

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Townsend Town Hall
6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Monica Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Roll call: Chairperson Monica Zeller, Supervisor Chuck DeMoulin, Supervisor Willie Evans, Treasurer Beth Hartman, Clerk Linda Ziegler. 37 citizens

Verification of proper agenda notice: Ziegler posted the agenda on September 29, 2023 at Townsend Post Office, Townsend Town Hall, Laona State Bank, Townsend Branch, and www.townsendwisconsin.org. Agenda amended and reposted October 6, 2023

Evans made the motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by DeMoulin – M/A

Motion made by DeMoulin to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2023 minutes, 2nd by Evans – M/A

Treasures report – Hartman gave a P&L budget performance report. She has condensed the monthly report, but detail can be found in the office. Hartman reminded all that tax payments are made to the town in December and January. After that, all tax payments need to go to Oconto County. There is an on-line credit card payment option called Point N Pay. Motion by Evans to approve the report and pay all the bills, 2nd by DeMoulin– M/A

Ambulance Report – Report on file

Fire Department report – Report on file. Congratulations to Chief Herlache for being awarded the 1st Responder of the Year for the 35th District. The board will be joining Herlache at the ceremony in Madison on Tuesday, October 17. Herlache stated that she has received grants for Wildfire and dry hydrants. The hydrants will be placed at Surprise Lake boat landing and Reservoir Pond at the end of Bass Point Ln. Townsend continues to collaborate with the other fire departments in the area.

Townsend Events Committee – Linda Adamczyk said the Chili Cook-off on September 30 was a great success. Eleven chilies were entered and 107 people voted. Oliver Moitke took the “golden ladle”. Other prize winners were Joe Heyrman and Dave Elliot. The event made \$815.00 which was donated to the Christian Food Pantry. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 17 @ 6pm.

Lakes Country Library – report on file. Jim Adamczyk said the Librarian, Katie Esserman, received her Public Librarian Certification grade 1 and is the only librarian with this certification in Oconto County. Next meeting is October 24 @ 8am

Nocco – report on file

Planning & Zoning: Monica explained that the Planning & Zoning Committee will be collaborating with the town board on town hall options. Ken Schwebke took on the task of relooking at a new or renovated town hall. Schwebke presented the new hall plan from 2022, emphasizing the office, meeting area and file room. He then showed a proposal for a 30x50 sq. ft. addition to the south side of the current hall, adding offices, meeting and vestibule. The furnace would move to the front with existing duct work. There will be no additional bathrooms, so no new water supply and the existing septic is sufficient. The restrooms would be renovated and a fire proof file storage area would be built between them. The existing office would become storage for tables/chairs and the kitchen would be renovated. This plan would be 5880 sq. ft. The new hall plan is 5685 sq. ft. The entrance area would be beams and the siding would be partial brick or stone. The roof would be replaced. Inside, the floor, ceiling and lighting will be upgraded. The building was inspected a few months ago and is structurally safe. Ken estimates the cost around \$800,000.00 for the addition and renovations. Parking would be added on the east side of the building. The septic system is fine. All options will be available to the citizens and the electors will have final say when the board is ready.

Permits/Licenses – Evans made the motion to approve two operators license, 2nd by DeMoulin – M/A

Public Comment:

Dawn Herlache mentioned hearing about innovation funds from Andy Stemp/Doty.

Gary Wagner, on behalf of Red Arrow, asked the board about the welcome sign on the south side of town.

Bob Hagan said he has been writing to our State Representatives since 1999 regarding the winter speed limit on Hwy 32. (45mph in winter, 35mph in summer). He considers the excess speed limit a hazard to the town. Zeller explained that the DOT can do a speed study, but once they determine the speed limit, it will stay at that limit throughout the year. The town has no control on the speed limit on a state highway and does not want to take the chance that these moderations would be removed. She will have this topic on the April electors meeting agenda.

Business:

- 1) Northern Archers – Don Solberg, president of the club, said the range is open! There are elevated stands, 20 target positions and a practice target. The pile of logs will be taken to the pulp mill soon. Applications for membership are available at Pintsch's. Dues are \$15.00/person or \$20.00/family.
- 2) Humane Officer reappointment – DeMoulin made the motion to reappoint Ryan Geise as the Humane Office for 2024-2025, 2nd by Evans – M/A
- 3) Ordinance 04-2023 – Short Term Rentals – The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that the quality and nature of the short-term rentals operating within the Town of townsend are adequate for protecting public health, safety, and

general welfare and to protect the character and stability of neighborhood within the town. Evans made the motion to approve Ordinance 04-2023, Short Term Rentals, 2nd by DeMoulin – M/A

- 4) Ordinance 05-2023 – Room Tax Ordinance – Whereas, Section 66.0605 of Wisconsin Statutes provides for the imposition of a Room Tax and it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Townsend to implement a Room Tax for tourism promotion and development in the Town of Townsend. Evans made the motion to approve Ordinance 05-2023, Room Tax, 2nd by DeMoulin – M/A
- 5) Planning & Zoning Committee Authorization – In order for the committee to get costs, etc. for the town hall options, the board needs to appropriate funds. DeMoulin made the motion to authorize \$20,000.00 for the Planning & Zoning Committee, 2nd by Evans – M/A
- 6) Winter Parking – NO PARKING on town roads from 8pm – 8am from November 1 to April 1, 2024.
- 7) Halloween – Townsend Trick or Treat hours will be Tuesday, October 31 from 4-6pm.
- 8) 2024 contracts – Evans made the motion to accept Gerald Geise’s contract for beaver and dam control for 2024, 2nd by DeMoulin – M/A
- 9) Budget dates – October 11 at 10pm

Correspondence:

Physical Address signs/Fire Safety Week
Fall & Winter Illness Guide/ Oconto County Public Health
Townsend Flowage grant
Library Plan of Service

Announcements:

Red Cross Blood Mobile Oct 23 11-4
Halloween Trunk or Treat (McCaslin Lions) October 31, 4-6
Public budget meeting Tuesday, November 14 w/ regular meeting to follow

DeMoulin motioned to adjourn at 7:25pm 2nd by Evans– M/A

*Minutes Approved November 14, 2023
Linda Ziegler, Clerk*