

TOWN OF LEMONWEIR
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Volume: [APRIL 2023]

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, Town of Lemonweir, Juneau County, State of Wisconsin, was held on April 18, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:p. m., by chairman, Marv Havlik. Supervisors present were: Carl B. Miller, Bob Smith and Jon Gosda. Matt Vaughan did not attend due to a death in the family. Carin Leach, Town Administrator was also present. The following notice regarding this meeting was published in the April 13, 2023 edition of the Juneau County Star-Times and posted at the Town Hall, Walsh Grain Farms and Hamm Bros. on April 11, 2023:

TOWN OF LEMONWEIR
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 2022
at the Town Hall
(N3935 19th Ave.)
7:00 p.m.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING begins at 7:00 p. m. Agenda includes: installation of newly elected Supervisors, Annual financial reports by the Ambulance and Fire Associations, Assessor report, Tourism Commission reports, reports of the Town Board and any and all other items permitted by law to be brought to the Annual Town Meeting.

Monthly Town Board Meeting will convene immediately upon adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting.

Carin E. Leach, Town Administrator
608-847-4786

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

There were 12 electors present including the members of the board. (Marv H, Bob S, Carl M, Jon G, Dave Anderson, Liz Anderson, John Burch, Barb Baker, Paul & Dorothy Bugenhagen, Dennis Krejci, Cori Smith). Also present were Carin Leach, Town Administrator, and Chris Leopold, MAAA Director.

Call to Order—Chairman Marv Havlik opted to swear in the newly elected official at the end of the Annual Meeting where he would hand the gavel to the new chairman.

2022 Reports

ASSESSOR REPORT: Hart Appraisals, Inc. Patrick J. Hart, Assessor was present and after a brief introduction stated he would be sending out the change notices soon. The Open Book is set for May 18th from Noon-2pm and the Board of Review is set for May 25th from 5pm-7pm.

Pat noted the housing market has thrown us out of compliance leaving the town at 83.54% of assessed value. He will be monitoring the status to plan for a revaluation. The last revaluation was in 2018. Hart stated he always looks for invalid sales (too high or too low) and offers samples of values for a revaluation to compare.

Carl Miller asked about the assessment of the solar farms. Miller noted the small solar farm has begun their project. Pat—looked a Madison area solar farms but the Dept of Revenue is doing the valuation as they are larger solar farms. It will depend on the size of the solar farm and the megawatt output to determine Hart Appraisals will do the assessment or if the state will do it. Pat stated he at a wait and see stage as the solar farm is not there yet. He also noted that homes are different and has seen an increase in renewable energy use. See state report.

AMBULANCE REPORT—Chris Leopold, MAAA Director was able to attend. Leopold introduced himself and gave a little background on himself noting that he was raised in the Town of Fountain but had worked in LaCrosse for many years and was happy to be back home at MAAA.

Grants were a big help this last year. MAAA applied and received a FLEX grant for \$135,000. With FACT and ARPA they received a total of \$173,000 in grants. These grants are specific for use and have strict guidelines. The extra money has allowed MAAA to offer in-house training and purchase communication equipment to update the two-way radios they were using.

MAAA currently serves 11 municipalities. Critical Care is a top priority and they have developed ultimate care plan for each patient to consider what their special needs are to provide care quickly. They are able to bypass the closest hospital to get the patient to a qualified medical facility. MAAA provided services for 1727 calls in 2022. Of those calls 1314 were billable which is a 15.5% drop in calls than the year before.

There is a nationwide shortage of EMS workers even with increased wages and benefits. There are few volunteers anymore. Camp Douglas is struggling and Nekoosa which serviced northern Juneau County closed its doors along with two other services. A new budget has been proposed for county-wide ambulance. A meeting has been set for May 1st to meet with 10 municipalities regarding the county-wide service. In the past the county board has not been receptive to this concept. Another ambulance and at least 6 more people will be needed. They continue to research other concepts. Dennis Krejci offered a suggestion to check on making it a state paid employee with benefits with the county providing the buildings. Chris noted that education was needed regarding this topic. A financial report was also available for 2022 and Liz Anderson reported that a man from Seven-Mile Creek Township had passed away and left the ambulance association \$357,000 from his estate. See report attached.

CRPLA ROOM TAX REPORT—Barb Baker gave the report. Barb thanked Marv and the town board for their support by keeping the room tax here. CRPLA--Baker noted that Castle Rock Petenwell Lakes Association and Juneau County Visitors Bureau are in their 75th year of the tourism business. Tourism and economic development is very important to Juneau County and although it took a hit during Covid people are traveling again. Every county has seen an increase in tourism. CRPLA/JCVB main objective is outreach to promote the area. The organization takes in 700 requests a week year round. Winter months are not always as good depending on snow. Statistically the numbers for 2021 show that taxpayers saved \$500 on their property tax bill due to tourism. The numbers for 2022 will not be ready until May.

Upcoming projects: Earth Day clean-up 4/22/23; Mauston Food Pantry—celebrating 40 years—they will have an event at The Lodge on 4/24/23 and will have a mortgage burning ceremony—all welcome to attend; Wisconsin Rural Partners Summit 4/26-27/23; Wisconsin River Meats Pork Fest will be held on May 6th. CRPLA will be giving out free ice cream at this event from 10am-4pm; Necedah Fest 6/9-1/23; Warrens Cranfest 9/22-24/23—celebrating 50th anniversary—Miss America who was Miss Wisconsin is scheduled to be there—Cranfest is the largest festival in the US, with 850 art and crafts booths, 100 food booths and lots more—parade on Sunday—Barb noted anyone that had a red Corvette convertible that could be used in the parade should contact her or the Warren Cranfest. Baker also noted CRPLA partners with Magnum Radio, Dan Small, PACRS and AG Tourism. She also reported she has attended recent meetings with Necedah Economic Development and the Necedah Chamber. The map brochure was available at the clerk's window. See attached report.

JCAIRS ROOM TAX REPORT—JCAIRS did not attend, however a report and financials were provided. Carin read some points off the report noting that JCAIRS had not used all the room tax funding due to COVID issues but have plans to purchase advertising in the form of banners and print ads and updating and redesigning their current JCAIRS booklet including an updated map design of the grounds and adding a donation request page, mission statement and future needs. This will be a

mailer by zip code to Juneau County communities promoting the fairgrounds. With the funds they did use they were able to sponsor the 1st annual dairy Breakfast at the Fair event during the Juneau County Fair—375 people were served. JCAIRS also purchased advertising and updated social media accounts promoting usage of the fairgrounds. They also renewed their membership with the local chamber of commerce offices. They thanked the township for allowing them the opportunity to receive room tax funds.

See report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT—Chief Kim Hale sent a report for 2022: Copies were made available. Carin summarized the report. There were 226 fire calls in 2022. Lemonweir had 29 calls with 777 man hours—7 of those calls were for fire & 22 of the calls were for other (lift assists, vehicle accidents, drowning). The city had 114 calls, rural calls totaled 71 and 15 calls were mutual aid.

See reports.

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT: A report was submitted by Building Inspector Jeremy Phillis—31 permits were issued overall in 2022; 12 were electrical permits; 1 was for HVAC; 7 were new homes and 3 were issued for new mobile homes in KAE I to replace the tornado damaged homes; 2 for additions; 1-deck; 5 remodels. Est. Cost \$2,060,553; Total fees collected \$12,173.00. See report.

ZONING PERMIT REPORT: 29 zoning permits & 2- CUP (concrete plant & tiny home) were issued & approved. In the ETZ, 5-ETZ permits and 1-ETZ/CUP permits were approved and issued. The CUP was approved for Jake Edgerton to build a pole shed larger than 1,000 sqft. Total Estimated Cost Improvements: \$2,925,857.00 (missing value on Edgerton shed) 2-land divisions were granted. See report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS—Carin handed out the financial report. She reported on the income & expenses and the amounts designated for reserves with an available balance of \$252,842.68 to start the new year. The balance is somewhat higher than usual but plenty to start the year with after reserves are deducted. Other highlights are: the 19th Ave project was still under audit and now finally closed out by the state resulting in another refund to the town of \$122.94 for another audit error. The final close out payment of \$1,449.68 was received from FEMA for the 2018 flood disaster. This payment covered the administration of meetings, documenting, reporting and phone calls and emails with FEMA reps for this disaster. The 2nd half of the ARPA Funds \$89,648.62 were received. The payroll taxes are more due to premium pay used from the ARPA funds. We spent \$305,736.45 on roads which includes reserve funds used for the Rockwood Rd project. ARPA Fund balance is \$171,604.74 which includes the \$150,000 earmarked for the fiber optic grant and \$5,000 earmarked for premium pay. Both of which will be paid out in 2023. The Bridge Loan balance is \$81,835.45. No questions were asked. See report.

OTHER BUSINESS PERMITTED BY LAW TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING—Dennis Krejci congratulated John Burch on his election win. He also urged the board to get a town website set up. Krejci noted that while out campaigning a lot of people he talked too wanted a town website for meeting agendas & minutes of the board & committees as well as an email list to notify constituents of meetings and events. Bob Smith suggested another computer person to talk with Angie Daus as she designs websites etc.

All reports were available at the meeting.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: Carin explained that the next Annual Meeting could not be held until the 3rd Tuesday of April 2024 which will fall on April 16, 2024 or within 10

days after this date by state law. A **motion** by Carl Miller, second by Robert Smith to set the date for the next annual town meeting on April 16, 2024 at 7p.m. All yes votes, motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS

OATH OF OFFICE: The Chairman Havlik asked Carin Leach, Town Administrator to swear in the newly elected Supervisors: John Burch, Chairman, Robert L. Smith (seat #1) and Carl B. Miller (seat #3). All supervisors took the oath of office and were sworn in.

Marv Havlik took a moment to thank the board and everyone there for allowing him to serve as Town Chairman. "It's been a good run," he said. Havlik then shook hands with John Burch handing over the gavel.

Carin present Marv with a Certificate of Appreciation citing the valuable service he has provided to the town for the last 9 years as Town Chairman from 3/14/2014-4/17/2023. Applause...

ADJOURN—the meeting was adjourned at 7:50.m. on a **motion** by Bob Smith/Jon Gosda. All yes votes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:



Carin E. Leach, Town Administrator

Approved: 5/9/2023

(Clerk's Note: copies of all reports given available upon request)