

**Town of Wascott
Douglas County, Wisconsin**

**Resolution 2010-11
AUTHORIZE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Watch is a resident involvement program, where residents work with Local law enforcement agencies and directly participate in the detection and prevention of crime; however, the Watch Groups DO NOT belong to the County or Town, they belong to the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Watch groups and local law enforcement work together to prevent and fight crime, and also to improve the quality of life in the Town's neighborhoods:

- Law enforcement officers offer information and advice to the Watch Groups.
- Watch Groups act as extra eyes and ears for law enforcement departments.
- Officers teach Watch Group members how criminals often work, what types of suspicious activity to watch for and how to report it. Officers also communicate with residents how Watch Group members can protect themselves and their property from crime.
- By participating in a Watch Group, neighbors get to know each other better and look out for each other.

WHEREAS, under authority of § 60.23 (17m), Wis. Stats., the Town Board may authorize a neighborhood watch program and signs:

“60.23 (17m) **Neighborhood watch program and signs.** Authorize a neighborhood watch program. The town board may place within the right-of-way of a street or highway under the jurisdiction of the town a neighborhood watch sign of a uniform design approved by the department of transportation. If the town board obtains the approval of the county board, the town board may place a sign under this subsection within the right-of-way of a county trunk highway within the limits of the town. No sign under this subsection may be placed within the right-of-way of a highway designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways.”

WHEREAS, the Town Meeting has abolished the office of Constable; and

WHEREAS, there is a desire of the Town Board to support the Neighborhood Watch Program to provide the necessary security of residents, without forming an entity of the Town for this cause.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board under authority of § 60.23 (17m), Wis. Stats., authorizes a Neighborhood Watch Program as a separate entity from the Town: the Watch Group is not considered an agent of the town, but a private citizen's group working together in the community; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board approves a civic appropriation up to \$300 to a sponsoring private citizen's organization or association for assistance in defraying the initial start-up costs for the purchase of signs and communication materials for the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Passed by majority vote of the Town Board on the 1st day of June, 2010.

TOWN BOARD:

Janice Newsome, Town Chairperson

Bob Beglinger, Town Supervisor

Doug Bush, Town Supervisor

Doug Hanson, Town Supervisor

Barbara Johnson, Town Supervisor

Attest: Jeannette Atkinson, Town Clerk

Policy Note: This is a new program authorized by the Town Board. The Town Board is not required to provide on-going financial support for this program.

Fiscal Note: Unencumbered budget balance for civic appropriations is \$3,250. Appropriations are pending for the Food Shelf, Children's Christmas party, and any other civic appropriations. Previous payments have been made to the Historical Society, RAV'N, and Wascott Tourism & Development Association Inc.; and an approved/unpaid amount to the Four Season's Recreational Club, Inc.