

TOWN OF CHICOG
Town Board Meeting
July 10, 2024

1. **Call Meeting** to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
3. **Verify Legal Posting Notice**
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 28, 2024:

Checking Account: Beginning balance - \$15,677.00 includes interest of \$92.40, outstanding checks - \$1,377.61 Final working balance: \$14,299.39

Money Market Account: \$396,896.68, includes interest of \$1,631.88

CD: \$48,242.88

Tax Account: \$302.00

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

7. **Chairman's Report:**

- a. Financial Report: We are now 6 months into our current operating budget and am pleased to announce that we are currently under budget in many categories. Operating costs such as utilities are only 34% of our annual budgeted amount. Diesel fuel consumption currently 43% less than the prior year. Our interest-bearing accounts are approximately \$8200 over our annual budgeted amount. The township is performing very well to budget.
- b. The township has been challenged with numerous initiatives the past 6 months. IE: ATV/UTV concerns, No wake ordinance on our lakes, Driveway ordinance, Grant applications for road repairs/construction and finally a potential wake boat ordinance. We are sure that these concerns will continue to arise but this board is committed to working towards resolution on all concerns that are communicated to us. Thank you in advance for your input.

8. **Roads & Road Work:** Joe Norton

- a. Bald Eagle ROW work complete.
- b. Mowing of grass started
- c. Town clean-up day items hauled to NWRP (Spooner)
Upcoming
- d. Routine maintenance (catchup)
- e. Chip seal on Lower McKenzie Rd
- f. Main culvert on Bald Eagle not scheduled yet
- g. Comments on the mowing of certain roads earlier than October. Some individuals wish that we would not mow certain roads at all until late October.

9. Public Input:

Joann Malek – I write for the ADRC Focus newspaper on things for the town. Would the Town like me to send you a PDF file of the column to post on the Chicog website?

Scott Pahos – Yes please.

10. Review/Discuss potential “Wake boat Ordinance” Chicog township Public comment/input appreciated

We are here to discuss the possible “Wake Boat Ordinance”. Scott Pahos started the discussion by providing information he has gathered on Wake Boats, current legal stating we have, what some other areas have done.

Gary Berg – I am a Water Quality Sampler for the DNR on South Twin Lake. There is currently a Wake boat that uses the lake. After the weekends I have found an excess of weeds built up on the shore line. I have also heard that the ballast tank on this type of boat does not empty completely without special equipment. This would mean that water from one lake is being transferred to another like possible carrying invasive species. I would like to see an ordinance for Wake Boats.

Pat Shifferd – Presented information from several scientific studies that are ongoing thru the universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Town of Chicog needs to have an ordinance for this.

Kent Shifferd & Louie Columbus – Part of the Chicog Lakes Committee – we have sent a letter to the State Senator read the letter to the public (copy attached). Several individuals comment on being in favor of the ordinance.

Scott Pahos asked for a show of hands of who is in favor of the Town passing an ordinance containing a 700ft lake edge, no more than 2ft high wake and no further than 50ft out behind the boat. Most are in favor of this as a minimum. The Town will work on an ordinance.

11. Set date for budget interest revenue allocation

Due to the increase of interest from our accounts we need to allocate budget categories for this. Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to allocate the extra revenue to budget categories at the October 2024 board Meeting. Motion passed.

Part of the additional revenue is due to the 11 Month CD we started. This CD is due in October. Motion made by Sue Kowarsch and seconded by Brian Berg to decide what we want to do with the CD at the August 2024 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

12. Correspondence: None

13. Committee Reports:

a. ESG - Terri Corrie – We have an upcoming Fun Fest Day on August 17, 2024, come & join us. Information will be put out. Hunter’s Feed – Sue Kowarsch – Coming along we have quite a few donations. Raffle tickets and posters will be out by the end of August. We also discussed having a coat drive during the same time frame. We will be making a decision at the next meeting.

b. CAFC – Terri Corrie – we will be having our Firewise Fun Day at the same time as the Fun Fest Day. Come check us out you might learn something about Firewise.

c. Fire Department – Brad Harrison – Unit #12 is getting new parts & Decals. We have mailed out our new pamphlets this week. There is some good information in it.

14. Date of the next meeting: August 14, 2024

15. Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the payment of the following bills/checks: -1324 to -1524 and 12669 thru 126702. Motion passed

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

17. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Letter to State Senator

12/6/2023

Dear Senator Quinn,

We are writing to urge you to vote against SB680.

We are full-time residents of Chicog Township, and a members of the Chicog Community Lakes Committee. Our purpose is to monitor the lakes in order to preserve and protect them for current and future generations.

Wake surfing has been rapidly increasing on our Town lakes. We urge you to not sign on to these bills nor support them in any way. Among other defects, the proposed legislation provides for inadequate minimum distances from shore for wake boats. This rushed legislation would preempt ongoing research and discussion by all stakeholders.

Intentionally magnified wakes create a safety hazard to everyone else using the lake, cause damage to the environment, destroy personal property, and erode the shoreline. If wake surfing is not properly regulated it will cause the following problems which we are already seeing.

- churning of the lakebed with downward prop wash
- Increasing turbidity)
- Damage to aquatic vegetation and fish spawning beds
- Stirring up bottom sediments and sing provide nutrients for algae blooms
- Swamping loon nests
- Eroding shorelines
- Jet prop wash into the thermocline
- The transfer invasives via residual ballast water
 - Endanger other lake users through bad forward visibility and by generating hazardous wakes, making the lakes unusable by many others

Degrading the lakes will damage the local economy and the tax base.

The lakes belong to the people of Wisconsin. Let's not allow hasty decisions to prevent us from protecting the lakes for future generations.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Louie Columbus and Kent Shifferd for the Chicog Community Lakes Committee

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