

Annual Meeting of the Electors  
 Tuesday, April 20, 2021  
 Townsend Town Hall  
 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Carla Van Camp called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Present were Chairperson Carla VanCamp, Supervisor Linda Adamczyk, Supervisor Claude Bowman, Clerk Linda Ziegler and 26 citizens.

Verification of proper notice: Ziegler posted the notice April 5, 2021 at the Townsend Town Hall, Townsend Post Office, Laona State Bank, Townsend location, the Lakes/Country Beacon, The Oconto County Reporter and [www.townsendwisconsin.org](http://www.townsendwisconsin.org).

Motion made by Tom Derrickson to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Wagner – M/A

1. VanCamp gave a review of the 2020 annual report. The town received \$140,000 from FEMA for the 2019 storm, and paid off the expenses incurred. We were also able to pay off the 2019 truck and purchase and pay for a 2020 truck, along with a county storm grant. The road projects were, Fernwood/Lonesome Ln, Nicolet Rd, Valley View and Forest Hill. New culverts were installed on Burnt Dam, Forest Hill and Archibald Lake Rd. \$10,000 of crack filling was done. The Fire Department/garage bathroom was remodeled and we had Northeast Asphalt crush about 8 years' worth of gravel for the town at a great price. A broom attachment was purchased through budgeted money.

With the help of Joe Heyrman, the town was able to purchase two kayaks and Joe built a kayak rack at Brookside park. VanCamp stressed that a recent post card from CWPP does not limit the brush site days. Brush will be accepted the days the recycle center is open.

2. NOCCO – Officer Jess Kiplinger stated that since he started this position in January 2021, 60% of his time is recreational enforcement. Since the funding for this position is from the DNR, he has had to get creative with his schedule. The snowmobile season was only 19 days, so he flexed his schedule to the weekends to optimize the snowmobile times. January and February, he was primarily on the lakes and had many educational contacts. Working with the 7-Towns, he has to split his time seven ways and stated that we should call the sheriffs department with any issues, since they can also take care of recreational incidences.

3. Ambulance – N/A

4. Fire Department – (report on file) Chief Dawn Herlache said there are currently 25 members on the volunteer department and any and all help whether fire fighting or support is encouraged. The F.D. will be hosting the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and a calendar raffle for 2022. They are currently working on specs for a new engine to replace 2 old trucks.

5. Townsend Festival – Claude Bowman stated that the 4h of July parade and craft show will be held this year, as well as concessions at the fireworks. They are hoping to have a little League, however, this is not been confirmed.

6. Comprehensive Planning Commission – (report on file) The Planning and Zoning board will be having an open house on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 to review the proposed updates and changes to the 20-year plan.

7. Archibald Lake Report – (report on file) Archibald Lake Association will be installing 2000 feet of floating vertical curtain barrier and applying 2/4D herbicide to help control the Eurasian Milfoil invasive weed. This will take place May 10 thru May 14.
8. Mary Lake – Phyllis Sachs, secretary of the Association, stated that they are working on a lake management plan with the DNR and OCWALA which should be complete in 2-3 years. They have invasive phragmites which are treated by the DNR and cut by the association. Phyllis addressed the rumor that the Mary Lake Boat landing would be closed to the public. She said this is not true and the association is working with the DNR to determine how to keep their water and fish population healthy.
9. Townsend Flowage Association – N/A
10. Inland Lakes P&R District #1 – (report on file) President Jim O’Neil reported that they utilized the Sonar Herbicide (EMF treatment) in 2020. 4 treatment applications on Reservoir Pond and Little Horn at the cost of \$97,000.00. There will be spot treatment in 2021 and it is expected this will decrease the week harvesting loads. The District has 7 commissioners on the board and they are implementing ways to educate new part-timers with landscaping and shoreline information.
11. Pickerel Chain Lake- (report on file) President Jim Lamers stated that the Aeration systems that have been in place for 7 years have eliminated the winter fish kill. They will be continuing their annual fund-raising picnic on July 24<sup>th</sup> at Oughton Park. This money helps they operate the aeration systems and maintain and improve the quality of the lakes. During a fish study last year, the DNR found a large population of bullhead which will be netted and removed. Because of the increase in fishing pressure, the association will implement the “clean boats, clean waters” program at the boat landings. The Annual meeting will be May 29, 2021 at the Townsend Town Hall.
12. Red Arrow Snowmobile ATV Club – (report on file) President Gary Wagner thanked everyone for their cards and prayers through his transplant surgeries and continued recovery (yeah, Gary!!). In 2020, Covid canceled a few of the fund-raising events, however, the Corn Roast was one of their best ever. The Perch Lake trail has been closed for 2 years as they deal with the DNR. The bridge over Knowles Creek is at a stalemate during discussions with the Forest Service. A comprehensive plan is being put together to join the east Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to the West side. Gary stated that all of their equipment is paid for. ATV trails will open Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their annual meeting is April 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Townsend Town Hall.
13. Town Advisory – Carla VanCamp and Linda Adamczyk stated that this is a small group of town citizens that promote town events. They had the Christmas season tree lighting and worked on the ice rink, thanks to the Marsh’s and Steve Harkema. They have a 3/5/10 year plan for the town and all are welcome to join.
14. Lakes Country Library – Treasurer Kathleen Marsh stated that it was a 5-year challenge, but the Library is finally its own entity, serving Townsend, Doty, Lakewood and Riverview. This change will save the tax payers over \$1M in the next 40 years. This Library has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest circulation in Oconto County. In 2020, they distributed 23,500 books, ect all while conforming to Covid regulations. The Library is open with regular hours now. Kathleen stated that they are looking at the opportunities for fringe benefits for their employees to retain and attract quality help.
15. – Northwoods Community Health Fund – Mike VandeWalle stated that his fund, established in March 2020, was the brainstorm of Peggy Christensen. It started by making masks for the community. 132 volunteers cut, sewed, distributed, donated over 8761 masks. Through donations, the fund has raised \$22,000 and made over 68 disbursements. With the help of businesses and donations, the fund delivered 1129 meals in 8 weeks. The Fund has constructed two wheel chair ramps and 2 more to be made. Donations to the Community Health Fund

can be made to the Laona State Bank. A new FB page was created by a member called "Give freely-Carter, Doty, Lakewood, Mountain, Suring, Townsend, Wabeno".

**Additional Business:**

Kathleen Marsh stated that the Board salaries have not been increased since 2010 and she made the motion to create a compensation committee, not comprised of elected officials, to study and make recommendations to the board to increase salary compensations for elected and hired employees, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Wagner. Marsh said the situation in Lakewood, with no one running for office, has left them with volunteers that can quite at any time. The health and well being of the town depend on quality and dedicated people. Tom Derrickson asked about health insurance for the town employees. Van Camp stated that she ran for her position because she loves the town. The town employees are compensated well enough to have insurance in today's market and there no issues from them. Marsh said her motion is to make sure town employees are actually being compensate enough for the work being done. Adamczyk stated that Townsend elected officials are at the top of the county pay scale.

Marsh withdrew her motion.

Tom Derrickson asked why the Fire Department has to have fund raisers to purchase trucks. VanCamp stated that a new fire truck would require a special meeting and then a referendum.

Kathleen Marsh asked if the town was growing. The valuation is up but the population is stagnated. She wants to make sure the town looks at the big picture, if progressive, and uses the tax money to grow and invest into Townsend.

Tom Derrickson asked if the town will be getting stimulus money and what it can be used for. Van amp stated that the amount has not been determined and may not be able to use for the new town hall. Money has been spent on the initial architectural plans. The Advisory committee will hopefully be having a special meeting this fall to put to referendum in the spring 2022.

Mike VandeWalle asked about the signage that is popping up on the right of ways. He said there is a town ordinance that prohibits this. The Town will check on this.

The 2022 Annual meeting will be Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00pm

**Announcements:**

It's Fire Prevention week

Thank you to Nicole Bowman for stepping into the Recycling position until Tom Kroll gets back on his feet.

Thank you to Supervisor Claude Bowman for his service during his term.

New Supervisor Joe Heyrman was introduced. Joe said he was looking forward to helping Townsend continue to be progressive.

Larry Market made the motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Derrickson at 7:58pm – M/A

***Submitted April 23, 2021  
Linda Ziegler, Clerk***