

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, April 20, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.
Wascott Town Hall

1. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Chair Youngquist at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Verification of qualified electors present at meeting – There were 22 qualified electors in attendance.
4. Approval of Order of Business- Chair Youngquist invited guests to add items to the Order of Business, to be discussed under Item 12 (b). The following items were requested by citizens present:
 - a. Jan Newsome – Fix Compensation of Town Board Officers
 - b. Jan Newsome – Fix Compensation of Town Clerk/Treasurer
 - c. Jon Meteraud – Consider upgrading Ballpark equipment
 - d. John Glindinning – would like gravel tested
 - e. Gary Braun – The effect of weight boats on lakes

A Steve Trainor/Jeff Christensen motion to approve the Order of Business, including the above agenda items to be added under Item 12 (b); motion carried by a voice vote.

5. Approve Annual Town Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2023 - **A Jeff Christensen/Jon Meteraud motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2023; motion carried by a voice vote.**
6. Review Conduct and Powers of Town Meeting- For informational purposes.
7. Town Officer's Reports
 - a. 2023 Annual Financial Report-Audited - Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson presented the audited Annual Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2023 highlighting the following –
Actual Revenues - \$2,018,248. Explanation for the increase in revenues -
The Fire Department truck was sold for \$95,000; monies were received for two road project grants in the amount of \$98,428.
Actual Expenditures - \$1,827,242.
Cash Fund Balance beginning 01/01/23 was \$445,679; Cash Fund Balance ending 12/31/23 is \$636,685.
Long Term Debt as of 12/31/23 is \$592,008. The Town incurred new debt of \$308,000 for a new Fire Department truck.
 - b. Town Board Report – Complete report on file. Chair Youngquist - Some of the highlights of the past year include -
 - 2023 was a busy snowplowing season that went into mid-April
 - Resurfaced Smith Bridge Road from Cty Rd T to East Flowage Rd, Denver Rd, Lawler Bridge Rd from Cty Rd G to the bridge, and S Mail Rd from Short Cut Rd to Lost Lake Rd
 - Secured LRIP funding for Cranberry Lake Rd
 - Upgraded the sound system at the Town Hall
 - Replaced air conditioning unit in the old section of the Town Hall
 - Opened all town roads to UTV/ATV's
 - Hired Town highway employee Kyle Paske
 - Paved Transfer Station Rd
 - Approved the construction of two pickle ball courts at the Ball field

- Hosted the 2023 Children’s Christmas Party for over 100 children and their families
 - Continuing to work with the Town of Gordon to enhance EMS safety operations and the Transfer Station
 - Appointed Paul Philipp as Wascott’s new Fire Chief
8. Gordon/Wascott EMS- Complete report on file. Director Betty Ebert’s report –
- Run volume for 2023 was as follows: 206 total runs. 95/Gordon; 83/Wascott; 19/fire standby; 9/mutual aid.
 - CPR class certified or layperson offered. Call to set up a CPR class with your organization (715-376-2640) or email at gordonwascottems@yahoo.com.
 - First aid kits were shared with the public at the annual Food n’ Fun event at the Ballpark.
 - First Aid training available – OSHA approved.
 - All equipment purchased with grant funding is in service and being utilized.
9. Wascott Volunteer Fire Department – Complete report on file. Chief Philipp’s report -
- Run reports for 2023 - 65 First Responder calls; 5 wildland fires; 4 structure fires; 4 false alarms; 10 car accidents and traffic control; 5 mutual aid; 4 ATV/snowmobile accidents; 8 hazardous conditions/service calls.
 - Wildland fire season is here. If you are going to burn, you must have a permit and please read it front and back. The use of burning barrels and debris burning is still the number one cause of wildland fires in Wisconsin. Please use caution when burning outside and **never** leave any fire unattended.
 - On Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Fire Department will host its annual open house. Brats and hot dogs and all the fixings will be served. There will be fun activities for the children, including a visit from Smokey the Bear;
 - 2023 saw several internal changes in the department. Longtime Chief Tom Michalek stepped down, but will remain as a volunteer. Steve Balcsik stepped up to serve as Chief for the interim until a new chief is appointed.
10. County Board Supervisor Report – District 21 – Complete report on file. Highlights of Mary Lou Bergman’s report -
- Zoning “Should Be Done” checklists has proven extremely helpful. It is pertinent for the town to act and return the checklist to Douglas County Zoning, by the date indicated. Applications require a definitive yes or no answer. If a town denies a zone change, the County must deny. If the town approves, the County may still deny.
 - Our first Zoning Conference was held March 2023. It was a huge success. Over 70 attended.
 - There have been many changes to the DC Zoning Ord. 8.0 in the last year. Wascott was the only Town providing input.
 - Forestry is still dealing with 2023 ice, snow and wind damage to our trees. Costs are in the many thousands of dollars.
 - All Towns should contact the Land Services Office with your road work projects. That allows the County to preserve our monumentation markers, as they are extremely expensive to replace.
11. Civic Organization Reports
- a. Wascott Community Club/Fire Department Auxiliary – Complete report on file. Highlights of President Patti McDermott’s report -
- Northwood School scholarships have been raised to \$1,000 for two students. Some monies are raised thru the Cans for Kids to support this endeavor. Please consider using our collection site at the Stop-a-sec for your aluminum cans.

- This year we were able to donate to a new program – Tiny Seeds Child Care at Northwood School.
 - Our 8th annual Friday Fun Day will be held at our Town Hall on June 7, 2024
 - One of our members plants and maintains a garden at the cemetery.
 - We assist with the Fire Department open house by serving and bringing treats.
 - The WCC/FDA donated over \$7,000 in 2023.
 - Join us on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Wascott Town Hall.
- b. Four Seasons Recreational Club - Complete report on file. Highlights of President Youngquist's report -
- The 4 Seasons Rec Club is proud to announce that we just set a new club membership record with 190 single/family memberships and 29 commercial sponsors. We have the most commercial sponsors of any club in Douglas County. This speaks volumes to the dedication and support we receive from the community.
 - Because of the record snow fall, the club was busy with trail clean-up.
 - Purchased a brusher, rock bucket and grapple. Also purchased a new drag for summer trail maintenance.
 - Club leads group ATV/UTV rides in the Spring and Fall which attracts 50-70 riders and includes a picnic lunch sponsored by the Club. Introduced the Ladies ATV-UTV Ride and Ladies Snowmobile Ride with nearly 50 attended.
 - The Club promotes youth outdoor recreation. Our Certified Safety Instructors held two classes to educate young people about the rules, regulations and safe driving skills for operating ATV's and snowmobiles. Both classes graduated 25-30 new riders with safety certificates.
 - The Club does lots of fundraising. The annual Food n' Fun event is the day before Labor Day at the Ballpark with an average attendance of 1500 people. Also, we have meat raffles the first and third Saturday at Marsh's View Point at 2:00 p.m. Also, have a summer raffle for cash prizes and a winter raffle for an ATV.
- c. Wascott Tourism & Development Association – Complete report on file. Highlights of President Jon Meteraud's report -
- Wascott....A Way of Life
 - The Association works with businesses of Wascott to aid and promote getting information out to the surrounding area.
 - Visit the web page at www.visitwascott.com or like us on Facebook.
- d. Gordon-Wascott Historical Society - Complete report on file. President Jan Jenson provided the following highlights –
- Over 450 guests toured the Gordon Depot and Museum.
 - Open houses were held at the Wascott Historical Park.
 - Inventory of artifacts and books have been computerized.
 - Wascott and Gordon residents are coming into our Genealogical Research Room to look up their family histories.
 - In the process of creating an Amick Historical Park at the site of the Gordon Trading Post and Native American Village in Gordon.
 - Donating an historical set of encyclopedias and old desk to the Hoffman School.

12. Specific Matters for Discussion by Qualified Electors Present

a. Set meeting date for 2024 Annual Town Meeting – A Jon Meteraud/Rick Manor motion to set the Annual Meeting date for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., at the Wascott Town Hall. Motion carried by voice vote.

b. Items Added by Town Meeting

1) Jan Newsome – Resolution 2024-10 Fix Compensation of Town Board Officers

Jan introduced Resolution 2024-10 authorizing the Town Meeting to fix the compensation of elective town officers. Jan mentioned Board Officers have not had an increase in wages since 2007. **A Jan Newsome/Steve Trainor motion to increase the yearly wage from \$5,400 to \$6,600 for supervisors and increase the yearly wage from \$9,600 to \$10,800 for the town chairperson. Discussion – Jeannette Atkinson commented the Town Board performs many duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Town. Zoning issues, transfer station, EMS, Fire Department, road maintenance are among a few of the issues dealt with and amended the previous motion to read – A Jeannette Atkinson/Steve Trainor motion to increase the yearly wage for supervisors to \$7,000 per year and to increase the yearly wage for the chairperson to \$12,000 per year; motion carried by voice vote.**

2) Jan Newsome – Resolution 2024-11 Fix Compensation of Clerk/Treasurer

Jan introduced Resolution 2024-11 Fix Compensation of Clerk/Treasurer **A Neil Jochims/Rick Manor motion to increase the yearly wage for the Clerk/Treasurer from \$42,600 to \$48,000; motion carried by voice vote.**

3) Jon Meteraud – Consider updating Ballpark equipment – Jon commented the various equipment at the Ballpark needs updating. Perhaps the monies left over from the ARPA funds could be used. The Town Board will discuss at a future meeting.

4) John Glindinning – would like gravel tested -Jon would like the Town to use the Douglas County contract for gravel crushing. Jon does not think our gravel meets the binding criteria. The Town Board will discuss at a future meeting.

5) Gary Braun – the effect of weight boats on lakes- Gary questioned if something could be done by the Town to prohibit weight boats on lakes. They do considerable damage to the lake bottom and shorelines. Chair Youngquist commented ordinances do not have enforcement power.

13. **A Steve Trainor/Rick Manor motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.; motion carried by a voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson
Clerk/Treasurer

(Posted this 25th day of April, 2024 at the Town Hall, Stop-A-Sec, FD and Backwoods Bar & Grill)

