area. Restrooms at the playground and Koller Park have been opened for the season. Road limit signs were taken down on May 6th. Docks were put in Rest Lake and Koller parks. Buoys have been installed on the chain and the patrol boat was put in for the season. They have been working on chipping debris along the roads and cleaning up trees from storm damage. They have also been grading and patching the roads.

Chair Hanson shared that the Town received only one bid from Pitlik & Wick for the 2022 road work, which is who we typically contract with. Hanson opened the bid and read aloud the proposed costs for both Eight O'Clock Blvd. and Spider Lake Rd. Eight O'Clock Blvd. for a total bid of \$246,175.95, adding that this is more than we have budgeted. Supervisor Becker recommended that the Town should proceed because costs will be even higher next year. A Special Town Board meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 17th, 2022 at 10:00am to approve Roads Paving Bid from Pitlik & Wick.

--**Parks:** Chair Hanson noted that the park bathroom facilities have been opened up. Music in the Park has started for the summer at Koller Park. Manny's Parkside is finishing up their landscaping and as soon as that is completed, they will complete the repairs necessary at Koller Park. Hanson sent a request to the DNR, asking if the Town could enter into a longer-term agreement for Star Lake Beach Park. He has yet to hear back. Mike Kramer asked if anyone had looked into the concern that was brought to the last Board meeting regarding having a taller backstop to protect vehicles in the parking lot behind the ball field. As previously mentioned at the last Board meeting, we will start with the posting of "Park At Your Own Risk" signs facing the parking lot behind the backstop.

--**Transfer Station Report:** Mike Kramer stated that Amnesty Week went well. Chair Hanson questioned the current status on the brush pile, following storm damage clean-up. Mike Kramer responded that Tom Lentz will be moving the pile of chips towards the back so there should be plenty of brush pile space. Hanson stated that Laura Hayes, WI DNR Wildfire Prevention Specialist, informed him of possible grant money that could be used to purchase a chipper if three or four townships went in on one together. Hanson will be following up with Hayes on that. Supervisor Kramer made the comment that looking into purchasing a curtain burner wouldn't be a bad idea because then we wouldn't have to worry about hauling out the chips. Hanson stated he would explore this option as well.

--**Water Patrol Report:** Clerk/Treasurer Hilbert shared that MW Water Patrol made 161 contacts, 11 verbal warnings and 7 written warnings for the month of May. Supervisor Becker brought up the topic of possibly removing the intermediate buoys to avoid confusion of no wake zones as previously discussed at last month's board meeting. Dana Hilbert shared that our Water Patrol

Administrator/Officer Perry found out that the intermediate buoys were DNR permitted and the Town will need to go through the process of having them unpermitted at the recommendation of Officer Perry. Hilbert added that she searched for records of the Town applying for these permits and found no paper trail, so the intermediate buoys were sanctioned by the DNR without the Town's involvement. Bob Becker pointed out that the green and red navigational buoys going thru Stone Lake are on the wrong sides. Based on upstream flow, the red buoy should be on the right side and the green should be on the left. He added that this makes a difference to someone boating at night that knows how to follow navigational buoys and should be corrected. Becker also brought up ordering lights for the navigational buoys as previously discussed at the last Town Board meeting. Residents have also brought to his attention, that a light should be placed on the buoy between Island and Spider Lakes where the rocks are located because boaters can't see that buoy at night. Becker will take an accurate count of what's needed before ordering.

Cemetery Report: Chair Hanson commented that the Memorial Day Service went well this year. Bob Becker stated there was not much to report other than he will be coordinating time to get together with Scott Clendening or other help to complete the doghouse covering for the water pump.

Correspondence: Chair Hanson read aloud the resignation letter from RC Inspection Agency, LLC, dated June 15th, 2022:

Dear Manitowish Waters Town Board,

Our agency would like to thank the Town Board for allowing our agency to be part of service to the Town Board and community as your Building Inspector since January 1, 2005. At this time, we will be exercising our option to cancel and resign as your Building Inspector for the township of Manitowish Waters. This will take effect 60 days from notification or sooner if the board finds a replacing agency. Thank you and best to the Town Board.

Thank you,
Richard Clem

Chair Hanson stated we will be placing an ad in the newspaper to find a replacement Building Inspector.

John Hanson then read aloud the Resolution of North Lakeland Discovery Center Board regarding ATV Trail that was received via mail:

Resolved, that the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC) Board of Directors opposes the creation of an ATV/UTV trail in the environs of West Circle Lily Road and Tower Road. Our reasons include:

- The ATV trail would cross the Discovery Center hike, bike and ski trails in two places, creating a safety hazard, environmental and noise issue.
- The trail will parallel Discovery Center trails in close proximity for more than half a mile, and would come within 300 yards of NLDC's lake and nature center.
- NLDC's environs include many diverse habitats that are a sanctuary for wildlife. The noise of ASTVs/UTVs will adversely impact NLDC's programs connecting people to the natural world by disrupting birds' and other animals' natural behavior and reducing participants' ability to observe that behavior.
- NLDC's appeal to both its members and the public at large has much to do with the fact that it is a place for quiet, non-motorized recreation. ATV/UTV enthusiasts have plenty of trails in nearby Iron County on which to ride.
- Because of the proximity to NLDC trails in many places, the temptation for ATV/UTVs to stray onto Discovery Center trails would be considerable.
- The trail would cross the particularly environmentally sensitive area of a leatherleaf bog with standing water, requiring a bridge that diminishes the natural appearance and functioning of that bog.

NLDC's Board urges both Town Boards and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to oppose the proposed ATV/UTV trail.

Agreed by the NLDC Board this first day of June 2022.

Jamie Vandenlangenberg questioned where this letter gets forwarded to. Chair Hanson responded it will be forwarded to Vilas County and the Ad Hoc Committee. Chair Hanson and Supervisor Becker are part of the Ad Hoc Committee, which is focused on expanding trail systems using County Highways K and W. In line with two thirds of local constituents, Hanson, Becker and Kramer are opposed to this expansion. A referendum on the November 2020 ballot and a survey sent out to the entire tax roll by private citizens yielded a 2 to 1 opposition to ATV/UTV's being allowed in Manitowish Waters.

Motion to Convene to Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, investment of public funds, or conducting other specific public business when competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Roll Call: Mike Kramer, "Aye"; Bob Becker, "Aye"; John Hanson, "Aye".

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned from closed session at 7:53 p.m. No action was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessie Knipp
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer