

TOWN OF CHICOG
Town Board Meeting
July 12, 2023

1. Call Meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Verify Legal Posting Notice.
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 Brian Berg to approve the posted minutes. Motion passed
6. **Treasurer's report** was given as follows all balances as of June 30, 2023:
 - Checking Account:** Beginning balance - \$36,056.63 includes interest of \$6.11, outstanding checks - \$4,102.18 Final working balance: \$31,954.45
 - Money Market Account:** \$205,957.49, includes interest of \$225.75
 - MMA Equipment Replacement Account:** \$23,745.52 includes interest of \$24.37
 - MMA Grant Account:** \$25,040.08 includes interest of \$25.70
 - Tax Account:** \$753.56

Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to approve. Motion passed.

Chairman's Report

a. Accomplishments this month.

1. New Cedar fence completed
2. New office installation 80% complete
3. New Internet service completed
4. New security system now 95% completed
5. Bridge and Culvert application process completed. Just need to approve
6. Road Inspection comp completed. Formal review in July for action items
7. LTE position is currently posted on our website under "Government"

b. Upcoming:

1. Install the retaining wall at the cemetery
2. Build new records storage room this month
3. File for numerous transportations grants this month

C. Financial Status:

1. Currently 6 months into the budget cycle and we are on track YTD

d. Informational:

1.



Yesterday, Governor Evers signed the 2023-25 state budget, including issuance of 51 vetoes. The vetoes included a series of unexpected surprises for many, including WTA. Specifically, the Governor, who has indicated repeatedly that he wants to “fix the damn roads,” cut per road mile general transportation aids by over \$10 million compared to what was passed by the legislature. This decision is especially puzzling given his own budget proposed a \$20 million increase. The veto shifts money from small communities, including over 90% of towns, to bigger communities, with most of the funding going to large metro areas. Due to this veto, almost all towns will receive no additional funding to plow roads, salt icy highways, and patch potholes. WTA is currently assessing the situation and any potential next moves. We’ll keep you updated when more information is available.

2. Timber sales contract signed should start cutting soon.

8. Correspondence:

- a. Brian received an email requesting the Board’s meeting agenda be emailed out a week ahead of time so the land owners that live somewhere else have time to adjust their schedules if they wish to attend. Town Clerk advised the Board that the agenda is to be posted no later than 24 hrs. ahead of the meeting, if you post it too early then there will be problems if changes need to be made. Comment from Steve Loiselle, former 1st Supervisor – Most people are not going to remember what’s on the agenda if you post it too early.
- b. Scott received several calls and emails regarding the campground ordinance and the Short Term Rental ordinance. Both are agenda items tonight.

9. Roads & Road Work:

- a. Graveling of Hoinville Rd. is complete!!
- b. Mowing policy – We will be mowing the roads starting on July 15 due to Oak Wilt. They will be mowed with 2 passes per side. Comments from the floor.

10. Introduction/Communication with Eric Lindberg, Vice-President of the Matthews Lake Association:

Mr. Lindberg presented some history of the Association. He also informed the people of several projects that the Association is involved in to help preserve the lake to include monitors at the lake landing to help prevent aquatic invasive species contamination. Informed the Board that there is a problem with County Rd. F by the landing. At the current time there is only a cautionary speed limit sign for that area, most vehicles do not slow down.

11. Approve request from Brian Abbott, (Minong Trails Club) on maintenance agreement for a new state approved ATV/UTV trail crossing at Burian Rd to Bridge Rd.

Motion made by Scott Pahos and seconded by Brian Berg to approve the maintenance agreement for the new trail crossing. Motion passed

12. Approve 2024 50/50 Bridge Grant for culvert replacement on Bald Eagle Dr. Total cost - \$40,687.58 Town's cost - \$20,343.79

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the 2024 50/50 Bridge Grant for use on culvert replacement on Bald Eagle Dr. Motion passed

13. Approve rezoning request from Big Rivers LLC, 1.69 acres, "Journeys Bar" from RR1 to Commercial in order to operate as a Bar/Tavern

Discussion on this

Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to approve rezoning request. Motion passed

14. Approval/Denial of proposed Washburn County Zoning Ordinance regarding Campgrounds

Discussion from the board and floor. Comments taken along with a vote on how many would like to see this approved or denied.

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve current proposed campground ordinance with comments provided. Motion passed

15. Review/Discussion of Ordinance to Regulate Town of Chicog Short Term Rentals

The Board was informed as to what changes were made to the original ordinance by the committee. All questions were answered.

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve new ordinance.

Roll Call Vote:

Scott Pahos – Chair – Yes

Brian Berg – 1st Supervisor – Yes

Sue Kowarsch 2nd Supervisor – Yes

Motion passed

16. Committee Reports:

a. ESG - Terri Corrie – Hunter's Feed Committee has come up with 40 prizes so far this year.

Tickets will be printed the first part of August. We still have a lot of planning to do please join us for the next meeting (TBA)

b. Fire Department – Brad Harrison –

1. There have been 3 false alarms for Heartwood now; we will be charging them for any more.

2. We are having issues with the National Park Services on were & how we can use the hovercraft on the Namekagon River.

3. All commercial buildings in Chicog have received their mandatory fire inspection. Some need to fix some problems

4. We may possibly be having the Pancake Breakfast this year. Will let everyone know.

5. Darcie Pahos asked about when the Fire Board will be meeting again. Brad will get a meeting scheduled.

17. Public Input: None

18. Date of the next Meeting: August 9, 2023

19. Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the payment of the following bills/checks: 12265 thru 12300. Motion passed

20. Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

21. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.