

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, April 20, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.
Wascott Town Hall

1. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Chair Boughner at 10:00 a.m
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Verification of qualified electors present at meeting – There were 26 qualified electors in attendance.
4. Approval of Order of Business- Chair Boughner invited guests to add items to the agenda, to be discussed under Item 12 (b). The following agenda items were requested by citizens present:
 - a. Steve Trainor – Open all roads in Wascott to ATV/UTV use
 - b. Patti McDermott – Increase Clerk/Treasurer wages

A Mary Lou Bergman/Chuck McDermott motion to approve the Order of Business, including the above agenda items; motion carried by a voice vote.

5. Approve Annual Town Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2018- **A Lora Rudd/Patti McDermott motion to approve minutes of the April 21, 2018 Town Meeting Minutes; motion carried by a voice vote.**
6. Review Conduct and Powers of Town Meeting- Chair Jim Boughner reviewed who does what for Town Meetings (included in packets) outlining the powers that may be exercised by the people at a Town Meeting.
7. Town Officer's Reports
 - a. 2018 Annual Financial Report- Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson presented the audited Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2018 highlighting the following – actual revenues - \$1,529,433; actual expenditures - \$1,446,981 creating a net change in Cash Fund Balance of \$82,452. Cash Fund Balance beginning 01/01/18 was \$584,727; Cash Fund Balance ending 12/31/18 was \$667,179. Long Term Debt as of 12/31/18 is \$513,042. A 2019 Kenworth Truck was purchased for the Highway Department. The Town received its final payment from the Smith Bridge Project. Once again, the Town has ended the year in a good financial position. A detailed financial report was provided. The Clerk invited anyone with questions regarding the financial report, to stop by the office and discuss.
 - b. Town Board Report – Chair Boughner commented the year has brought a few changes. The new town hall addition was approved by the people at the November Special Town Meeting. Chair Boughner thanked the many committees and volunteers who devote their expertise and time working for the Town.

Supervisor Jenson thanked Jim for the excellent job he has done.
Supervisor Burnside thanked Jim for his service.
Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson appreciated his willingness and dedication serving as the Chair and enjoyed very much working with him.
8. EMS Services – Stacey Vig thanked the Board for their support throughout the year. The EMS is always looking for more volunteers.
9. Wascott Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Tom Michalek thanked the Board and Clerk for their support throughout the year. FD Open House is June 15, 2019 from 11-2 p.m. at the Fire Department. Tom related rules for burning are on the DNR website or by calling 888-WIS-BURN. Burning requires a permit. Use caution when burning outside and never leave any fire unattended. If a fire gets

out of control, homeowner is responsible. Run reports for 2018 – 60 First responder calls/ 5 Wildland fires; 4 structure fires; 3 false alarms; 10 car accidents and traffic control; 11 mutual aids; 4 ATV/snowmobile accidents and 9 hazardous conditions/service calls. Report on file.

10. County Board Supervisor Report – District 2 – Mary Lou Bergman. Summary of report – All departments completed a Continuity of Operations Plan; a non-profit Funding Policy was established; the McGrath Human Resources Group completed Phase III of the wage and compensation study; Zoning Administrator Steve Rannenber retired; County Board approved resolution opposing “Dark Store Tax Loopholes”; Zoning developed a “Local Agreement Option” for Metallic Mining permit applications; Land Conservation approved a 1 year moratorium on importation and raising or cervids in Douglas County; Land Conservation completed 2 rounds of water testing.

Mary Lou served on the following committees - Executive, Administration, Veterans Service Advisory, Community Link, Forest Parks & Rec-Vice Chair, Land Conservation-Vice Chair, Communicable Diseases in Cervids-Chair and Zoning-Chair.

11. Civic Organization Reports

- a. Wascott Community Club/Fire Department Auxiliary – President Patti McDermott – The Club has had another busy year. The members of the WCC/FDA maintains the Community Library by shelving returned books and stocking newly donated books each month. The Club is especially happy to have a new addition to the town hall to work in and hold events. Three Open House weekends were held at the Wascott Historical Park. The two fundraisers – Friday Fun Day and the Swedish Meatball Dinner – was a huge success. Cans for Kids at the Stop-A-Sec Store continues to grow. Monies from these events fund the many donations the Club is involved with. Meetings are now held the third Monday of each month. Please come join us – you will find a wonderful group of friends?
- b. Four Seasons Recreational Club - President Chuck Youngquist. Al Schoenborn presented the report in the absence of Chuck. Many activities and events were sponsored by the Club such as – Food and Fun held on Labor Day weekend; painted the pavilions and swing set at the Ballpark; donated to the Children’s Christmas Party; the Youth Turkey Hund program used the building for their event; held an ATV Color Ride; prepared and maintained ATV trails; purchased two new tracts for the Tucker snow groomer; replaced and added ATV and snowmobile trail signs; held a membership drive.
- c. Wascott Tourism & Development Association – President Jon Meteraud - The Association works with businesses of Wascott to aid and promote getting information out to the citizens and the surrounding area. Visit www.visitwascott.com for more information.

12. Specific Matters for Discussion by Qualified Electors Present

- a. Set meeting date for 2020 Annual Town Meeting – **A Chuck McDermott/Bob Beglinger motion to set the Annual Meeting date for Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 10 a.m., Wascott Town Hall. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Public Comments – *John Glindinng* commented he felt the roads in the last decade have gone from low to high in reference to the road shaping. John stated the roads need a better shaping design so water flows into the ditches. He stated the town has roughly 100 paved roads and lots of paving was done from 1990-1998 – roughly 40 miles. Maybe should think about doing more. Also, we don’t need anymore dead end roads!

Bob Beglinger commented we all have seen what happened to Douglas County. Roads used to be wider and seem to be getting narrower. Every time an overlay is done, roads seems to get

narrower. Bob felt not enough monies have been allocated for road upkeep and it may come back to haunt us.

Jan Newsome encouraged the Board not to defer the planned road projects.

b. Items Added by Town Meeting

1) Opening of all roads in the Town of Wascott to ATV/UTV Use – A Trainor/Beglinger motion to open all of the roads in the Town of Wascott to ATV/UTV Use.

Discussion – Kathy Dahlberg was adamantly opposed. She felt it dangerous to bicyclists and those who are walking.

Chuck McDermott – This has come up many times before. Several townships have opened up all their roads and have had problems. Roads have been opened up to get from one destination to another and that has worked very well.

Jan Newsome – I have mixed feelings. People go too fast making it a risk for others. It seems that gravel roads are a real problem; blacktop not so much. If Board goes along with it, they will need to consider signage and the expense that goes along with it.

Al Schoenborn, a member of the 4 Season's Club, commented that if all roads are open, then do not need signage. County is exploring the possibility of opening all roads.

Paper Vote – 6 yes; 19 no. Motion failed.

2) Increase Clerk/Treasurer's Wages – A Patti McDermott/Jon Meteraud motion to approve a salary increase for the Clerk/Treasurer of \$50 per week (\$2,600 annually).

Discussion – Patti McDermott commented the Clerk/Treasurer is a hard worker and has a great deal of knowledge of the position.

Fred Atkinson commented the position has not had a raise in 12 years.

Paper Vote – Yes, 14; No, 12. Motion carried. The wage increase will become effective in April 2021.

13. A Chuck McDermott/Bernie Bergman motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson
Clerk/Treasurer