

TOWN OF CHICOG
Town Board Meeting
August 10, 2022

1. Verify Legal Posting Notice

2. Call Meeting to order.

3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. Roll Call: All Board members present.

5. Approval of the previous minutes as posted on our web site. Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Steve Loiselle to approve the posted minutes. Motion Passed

6. Treasurer's report was given as follows all balances as of July 29, 2022:

Checking Account: Beginning balance - \$43,167.65 includes interest of \$5.41, outstanding checks - \$6,656.36 Final working balance: \$36,511.29

Money Market Account: \$198,241.92, includes interest of \$108.18

Highway Equipment Maintenance Account: \$4,247.12

MMA Equipment Replacement Account: \$31,822.40 includes interest of \$18.97

MMA Grant Account: \$24,793.37 includes interest of \$14.67

Tax Account: \$302.00

Motion made by Steve Loiselle and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed

7. Chairman's Report:

a. A rough week in Chicog! 8-2-22 a storm came in out of nowhere around 8 o'clock with extreme winds a deluge of rain, lightning, hail and tornado sightings and a short power outage. Another storm redeveloped around 2 am the next morning. There were many tresses down blocking our town's roads and on private properties and I'm sad to say there was private structural damage and glad to say no physical injuries. Damage was confined to a very narrow isolated corridor between Bald Eagle Dr. and County Rd. K. Carol Buck, Washburn County Emergency Management was here assessing the damages. Our roads were completely open and passable within a matter of 8 hours, "Thank you Joe". Mind you there will still be clean up to do in the right of ways but that can wait for now.

b. Lady's & Gentlemen I hope that you can bear with me through this! I have been serving the public in office for over twenty years now. I have seen a lot of things come down this pipe and have fought for many of your battles; we have even seen sides of each other that weren't very pleasing. "Servant to the public but not a slave". In the years that have past I always believed that things should have gotten easier but my thinking was misguided. Each year some of the same old issues come up that we've struggled through and that we still struggle with today, repeated topics "of" will call it repeated discussion and explanations of government management. Like you we the town are governed by rules and regulations from higher up the ladder and we have to make decisions accordingly and in compliance with these rules. The times they are a changing! and trying to keep up with change is the major battle we face. Population increase PRIME NUMBER ONE. This can be a productive mix of personalities and skills OR as put-gasoline to a flame and I have seen a lot of fuel cans in my day. Another

example: a coffee cup- it can be half full or half empty that is until it is overfilled and it becomes an “oh Schmidt” moment. You name the circumstances and I have probably had to deal with it in some form or fashion and I am waiting to see what really surprises me next and mind you it’s looming on the horizon. Everyone wants their little piece of heaven here but that should come with common courtesy, common sense and respect. We try as a municipal government to give you safe highways and highway maintenance, Emergency services, privileges, etc. and with a great deal of pride. We get some praise in one hand for our extended efforts but mostly we get Schmidt in the other. This is what I see happening: you are all fine with it as long as it serves your agenda or as what you perceive as entitlement and or NIMBY(not in my back yard).

Question: How does a board deal with that? I for one am having a harder and harder time dealing with this. We can’t manage with our hands tied behind our backs when we get chastised in our duties and praised for the same duties and I say (our) “meaning” many other surrounding communities are dealing with the same issues also. The BS that I have faced isn’t meaning “build ships”. The two highest praises that we have gotten for our road work efforts are from the mail man and school bus driver and that holds a lot of weight in our books. These people travel our roads and other town’s roads every day. These two people are giving us the highest marks to our dedicated efforts. This scale of balance is so far off kilter, it’s affecting me but also our town’s employee and he shouldn’t have to deal with it.

c. “Privileged use of the town debris site: this may or may not come as a shock to you I am sorry to say that construction materials were once again “hidden” in a pile of brush that was disposed of at our site. DELIBERATE ABUSE!!! Actions by the few that destroy if for the many. We will be discussing this in our agenda tonight.

d. What this all comes down to is negative attitude spawns negative attitude and you become a product of your environment. Ladies and Gentlemen I apologize for being negative this evening.

e. Replacement of the 2 overhead doors, 1 service door and concrete aprons in the maintenance building has been completed. A great improvement to the structure. Hind sight being twenty, twenty, in its infancy it was designed for cold storage but we evolved.

8. Correspondence:

a. Several contacts about the town debris site.

b. Pat Shifferd: Highway maintenance/mowing of right of way request consideration of mowing later part of August and one pass.

c. Jerry Fenske: No wake ordinance/trouble on Chicog Lake. In the late hours.

d. Kathy Larson: Spooner Outreach Library wants to know if the town of Chicog is interested in having a monthly visit from their book mobile.

e. Amanda Wynne: would like proceedings to start on discontinuance of Robeke Road.

f. Steve Loiselle: a call on an exposed dock on Twin Lake due to low water table. This could pose a problem this winter with snowmobiles. The Town doesn’t have any docks it is responsible for. Will check it out to see who may be the owner of the dock.

g. Call on driveway requirements.

f. email from Elaine Siganos about the fire numbers on Flicker Dr.

9. Roads & Road Work:

a. Construction: Bramer Road project is moving forward ready to gravel. Lower McKenzie Landing Road is still on hold.

b. Maintenance: Spring Maintenance, patching and road grading with mowing to start shortly.

c. Purchases: none

10. Resolution of discontinuance Yellow Banks Road:

Tabled due to the National Forestry Service needing to make sure there is no contamination that would need to be assessed first.

11. Appoint Committee members to the Comprehensive Plan commission:

The following individuals are appointed to the Comprehensive Planning Committee:
Kent Shifferd, Louie Columbus, Brad Harrison, Shannon Berg, Pat Wilcox, Lori Krings, Scott Pahos, Wendy Streiff and Jim Davidson

12. Alternate for the Minong Fire & Ambulance Board

Pat Wilcox had been on this board for the Town of Chicog but has been asked to step down. Pat explained what this Board was about and any requirements to be on it. Steve Loiselle volunteered to be on this Board.

13. Town's Gravel supply/condition:

There is a problem with the grade of gravel from the last two crushing. The crushing was done by two different companies. The Town needs to set a minimum standard of gravel grade before we buy any more.

14. Highway Maintenance discussion:

Problems with the mowing, plowing, brushing and cutting of the right of ways. There have been complaints, and request that we mow and brush later in the season and not the full right of way distance.

“State statues state – No brush, trees, fences, flowers etc. in the right of way.

Comments from the floor and board.

Mowing will continue for this year in accordance with state statues. Will be looked at the possibility of adjusting the mowing times for next year. Later

15. Exceed Cemetery Budget:

The Cemetery budget does not have enough in it for the rest of the year. The new part has been surveyed and now needs to be marked with metal stakes. There is \$367.64 left in the budget.

This may not be enough to cover all of the possible mowing for this year.

Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Steve Loiselle to exceed the Cemetery Budget by \$500 to cover mowing costs. Motion passed.

16. Condition use Permit:

We have received a Variance application from Washburn County Zoning for James Wiltzius.

Motion made by Steve Loiselle and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the variance application.

Motion passed.

17. *Dump Future*

Discussion on the future of the Town Debris/Dump site.

Town board is looking into other options to possibly curtail the dumping of illegal material. The Debris Site will be open for now.

18. Committee Reports:

a. Hunter's Feed – Sue Kowarsch – the committee is doing great. We have come up with a lot of prizes this year for the raffle. We would like to thank Dave Thorsen and Tom Rawlings for making ticket holders.

b. Budget Committee - Terri Corrie – We need to get started on the budget for 2023. Meeting date for the first meeting will be Sept. 16, 2022 at 10 am at the Town Hall.

19. Public Input: None

20. Date of the next meeting: September 14, 2022

21. Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Steve Loiselle and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the payment of the following bills/checks: -1922 thru -2222 and 11923 thru 11960. Motion passed

22. Motion made by Steve Loiselle and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

23. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.