

TOWN OF CHICOG
Town Board Meeting
January 10, 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 December 31, 2023:

Checking Account: Beginning balance - \$39,005.57 includes interest of \$6.58,
Outstanding checks - \$799.52 Final working balance: \$38,206.05

Money Market Account: \$87,283.82, includes interest of \$169.19

CD Account: \$47,000.00

Tax Account: \$249,832.18

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

7. Chairman's Report:

a. Financials: Our 2024 budget is approved and will be published on the website in February 2024. We are currently developing a new expenditure/revenue forecast tool which we will start utilizing in February to better manage our financial resources within the town. In short, this tool will allow us to position the town's financial sources to higher yielding interest rates in regards to checking and savings accounts. We also anticipate releasing our town's 3- and 5-year financial plan in March of 2024.

b. Timber Sale: The town timber cut is complete but we are still waiting to complete the final sale and movement of the remaining timber. We have received approximately \$89K as of this date.

c. Bald Eagle Culvert Project: We have received approval to execute our culvert replacement project from the DNR. Due to restrictions this project will not start until after 6/5/2024.

d. Comprehensive Plan: This past month we accomplished another directive in our town's comprehensive plan. We installed (17) new LED lights in the town hall and (3) new LED lights in the fire department. These replacements reduced our energy consumption rate on these units by 74%. Total cost of this project is approximately \$2,250.00. We were able to utilize Joe Norton and Brian Berg for the removal and installation of these units which reduced our cost by approximately \$1,200.00. Thank you to Brian and Joe.

e. Grants: We are currently working on grant applications from both the DOE, (Department of Energy) and RESP, (Rural Energy Startup Program) both are due in February. These grants focus on funding of projects that will reduce energy consumption at our facility.

8. Roads and Road Work – Joe Norton

- a. The paved roads have been sanded twice this last month.
- b. Several roads were brushed while the weather was so good.
- c. We will be burning brush at debris site.

9. Presentation from Mr. Tim Healey from The Minnesota Catholic Youth Partnership on the Heartwood Resort acquisition.

10. Approval to execute loan in the amount of \$134,000 to pay off the JD Skid Steer loan and pay in full for the New Holland tractor.

Per a motion made at the June 2023 meeting, with the approval of the 2024 budget in December 2023 a new loan is possible.

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Susan Kowarsch to finance a loan with Shell Lake State Bank in the amount of \$134,000.00. The following individuals will be on the loan:

Scott Pahos – Town Chair
Brian Berg – 1st Supervisor
Teresa L. Corrie – Town Clerk

Motion passed.

11. Town Comprehensive plan review/update

We have posted the Comprehensive Plan on the Town’s website if you wish to read it. We are planning on having a meeting with the Comprehensive Planning Committee within this 1st quarter to discuss some of the recommendations that we can do this year.

12. Review/discuss hosting a craft fair at the town hall on Memorial Day weekend.

Two town residents suggested that we host a craft fair as a fund raiser. Since at this time we have no specific major expense to have a fund raiser for and the Town cannot “make” money we are handing this over to the Fire Department and ESG. The Town Board will support and assist the Fire Department in this event.

It was decided by all involved parties the date will be May 25, 2024. Further information will be put out later.

13. Set a date for a “special town board meeting” addressing Atherton Road/Trail.

We need to have a meeting to discuss the situation on Atherton Road. Due to the amount of information needing to be discussed a regular Town Board Meeting is not appropriate. This meeting will be open to the public.

Meeting date: January 23, 2024 at 6pm at the Town Hall.

14. Correspondence:

a. Sue Kowarsch – Received an email from Jim Davidson in reference to where and how the Town’s money is handled. He has made several suggestions on different programs/accounts.

b. Scott Pahos – I have had several calls and emails in reference to “Real Estate” questions, i.e. driveways, size of lots to build on.

15. Committee Reports:

a. Fire Department – Jim Frasheski – We had one call this pass month. With winter final getting here please remember to keep you fire numbers visible. Don't allow the number to become covered with snow, if we can't see it we will take longer to find you to help.

b. Clerk – There will be an election on February 20, 2024 for the Spooner District School Board, this is a Primary.

C. Fire Board – Brad Harrison – We have increased the Fire Board members if you are interested in being a member please let us know. The Fire Board is currently working on several grants.

16. Public Input: None

17. Date of the next Meeting: Due to conflict with Fire Department Training the meeting will be moved to February 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm

18. Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Brian Berg and seconded by Sue Kowarsch to approve the payment of the following bills/checks: -2623 thru -2723 and 12455 thru 12496. Motion passed

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

20. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.