

## Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 14, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.

Wascott Town Hall

- 1) Annual Town Meeting called to order by Chair Jensen at 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3) Verification of qualified electors present at meeting - Of the 65 guests present, 60 were qualified electors.
- 4) Approval of Order of Business - Agenda items may be added by those attending the meeting under item 10 - **A Mary Lou Bergman/Jan Jensen motion to approve Order of Business; carried.**  
Agenda items requested by citizens present, to be discussed under agenda item 10, are as follows:
  - a. Jan Newsome - discuss official website; public comments; infrastructure improvements at cemetery and fire hall
  - b. Beverly Allen - discuss Annual Meeting publication notice
  - c. Henry Podgorak - discuss status of former clerk's hearing
  - d. Jan Newsome - clarify TRIP grant funds information
  - e. Chuck McCann - discuss doing landscaping around town hall and garage
  - f. Henry Podgorak - discuss accessibility issues at Gordon dump
  - g. Cathy Dahlberg - discuss current kitchen expenditures
- 5) Approve Annual Town Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2011 - **A Charles McDermott/Doug Bush motion to approve minutes of April 12, 2011; carried.**
- 6) Review conduct and powers of the town meeting - Chair Greg Jensen reviewed the powers and conduct of an annual town meeting, emphasizing the town meeting is a meeting of the electors and not a meeting of the town board. Chair Jensen further discussed the three categories of powers and authority of the town meeting.
- 7) Town Officer's Reports
  - a. 2011 Annual Financial Report - Clerk/Treasurer Jeannette Atkinson presented and discussed the financial report. The Town ended 2011 with **excess revenues of \$103,265** (under budget). Careful monitoring of expenditures and retrieving insurance and disaster fund monies, left the town in good financial condition. Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson outlined the allocation of cash balance, outstanding debt and the overall financial statement. The 2011 budget was developed by the prior board and managed by the current board. It is to be noticed the \$20,642 amount to balance the 2011 budget was taken from the town's savings account. The \$46,936 amount to balance the 2012 budget was **carried forward from the 2011 excess revenues**. Salt shed expenditures were \$30,306. Insurance reimbursement in the amount of \$15,250 was received due to storm damages to the salt shed. Actual cost to town of salt shed - \$15,560 of which \$9,600 was budgeted. The full report is available on the town's website.  
Note - The following reports are summarized. A full report may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Office.
    - b. Town Board Report - Chair Jensen commented 2011 was a very interesting and busy year. Some of the highlights were -
      - Storms of July 1 and July 19 did considerable damage to both public and private land and a state of emergency was declared. The Town was able to retrieve approximately \$12,000 in Wisconsin disaster fund monies. The town's salt shed incurred damage and needed to be replaced and brought up to compliance. Insurance monies helped defray the costs.
      - A generator was purchased to ensure fuel pumps, garage doors, radio repeater, etc. can be operated during power outages;

- Matching DOT TRIP grant funds were secured in the amount of \$42,500 for Red Lake Drive;
- Old fuel depot was replaced;
- Budgeted road projects for 2011 were completed;
- A new wing blade was purchased;
- The biannual WISLER/PASER (pavement surface evaluation and rating program) was updated and completed on time;
- \$25,000 in Firewise grants were secured for continuation of the brush collection sites;
- A plan was developed to upgrade the kitchen
- A new town supervisor was appointed (Lynn Koalska) to replace Barb Johnson;
- The Cemetery Committee is making plans for a veteran's memorial;
- An Employee Grievance Procedure was implemented;
- The town hall offices were rearranged;
- A new sexton was hired;
- A RetroReflectivity Management/ Assessment method for maintenance of road signs was implemented.

In closing, Chair Jensen thanked the numerous groups, individuals and volunteers who contribute to the betterment of this community.

- c. Recognition of Volunteers - Chair Jensen gave his heartfelt appreciation to the many clubs and volunteers who give of their time and energies maintaining a sense of well-being to our town.
  - d. EMS Services - GWEMS Director Betty Ebert thanked the board for their support. 2011 run total was 140. EMR's are now licensed at an advance level; Service Award Program is a huge benefit; purchased a new SP02/Co2 monitor with grant monies; hosted a blood drive; hosted an open house.
  - e. Wascott Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Tom Michalek reported the department was very active in applying for federal, state and county grants; the annual FD open house will be Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the fire hall; burning requires a permit; Tom asked that homeowners check fire signs being sure it is not obstructed by trees and/or brush; reminder that driveways should be 20' wide and 14' in height for fire trucks and ambulance to get to your home.
  - f. County Board Supervisor Report - Mary Lou Bergman - economic development is at an all time high; Kestrex Aircraft Manufacturing will locate in Superior with a possible 600 jobs; redistricting and downsizing of county board is complete (21 members from 28); a jail task force was organized; new personnel and grievance procedures are in place. Zoning - sign and billboard ordinance changes, visual clearance triangle; flood plain mapping updated; county comprehensive plan is complete.
- 8) Civic Organization Reports
- a. Wascott Community Club/Fire Department Auxiliary - President Patti McDermott - The Community Library continues to be a worthwhile; newly written guidelines for funeral receptions is in place; a new cookbook is for sale - \$10; provided 2 \$500 scholarships to Northwood graduates from Wascott; assisted with Blood Drive and Wascott road clean up; plant flowers and replace flags at town hall and cemetery; provide treats and serve at the FD open house; assist town treasurer stuffing tax envelopes; donate to G/W food shelf and Northwood School; bake cookies for Children's Christmas party; made several blankets and donated personal items to CASDA; donated money to help provide winter clothing for Northwood School children; donated money for the purchase of new town hall chairs. Patti thanked the

community for its tremendous support. Phyllis O'Connor stated this year's Blood Drive will be held on Monday, May 14, 2012, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Wascott Town Hall.

- b. Four Season's Recreational Club, Inc. - President Jon Meteraud - Annual Food and Fun Day had a record turnout of over 700. This is the club's only fundraising event and helps to provide funds needed for maintenance and grooming of ATV/snowmobile routes; sponsor and teach an ATV and Snowmobile Safety Class; provide the building and resources for the annual Youth Turkey Hunt; members clean a section of Hwy 53; help maintain the Wascott Ballpark; donated monies for town hall chairs, food shelf, children's Christmas party and the Northwood Education Foundation. There will be an open house/membership drive on June 30, 2012 at the club building.
  - c. Wascott Tourism & Development Association, Inc. - Jon Meteraud, President - One of the primary goals of the WTDA is working with the Town of Wascott in the promotion of our area through the Spooner Visitor Guide and the Douglas County Guide magazines. In the Fall, the WTDA publishes a Calendar of Events; the club supports and donates to the Northwood Education Foundation, Food Shelf, Annual Easter Egg Hunt; new town hall chairs.
  - d. RAV'N - A report was submitted by Mary Lu Perham - RAV'N sponsored the Student Art Exhibition and poster contest; Spring Arts and Crafts took place in June; entered a float in the Minong Summer Days; sponsored the annual art and craft fair in Wascott.
  - e. Gordon/Wascott Historical Society - Report submitted by Wendy Finstad - Updated and made improvements to museum and depot buildings; book sales doing well; Good Neighbor Days Ice Cream Social fundraiser was a success; annual meeting will be June 20, 2012 at the Gordon Town Hall.
- 9) Specific matters for discussion by the qualified electors present - Set meeting date for 2012 Annual Town Meeting - **A Jan Newsome/Doug Bush motion to set annual meeting date for Saturday, April 20, 2013, at 10:00 am, Wascott Town Hall; carried by voice vote.**

**Note:** For the annual town meeting date next year (2013), the law now provides that the date shall be the third Tuesday of April, or within ten days after.

10) Items as may be added by the Town Meeting

- a. Jan Newsome - would like to discuss the following:

**Official website - A Jan Newsome/Henry Podgorak motion the town board is advised to restore public records of minutes, resolutions and ordinances to the official town website.**

Discussion - Supv Koalska stated no information has been removed without authorization. No resolutions/ordinances on website have been removed. There is a link directing one to the list of all resolutions and ordinances of the town. **Hand Vote - 45 aye; 3 nay; carried.**

**Public Comments** - Chair Jensen stated there is no requirement at board meetings to have public comments. Public comments will be reinstated beginning in May in a different format. Jan Newsome commented without public comments it is impossible for people to bring issues up. Supv Koalska stated it is important not to violate open meetings law, which does not grant citizens a right to participate in regular monthly board meetings. The manner in which this board handles public comments at meetings is in direct violation of open meeting laws. If public comments is not on agenda, NO comments can be taken. Allowing public comments throughout the meeting violates open meeting statutes. The Board may solicit questions from persons present on any agenda item. The Chair shall set the parameters for individuals to speak. Supv Bush commented he supports the Chair and does believe in open comments. Bev Allen believes it is a disservice to those who come to meetings. Agnes Kennard - respect needs to be both ways. No vote - advisory only.

Infrastructure improvements at cemetery and fire hall – Jan Newsome asked what estimated costs of fire hall siding/installation project at the Fire Hall. Chief Michalek responded it would be approximately \$6,000 which will be funded through donation monies.

Jan Newsome asked what is being done at the cemetery regarding the Veteran's Memorial. Chuck McDermott, a member of the Cemetery Committee, responded the project was put on hold. The Committee has developed plans for a memorial which will be presented to the board for approval. **A Jan Newsome/Lloyd Dahlberg motion that the Town Board is not authorized to proceed with a Veteran's Memorial at the Wascott Cemetery until approved by a majority of electors at a properly noticed special town meeting at which full plans are presented and written recommendations from the American Legion Post 499 are received.** Discussion – Phyllis O'Connor commented there are 71 veterans and not one commemoration and feels a memorial is the least that can be done. Chuck McDermott commented the plans are very preliminary at this point. Jan Newsome commented the purpose is to ensure public input is obtained. **Hand Vote – 27 aye; 30 nay. Motion failed.**

- b. Beverly Allen – discuss Annual Meeting publication notice – Bev Allen would like to see a notice of the meeting be put in newspaper closer to date of meeting.  
**A Bev Allen/Jan Newsome motion to change agenda items added by electors to beginning of meeting rather than at end of meeting. Hand vote – 8 aye; 38 nay. Motion failed.**
- c. Henry Podgorak – discuss status of former clerk's hearing – **A Doug Bush/Henry Podgorak motion to direct Town Board to send a letter to the District Attorney inquiring the status of the former clerk's court case. Hand Vote – 48 aye; 0 nay. Motion carried.**
- d. Jan Newsome – clarify TRIP grant funds information – The \$42,500 matching WI DOT grant is for Red Lake Drive only.
- e. Chuck McCann – discuss doing landscaping around town hall and garage – **A Charles McCann/Agnes Kennard motion directing the Town Board to direct the Infrastructure Committee to do a plan for landscaping around town hall buildings. Motion withdrawn.**
- f. Henry Podgorak - discuss accessibility issues at Gordon dump – **A Henry Podgorak/Jan Newsome motion to make the dumping site more easily accessible for the handicapped. Hand Vote – 41 aye; 0 nay. Motion carried.**
- g. Cathy Dahlberg – discuss current kitchen expenditures – Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson responded expenditures to date are approximately \$8,700 of a \$15,000 allocation.

11) **A Dean Nesley/Rich Sloan motion to adjourn at 12:00 noon; carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson  
Clerk/Treasurer

(Posted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2012 at the Town Hall, Fire Department, Stop-A-Sec, McNamara's and the town's website at [www.townofwascott.org](http://www.townofwascott.org).)