

Town of Oshkosh
Annual Town Meeting
April 18, 2023 - 7:00 pm – Town Hall

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Erdman, Treasurer Laura Hunt, Supervisor Matt Merten, Supervisor William Demler, Treasurer Laura Hunt, Clerk Jeannette Merten, and an audience of 7.

Chairman Erdman called the Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town of Oshkosh board members were introduced.

Motion by Jason Selwitschka, Sharon Karow seconded, to approve the Annual Meeting minutes dated April 19, 2022, as written. Motion carried by voice vote.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT by Steve Gawaresky

Steve Gawaresky, Fire Chief, mentioned they have a page on the Town of Oshkosh website with contact information and a Facebook page.

Gawaresky created a written 2022 report provided to the town board and available to the public. Included in the report is a Message from the Chief, identifying the names of persons in the chain of command, a mission statement, run statistics, 2022 accomplishments, and community outreach and events.

He thanked the town board for approving the purchase of a new fire truck last fall. The request was to replace a 1995 fire truck that due to its age and the repairs are becoming more frequent. The expected date of delivery is the end of 2024 or early 2025.

ISO rating for the Town of Oshkosh has improved.

Additionally, the Class B foam that is unusable that contained PFAS foam in the department was properly disposed of. Because it is labor-intensive and expensive to dispose of, he obtained information at the State level and was able to dispose of it at a landfill at \$38/per gallon.

He went over grants applied for describing the purchases made or going to be from grant funds.

Gawaresky is working toward offering more training opportunities for members by coordinating with other municipalities. They have a facility available for hands-on training owned by the cities of Neenah and Menasha. They are looking at buying 3-

5 sets of turnout gear. It is recommended to replace turnout gear every ten years. They are working on converting fire inspection reporting from paper to electronic.

FIRST RESPONDER REPORT by Jason Selwitschka

Jason Selwitschka, First Responder Director, provided a written report. Selwitschka spoke about the contents of the report attached to the minutes. He added that they have a good working relationship with the neighboring Town of Vinland's EMS and Fire departments. They are a non-transporting unit.

He discussed grant funding applied for and purchases with the funds as specified in his written report.

REPORTS BY OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES, DEPARTMENTS, OR ENTITIES OF THE TOWN.

Carol Kaufmann, Zoning Administrator, is out of state traveling, no report.

Clerk Jeannette Merten presented a list of building permits issued in 2022. Marty Johnson, the building inspector, has an Annual Town Meeting conflict being chair of Town of Poygan which makes attending this meeting difficult.

Vicky Rowe, Island View Sanitary District Commissioner, mentioned that they working through the Master Sewer Agreement is one of their major concerns, and the district is in good shape overall.

Sharon Karow, Planning & Zoning Committee secretary, mentioned there were two items to address last year which were Moore and Loren cases.

CLERK REPORTY BY Jeannette Merten

Clerk Merten presented the Annual Financial booklet of 2022, available for public inspection. Booklets were available to voters during the Spring Election, and is available online for viewing on the town's website. The annual report is a snapshot of 2022 that includes the financial status, revenues and disbursements, information on stormwater practices, recycling news, Plummers Cemetery, and more.

Annual reporting of the recycling grant has issues with its submittal process and will be completed when clerks have access.

New this year is a 2022 Recycle Report that explains banned items from the recycle bin and other information helpful to recycling practices.

Last payment from ARPA was received in 2022. Disbursement still needs to be determined by the town board. Form CT reporting with the State of Wisconsin was submitted and is complete.

The April 5, 2022, Spring Election results in the Town of Oshkosh was also available to the public and was posted on the town's website. There are no fall elections this year in 2023. Legislators were working on having the Sec. of State resignation of LaFollette go to an election, and not sure of where the process is.

Open Book is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2023, from 9am to 11am by phone and Board of Review is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023 from 3 pm to 5 pm. It was a maintenance year, and next year will be a re-valuation year. Assessor plans to begin looking at properties this summer.

Residents may subscribe and sign-up for alerts that can be sent to them by email or text message. A resident may call to sign-up or sign-up online on the town's website. This is the best tool for town residents to stay informed, and residents are encouraged to subscribe.

TREASURER REPORT by Laura Hunt

Laura Hunt was absent on vacation. Hunt did provide a written note on 4/19/23 reading:

"I continue to manage the town's monies per the directives of the town board. We recently added another institution, in order to take advantage of rising interest rates and keep our funds secure. We are taking advantage of rising interest rates. While keeping the town's money protected and secure.

In addition, I oversee tax communication and collection. As well as dog licensing."

SUPERVISOR REPORT by Matt Merten and William Demler

Matt Merten

His mission is to keep the Town of Oshkosh a nice place to live and affordable.

He is responsible for overseeing the town's Emergency Management. He assigns people with smartphones, strategically placed by location, to assist during an emergency.

Supervisor Merten additionally responds to stray animal calls, noxious weeds, and manages other miscellaneous concerns, including roads and ditching.

William Demler

Supervisor Demler thanked the fire department, sanitary district members, and other committee members for their commitment to the Town. Demler does issue culvert permits and went into details of what must be considered when issuing a culvert permit. He also follows up on road complaints and other miscellaneous calls like animals, parking, signage, etc.

During the April Election, there was a sign-up sheet for fire number signs for residents. Winnebago County will be our supplier for the fire numbers. The Town have a choice of colors to pick from and they are red, blue, green, or brown. Demler took an advisory show of hands to pick a color. The color Red had the most show of hands. There was a discussion addressing as a whole and how numbering is assigned.

CHAIRMAN REPORT by Jim Erdman

The town board has always worked as a team to preserve and keep our town a desirable place to reside, as its main goal.

The town is seeing some development, especially along the channels, as a result of reasonable taxes, no stormwater utility, and sensible regulation.

Erdman and Demler issue culvert permits. The fee is \$300. The applicant agrees to the project cost minus the initial fee. With over 1000 culverts in the town, we do not subsidize installation or replacement costs.

Drainage improvement is part of the culvert project. The town does not subsidize drainage improvements of developments.

Reminders to the townspeople: 1) Concrete is not allowed in the road right-of-way of driveways. 2) An excavation permit is required from the town clerk when work is performed in the road right-of-way. 3) Placing fill requires approval from the town board. A fill permit may be given or denied at the discretion of the town board.

The town board is doing a road review on April 20, 2023. We will request estimates to determine which projects to complete in 2023.

The Town ordered a new Pierce fire engine fire truck in 2022. Delivery is scheduled in 2-1/2 years. The Town tax levy was raised \$120/k per year to save ahead for this purchase. Donations are being taken and appreciated. We raised the contribution to the fire and EMS Years of Service award. The program shows our gratitude to our volunteer fire and EMS members that qualify.

We are considering using ARPA funds for drainage enhancements and road safety projects. Each town will additionally be receiving \$145/k ARPA check from

Winnebago County. The board will determine where to allocate this allotment, and could possibly go toward the new fire truck.

Issues are being worked out regarding the Winnebago Area sewer and water project. It is now a 1.6-million-dollar project because of the City's request for redesign and cost increases. The project will hopefully occur this summer with completion by November 2023.

Man-made ditches and inlets on your neighbor's shoreline presently limit building rights on your property, also floodplain fill guidelines unfairly limit property use. Erdman will work with legislators to address these inequities as we strive for local sensible land-use authority, reasonable county ordinances, and fair state zoning statutes. Erdman does work with legislators on various topics. A constant issue with the State is always road funds and shared revenue.

Erdman is a member of the Towns Advocacy Committee with the Wisconsin Towns Association, where the committee can examine and weigh in on legislative proposals.

The Town of Oshkosh has a DNR approved MS4 H2O discharge stormwater permit. Thanks to our open ditches and swales (no underground storm sewer pipes), we presently don't need town retention ponds or a utility. We will be checking for illicit discharges and swale conditions again this summer. Last summer, Erdman helped Chuck Nahn, the town's stormwater expert, check on several outfalls to keep our town compliant. They plan to do it again this summer. Several stricter TMDL requirements are looming ahead in the years to come.

The town converted to garbage bins in 2022. This transition with Waste Management has had some pumps but is getting better.

Erdman thanked the whole board and the volunteers for their team effort.

Lastly and for the record, the town has zero debt for now, but we do not know what the economic future will bring.

Other matters being worked on are:

- An agreement on the Loren junk issue which is pending and will hopefully be resolved soon.
- A 500-unit apartment complex may happen on Lake Butte des Morts Dr that the town has little control over and is a city project in the City of Oshkosh.

***OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, QUESTIONS, OR MAKE DECISIONS
AS DEFINED UNDER THE WI STATUTES.***

Steve Gawarsky, fire chief, would like to see signage on some roads with a Y = yes or N = no of whether there is enough space at the end of a road of whether a fire truck could turn around. Town of Utica uses this method.

Set next year's Annual Meeting date to April 16, 2024.

Motion made by Demler, Vicky Rowe seconded, to set year 2024 Annual Meeting to Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Motion made by Jason Selwitschka, Bill Demler seconded, to adjourn. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Jeannette Merten/Town Clerk
Town of Oshkosh