

Town of Johnstown
Polk County, Wisconsin
Minutes of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting
April 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Shed, 2181 County Rd G, Comstock, WI. There were 10 residents in attendance, including the Chairman, 1 Supervisor, and the Clerk. Chairman Anderson reviewed the general rules of order.

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting were presented. Motion by Deborah Schadeegg, seconded by Jim Niemann to approve the minutes. Yes – 10, No – 0. Motion Carried.

The 2016 Financial Report was presented and reviewed by the clerk. Motion by Chris Crowe, seconded by Deborah Schadeegg to approve the 2016 Financial Report. Yes – 10, No – 0. Motion Carried. Request was made to show a two-year comparison of financial reports.

Resident, Chris Crowe suggested to consider offering town residents an opportunity to purchase gravel when crushing is done for the township. Chairman Anderson will discuss with Cemstone and review WTA guidelines regarding material sales and any legalities that may be an issue for the township. Crowe suggested that if this is possible, a mailing could go out to town residents to explain the process of purchasing.

Richard Naessen commented on the amount of hand labor that is being done to maintain our roads and justified the purchase of the dump trailer. Currently the dump trailer is being pulled by private vehicles. Would the electors consider purchasing a multi-purpose work truck that would be sufficient to tow the dump trailer, with the possibility of adding attachments such as a sanding box and plow? In addition to towing the trailer, a work truck could also be used to remove small snow fall amounts and sand portions of the roadways. Discussion followed regarding age of roads, the amount of patching and maintenance that we do, and cost of overall road maintenance. Depending on what type of maintenance is being completed, cost can reach up to \$35,000 for larger jobs. What are the justifications for purchasing a truck? Where will the funds come from? In conclusion, it was agreed that further analysis needs to be completed regarding the cost savings of owning and doing much of our own plowing, sanding, patching, etc., vs. hiring general contractor's and Polk County to do the work. Other things mentioned were storage and insurance of a truck.

Chairman Anderson asked, "Do we want to consider raising the annual tax levy?" Discussion followed and in conclusion, if reasonable justification for a raise can be presented, most in attendance were not opposed to raising future levy.

Chairman Anderson continued with information regarding the recent changes to EMS and Fire Districts within the township. The township currently pays all costs for EMS and Fire Protection. What consideration would be given to billing for suppression costs that are incurred due to fires? Discussion followed: Would this cause people to be hesitate to call 911? How do you determine who is responsible for a fire and if negligence is involved? Other townships bill the homeowner for all fire costs. Further analysis will need to be completed.

Postings and Publications: Shirley Crowe asked if town notices could be published in other newspapers such as the Wild River Advertiser? Could an email system be set up for town residents to request notices be sent to them? There would be additional cost involved with publishing in multiple newspapers. Chris Crowe volunteered to assist with setting up an email system, if needed. Clerk Moravitz will contact WTA and Pipe Lake Association to determine if this is acceptable for notifications. Motion by Shirley Crowe to add an email option for delivery of township notifications. Seconded by Deborah Schadeegg. Motion carried.

Burning Permits: Residents can contact the Chairman or either of the Supervisors to have a local permit issued. Once a permit has been issued, as a courtesy, it is recommended that you contact the Polk County Sherriff's department to notify them that you will be burning to avoid unnecessary emergency calls regarding fire.

Shirley Crowe asked about dogs at large. If you have problems with dogs running at large, please contact local protective services. Those serving our township include Polk County Sherriff's Department and St. Croix Tribal Police.

The 2018 Annual Town Meeting will be held the third Tuesday in April.

There being no further topics of discussion, a Motion was made by Shirley Crowe, seconded by Jim Niemann, to adjourn the 2017 Annual Town Meeting at 8:27 p.m. Yes – 10, No – 0. Motion Carried.

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN AT THE 2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.