

**TOWN OF CHICOG**  
Town Board Meeting  
September 13, 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 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 August 31, 2023:

**Checking Account:** Beginning balance - \$37,416.42 includes interest of \$6.91, outstanding checks - \$6,530.62 Final working balance: \$37,416.42

**Money Market Account:** \$257,683.09, includes interest of \$200.36

**MMA Equipment Replacement Account:** \$38,799.59 includes interest of \$28.83

**MMA Grant Account:** \$25,093.27 includes interest of \$26.61

**Tax Account:** \$302.00

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

**7. Chairman's Report:**

**a. Town budget-** We are currently developing the new 2024 budget. This budget is inclusive with some of the initiatives brought forth from our comprehensive planning committee.

**b. Town Grants-** Currently in 2023 we will receive a LRIP grant for just under \$14K from the state for Bramer road. We were also approved for a \$20K grant from Washburn County for culvert/black top replacement on Bald Eagle Rd which will occur sometime mid-2024. The town was also informed this week that we were approved for "Scoping" services (Engineering services) from the state that will allow us to develop and apply for LRIP/TRIP road grants from the state in the next two years, (2024-2025). These grants can be as small as 10% of the project and as large as 90% of the total project cost.

**c. Cemetery-** The plan is to complete the retaining wall in the next month now that cooler weather prevails.

**d. LTE position-** We have received (3) applications to date and will commence interviews and selection of that individual in the next 30 days.

**8. Correspondence:**

Jeff Kohler has been in email contact with Town Clerk in reference to the request to discontinuance Roebke Rd. There is some confusion on what has been done. Mr. Kohler has received communication from the attorney handling the paperwork that seems to show we were sent a formal request to discontinue Roebke Rd. This was never received by the Town. Mr. Kohler is looking in to it. The Town board is in favor of this action. Roebke Rd. will be tabled until next meeting when more information is available.

## **9. Roads & Road Work:**

- a.** Deeper Lake and Misty Bog Roads - We have completed installation of new culverts, tree removal and widening of these roads. This work is being done in anticipation of potential black top installation from both the town of Chicog and the town of Minong in the near future.
- b. New Town Tractor** - We received our new town tractor this past week. As part of the comprehensive plan, we did not mow over 95% of the town roads this summer. We now are commencing mowing operations with 2 passes on our town roads as the growing season is now over.
- c.** We are currently in the process of reviewing potential abandonment of 593' of Kimmes Road and Roebke Road.
- d. Chicog Lake Road** - We have contracted Washburn County to remove black top/gravel and replace the black top on 2 small areas on that road. The one location is at the culvert just west of McClain Lake Rd and the other is just east of this intersection. This work will commence late September of this year. This will close the road for a short time during the day. We will try to communicate once we have a firm date on this project from Washburn County.
- e. Atherton Road** - We have been in communication with both the trails club and Washburn County forestry departments. Currently we have relocated the trail club sign to a new location and plan to install a top coat on that section of the road sometime next week.

## **10. Heartwood successor agent appointment for all liquor licenses:**

Heartwood has had a change of agents due to a resignation of former agent. Heartwood needs an agent appointed for their liquor licenses due to being an LLC with out of state owners. All necessary paperwork has been filed with the Town Clerk. Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the new agent Joseph A. Sorenson. Motion passed.

## **11. Discussion on the Money Market Fund**

Several different types of accounts have been looked at to place the Town's money. Treasurer to compile figures to see how much we need to keep in the current MMA for operating cost for next month's meeting.

## **12. Discussion on the Equipment Replacement Account:**

There is no discussion at this time. Treasurer transferred remaining amount into this account to meet the annual \$20,000.00 requirement.

## **13. Exceed General Administrative budget line:**

The General Administrative budget line is close to being over budget. The cost of the programming and maintenance for the new election machines were more than figured and we used more checks than planned for this year. If this line is not increased then the Town Clerk will not be making full pay for the year.

Motion by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to increase the General Administrative Budget line by \$2,000.00. Motion passed.

## **14. Review/Approve "No Wake" Ordinance**

The new ordinance was presented to the Board. Since approval for this ordinance was passed on August 9, 2023 the Board signed the approved ordinance.

**15. Review current proposed actions on our town's comprehensive plan.**

The Board has reviewed the Comprehensive plan and are taking action on the following recommendations:

**a. Energy Efficiency and Independence:**

1. We will be looking into upgrading the windows and fixing the door seals. The 2024 budget is being compiled these next months.
2. We are pursuing quotes on a ground based solar array for the Town Hall.
3. Replacing Town Hall lights with LED Bulbs. We have put it into the 2024 budget.

**b. Toxics:** The Town will start to buy biodegradable/organic cleaning material once current stock is used up.

**c. Biodiversity; Pollinator Protection:** We are looking at our mowing procedures to possibly make some changes.

**d. Land use:** The campground ordinance will be discussed in 2024.

**e. Invasive Species:** The Town has no direct control over the lakes and waterways.

**f. Communications:**

1. We have no problem with a committee made up of all the lake associations. The Town Hall is available for this committee for meetings.
2. We have Town board member, Brian Berg, on the Washburn County Board.
3. Update the refrigerator magnet poster. This was an ESG project. We will forward your request to them.

**16. Review/Discusses current status and future of the Fire Board.**

We are currently down to two members who wish to continue on the Fire Board. We need more people. If you are interested please contact Scott Pahos at 715-466-4525 by Oct 10, 2023.

**17. Review Black Top Quotes:**

We have the following blacktop quotes from Monarch Paving:

- a. Misty Bog: \$20,778
- b. Deeper Lake Road: \$25,500
- c. Hazelnut Road: \$47,874.00
- d. Byrkit Road: \$48, 813.00

Question came up from Town Clerk in reference to what is the state's minimum amount needed for publication for bids. Misty Bog & Deeper Lake were not published for bids. If publication is necessary Town Clerk will do so.

Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to approve the blacktopping of Brykit Road.

Motion passed.

**18. Committee Reports:**

**a. Fire Department:** Jim Frasheski – The Fire Department will be hosting the Pancake Breakfast. The date is Oct. 14, 2023 8am to 12pm, \$7 per plate.

**b. ESG – Terri Corrie –** We are now having walkabout every Thursday 10am to 3pm. Come join us. The next Hunter's Feed meeting will be Sep 14, 2023 at 9am.

**19. Public Input:**

**a. Dale Kes –** Thank you for doing something about Atherton Road. Hopefully we can work something out to change the trail.

**b. Louie Columbus –** The previous Board was presented with a proposed CAFO Ordinance. We would like this ordinance looked at again.

**20.** Date of the next Meeting: October 11, 2023

**21.** Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the payment of the following bills/checks: -1723 thru -1823 and 12329 thru 12359. Motion passed

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

**23.** Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.