

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Townsend Town Hall
6:00pm

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

Roll Call: Chairperson Carla VanCamp, Supervisor Linda Adamczyk, Supervisor Joe Heyrman, Treasurer Beth Hartman, Clerk Linda Ziegler. 40 Citizens

Verification of proper agenda notice: Ziegler posted the agenda on June 7, 2022 at the Townsend Post Office, Townsend Town Hall, Laona State Bank, Townsend branch, and www.townsendwisconsin.org. A revised agenda was posted June 10, 2022

VanCamp made the motion to move public comment after Business and approve the agenda 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A

Motion made by Heyrman to accept the minutes of May 10, 2022 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A

Treasurer's Report – Hartman gave a P&L budget performance report. The Town received \$1200.00 in donations for the fire works, \$716.00 for administrative costs from FEMA for the 2019 storm and the Fire department is receiving DNR reimbursements for wildfires. The 2nd installment of ARPA will hit later this month. Motion by Adamczyk to approve the report and pay all the bills, 2nd by Heyrman – M/A

Ambulance Report – Steve Harkema said there 3 things he needs to discuss with the town for the future. #1- A new ambulance will be needed in 2024/2025. They need to order the chassis now, to guarantee delivery in 2024/2025. The cost should be \$70-\$80,000, however no auto company will give definite costs. #2- Fuel prices have burned 70% of their budget so far, so they are raising the rates for mileage reimbursement (on commercial calls only). Fulltime employee will be increased to stay in line with the regional average. They will also be looking at healthcare and insurance. Employees currently can contribute to HSA. #3-they will be aggressively fund raising for a building addition and will need the towns support to secure grants. The cost of this addition should be under \$300,000.00

Fire Department – Chief Dawn Herlache said the F.D. has received mutual aid from the DNR for wildfire assists. Herlache provided the paperwork that shows the calls and response time from the fire department for the April call that Chairperson VanCamp said Townsend did not respond to. 4th of July party is on Monday. The food and beverage booth should be running at 10am, and Lovin' Country will play after the parade, along with the raffles. Assistant Chief Dacon Franzen is working with the DNR to set up the neighborhood ignition zone assessment in August. VanCamp said the DNR has grants for individuals that had blow-down damage from the 2019 storm. Information will be put on the website

Community Advisory – Roger Wight said the committee had a meeting June 6th and is still committed to continuing with the town hall project. Several members had a call June 14th with the architect to get actual costs and new drawings.

Lake Country Library - Jim Adamczyk said Oconto County Literacy met with the committee to promote their function. JoAnn Roy met with them to discuss some record keeping and insurance issues that need to be settled. The Summer reading program kicked off last week. They are fund raising for a new copier and have two applications for the director's position.

Comp Plan Committee – no meeting. Kathleen Marsh stated that the committee was to meet in May to continue discussion on the short-term rental issue. VanCamp stated that the County is still deciphering this and has not provided any updates for the committee to discuss.

Permits/Licenses –3 picnic license for Townsend Festival 4th of July, Townsend Fireman's Wives for 4th of July and Pickerel Chain Lakes Assoc for July 23rd picnic at Oughton Park. VanCamp made the motion to approve all three licenses, 2nd by Heyrman – M/A

Business:

1. **Town Hall Building project** – A Meeting of the Electors was held Saturday, May 14, 2022. The motion to authorize the Town Board of the Town of Townsend to construct a new town hall at a cost not to exceed \$1.9M was defeated by a ballot count of 70 yes, 125 no, 3 abstained. The Board will continue to look at options
2. **Liquor License 2022/2023** – VanCamp motion to approve liquor license for business number 2-14, 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A. Adamczyk made the motion to approve liquor license for business number 1, Karla's Kountry Kitchen, 2nd by Heyrman – M/A (VanCamp abstained due to conflict of interest)
3. **Operators Licenses** – VanCamp made the motion to approve 64 operator's licenses, 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A.
4. **Hotchkiss request** – Dennis Hotchkiss wants to put a dock at the easement on Meadow Parkway. This alleyway was given to the Town of Townsend in 1961 by his grandfather. It serves over 30 landowners, deeded with easement rights to the Reservoir Pond. VanCamp made the motion to turn down the Hotchkiss request to turn over the alleyway to the family. 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A. The Town board will continue to see if anything can be done with the alleyway to make it more assessable. Town employee Bob Habeck suggested that easement holders discuss their options with Oconto County Zoning.
5. **Road Name Change** – VanCamp discussed changing the name of Squaw Ln with the Potawatomi Elders. Although they stated it would be nice if the town changed the name, it is not necessary. The Town Board will discuss options for names and continue with the change.
6. **Recycle Center fence bid** – the bids for the fence came in too high for the 2022 budget. The town board will budget this for 2023. Habeck said the fence will be repositioned to help eliminate the chance of damage in the future.
7. **Fireworks permit** – The town has put together a fireworks permit. Adamczyk made the motion to approve the permit, 2nd by Heyrman – M/A
8. **Poll worker addition** – Wanda Laste has approached the clerk about working the elections. Heyrman made the motion to approve Wanda as an election inspector/poll worker 2nd by Adamczyk – M/A
9. **Road Projects** – The 2022 budgeted road projects are underway. Several additional projects will be done utilizing a new repair process that was presented by Pik Lik & Wick. These additional projects will cost \$60,275.00. There is \$17,000 remaining in the road budget, along with \$10,000 for crack filling and \$5000 for boat landing repairs that will be postponed. The remaining will come from ARPA funds. The roads to be repaired are portions of McCaslin, Valley View, Elm St, Fawn St, Pearl St. Adamczyk made the motion to move \$32,000.00 from the ARPA funds to Public Works to cover the expense of this additional roadwork, 2nd by Heyrman – M/A

10. **2nd Animal Control Application** – The Town received an application from Nicolas Miller for consideration as a 2nd Animal Control position from the 7-towns committee. Adamczyk made the motion to accept the application of Miller for Animal Control officer, if needed. 2nd by Heyrman – M/A
Motion made by Adamczyk to approve Ryan Giese to Humane Officer Training in September, 2nd by Heyrman – M/A

Public Comment: Dawn Herlache said the news article in the Beacon, Oconto County Reporter and Green Bay Press Gazette on line about the Electors meeting, had Carla stating that the reason this town hall did not pass was because of the Fire department influence. Herlache and the fire department took offense to this explanation. Vicki Pintsch stated that the talk in the store was if a new fire department would've been included, then they would've voted for the hall. Dacon Franzen said that if the newspaper misquoted you, then you should retract. VanCamp stated that this was not her intent, and will retract her statement. Brian Krueger had some statements regarding past dealings with the board. As the elected officials, it is your responsibility to follow up on his request. Tom Derrickson said that the accusations that he was hauling people to vote on a wagon are incorrect. Proposing the same plan to the electors again is like putting lipstick on a pig. There was not enough information put out to the people and many didn't know about the town wanting to build a new hall. Adamczyk stated there are new people on the advisory that have suggestions. Heyrman said he is in favor of dropping the hall, until the people can come up with a new plan. Monica Zeller read a statement (see attachment**). Claude Bowman said Kevin Marshall condemned the septic several years ago. VanCamp said the septic would have to be converted to a holding tank. There is no paperwork to that effect. She will contact Marshall about the paperwork. Heyrman said it's hard to get to the truth and if the septic is condemned check with the DNR. The board doesn't have a direction yet. Vincent Humphreys said the consensus of the electors was the whole project was handled poorly from the get go. Kathleen Marsh said the way to heal is to have a citizen's committee that does not have any elected official. They should go back and relook at the problems with the current building and then move forward. Everyone here cares about this town otherwise we'd be on their pontoons with a margarita. Respect each other as we move forward.

Correspondence:

Bertram Wireless request for meeting at the July meeting
FEMA Admin Costs
Joe's Brat fry raised \$800 to cover for the additional fireworks costs.

Announcements:

Board of review June 15 @ 10am
4th of July parade and Fire Department party

Adamczyk made the motion to adjourn at 7:45, 2nd by Heyrman– M/A

I would like to make a statement to the Board of Townsend and the citizens of Townsend to ensure that certain facts are included in the town board minutes this evening. I have given a copy of this to our town clerk.

The following facts are from a Freedom of Information Act that my husband submitted and also from comments made during a recent Advisory Board meeting. Let it be known that these Advisory Board meetings are posted public meetings however there are no public agendas or minutes published. I did audio record the meeting but subsequently deleted the recording when the attendees stressed their displeasure. It is legal to audio record all town open meetings without notice, which I will be doing from now on.

Documentation provided shows, in fact, our current septic system is not condemned, it has passed all inspections with the current being in 2019. A portion of the drain field is located under the trail and if the septic fails this will have to be addressed.

There are no documents supporting that there is a mold issue or electrical issue as stated numerous times. There have been no inspections or documentation to support these claims.

In 2013 the Townsend Board was interested in siding the current town hall but wanted to do a Facility Inspection of the Town Hall, Fire Department and Garage to ensure that the building was in adequate shape. This was performed by Keller Incorporated. The results concluded that "In our professional opinion the buildings are in adequate condition structurally". It further went on to say "If the town is satisfied that the current building is meeting their current needs both now and for a long time into the future without any major renovations planned, we could support the decision to make the investment of adding siding to the entire complex solely for the purpose of improving the aesthetics".

It has also come to my attention that repairs to our current facilities have been lacking in an apparent effort to allow our buildings to deteriorate to the point that a new facility must be built. According to the detailed transaction reports that we received, in the last ten years all moneys spent on the upkeep and maintenance of the Town Hall and Grounds was \$19,834. This included \$6,400 for a furnace. That leaves \$13,400 for ten years for our town hall averaging approximately \$1,340 per year. The Fire Department spending for ten years was \$7,719. Average per year \$770 per year. Highway Department was \$21,844, which included \$13,315 for a new roof. Approximately \$8,529 for ten years was spent averaging to \$853 a year. This is grossly inadequate spending to maintain these facilities.

I was told that we were not given all of the documentation that we had asked for in our Freedom of Information Request. We were told by Carla that our clerk would only give us the documents that she wanted and they would not be accurate. I was instructed to only give these record requests to the town board members instead. I believe that the town clerk has given us all written documentation that she has in her possession. If any of the Town Board members has additional information that was not provided to our clerk, I respectfully ask for those documents.

The following was discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting on June 6, 2022. The Town Hall will be now called the Community Center. The Fire Department will get fixed up on the outside so it looks nicer. The architect rendering drawings will be redone to not look like we are building the Taj Mahal. There will be a referendum vote in November. It was stated it was to be a referendum so that residents can absentee vote. It was also stated that the referendum is not binding and Carla stated twice that with the value of our properties that she can "just sign on the dotted line anyway". I specifically asked the follow up question that if the referendum does not go through, are saying you will build it anyway and Carla stated "that is not what I said". The meeting concluded with the statement that "we should not tell anyone about this or discuss it outside of this meeting yet".

If we have town meetings that need to be kept secret that should be our first clue that we are doing something grossly wrong. Our Board is elected to serve the residents of Townsend and nothing more.

Respectfully, Monica Zeller