

TOWN OF CHICOG
Town Board Meeting
February 7, 2024

1. Call Meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Verify Legal Posting Notice.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Roll Call:** All Board members present.
5. **Approval of the previous minutes** as posted on our website. 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 January 31, 2024:

Checking Account: Beginning balance - \$54,060.50 includes interest of \$23.43,

Outstanding checks - \$2,023.50 Final working balance: \$52,027.00

Money Market Account: \$161,329.74, includes interest of \$124.53

CD Account: \$47,620.76, includes Quarterly interest of \$620.76

Tax Account: \$601,252.86

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

7. Chairman's Report:

a. On January 27th God gained another angel as Mr. Gary Haines passed after a battle with acute leukemia. Gary and his family have resided in our township for many years. Gary would work at his uncle's resort called Whispering Pines during the summers starting at the age of 9. He and his family would eventually make their home on Matthews Lake years later. Gary was an avid hunter and fisherman and was always willing to help anyone in need. We express our condolences to Gary's wife Colleen, his family, and friends. Gary will be sadly missed. A celebration of life will be held on May 4th, 2024.

b. Work continues on our grant application process, which is due in the month of February.

c. We continue to work on our 3- and 5-year financial plan with the intent to review in the month of March 2024.

d. Communications will be sent this month to all entities involved with the Atherton Road /trail concerns.

8. Roads and Road Work – Brian Berg

a. Current

1. The paved roads have been plowed once this month

2. Plowed roads have been sanded twice this last month.

3. Several roads were brushed while the weather was so good.

4. Maintenance and detailing of the F450. Rust repair and paint treated area.

5. Salt/Sand stock pile hauled in for next storms

6. Comprehensive Plan in accordance the Town shop is now using Biodegradable soaps to wash trucks and equipment

b. Upcoming

1. Brush site? Town Board ideas on possible no burn

2. HSIS Report-Culvert inventory
3. Plowing/Sanding???
4. Brushing
5. Grading and hauling of gravel if weather continues
6. MSHA classes/First aid for the gravel pit

9. Discuss Annual Township contracts:

Annual contracts were given to the board to look over to see if there were any changes to be made. Cemetery Committee requested that the new Cemetery be added into the mowing/cleaning contract. Scott informed the committee until there are actual graves the Town will use the flay mower to mow. Sue Kowarsch added changes to the Hall cleaning contract; add baby changing stations and vents to the cleaning.

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to advertise in both papers for two weeks with bids due in by March 11, 2024. Motion passed.

10. Set date for Audit:

Audit date is set for March 22, 2024, 10 am at the Chicog Town Hall.

11. Review Property Fraud Alert – Terri

Terri Corrie – It has been brought to my attention that there is the possible of property fraud. This is where your property can be put in someone else’s name or the type of property may be changed. Washburn County is participating in a program where you can register for alerts each time a document is recorded with their name on it in the County Land Records office. Here is the website to sign up: <https://www.propertyfraudalert.com/about>

12. Review/discuss/approve moving town accounts to higher yielding accounts – Budget allocation.

- a. We have been looking into moving the Town’s account into higher interest accounts. There have been some questions on the fact that the Town is not a business so it should not be making”money”. I have spoken with Joe Ruth, WTA Legal Counsel; he stated that we are allowed to have our money in high interest accounts as long as the interest is designated to a budget category.
- b. I have talked with Brooke Fairbanks, Shell Lake State Bank; they will match the same interest rate as the Wisconsin Investment Pool (WIP) pays for all our interest bearing accounts.
- c. the WIP’s interest rate fluctuates with the market and is not FDIC insured where Shell Lake State Bank is.

Discussion on this.

Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to change account #1219 into an interest bearing account with all signatories staying the same.

Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to place all interest bearing accounts into the proposed program from Shell Lake State Bank. Motion passed.

13. Correspondence:

Letter from Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) in reference to housing rehabilitation funding available. Letter read into the minutes. Basically there are available

funds to qualifying households to make necessary repairs to their homes. Please contact Autumn Thome at NWRPC at 715-635-2197.

14. Committee Reports:

a. Sue Kowarsch – The Chicog Lakes Association met last month. A concern was brought up in reference to the “No Wake” Ordinance. As of right now the only ones who can impose a fine on water is the County Recreational Officer or the DNR. The Town is working with the Recreational Officer on this.

b. Cemetery Committee – Terri Corrie- a letter was presented to the Board in reference to the erosion of the hill at the cemetery. The Committee is requesting assistance in finding out from the County Highway Department who is responsible for what since there is a question on road right of way.

The Town will look into this.

c. Fire Department/Fire Board – Brad Harrison – Even though it is February and we should be dealing and thinking about snow we are not. With the lack of snow the fire danger has increase until green-up several months off. I have a pamphlet here called “Ready, Set, Go!” from the DNR that talks about Wildfire Action Plans. We all need to beware of the situation. Burring permits are now required.

d. Clerk – There will be an election on February 20, 2024 for the Spooner District School Board, this is a Primary. Please come in and see us we, the election workers, enjoy talking with you.

15. Public Input:

Kent Jones who can apply for the annual contracts. The contracts are open to anyone.

16. Date of the next Meeting: will be March 13, 2024 at 6pm.

17. Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the payment of the following bills/checks: -124 thru -224 and 12497 thru 12526. Motion passed

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

19. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.