

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Saturday, July 25, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Wascott Town Hall

1. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Chair Jenson at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Verification of qualified electors present at meeting – There were 12 qualified electors in attendance.
4. Approval of Order of Business- Chair Jenson invited guests to add items to the agenda, to be discussed under Item 12 (b). The following agenda items were requested by citizens present:
  - a. Patti McDermott - Senior Housing
  - b. John Glindinning - Roads
  - c. Jon Meteraud - Brush Dump

**A Chuck McDermott/Jon Meteraud motion to approve the Order of Business, including the above agenda items; motion carried by a hand vote.**
5. Approve Annual Town Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2019 and April 18, 2020 - **A Chuck McDermott/Fred Atkinson motion to approve minutes of the April 20, 2019 Town Meeting Minutes and the April 18, 2020 Town Meeting Minutes; motion carried by a hand vote.**
6. Review Conduct and Powers of Town Meeting- Chair Jenson reviewed the powers that may be exercised by the people at a Town Meeting.
7. Town Officer's Reports
  - a. 2019 Annual Financial Report- Clerk/Treasurer Atkinson presented the audited Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2019 highlighting the following –

**Actual Revenues** - \$1,536,829 noting a budget amendment was approved moving 2018 restricted monies of \$137,100 to pay for a Highway Loader being delayed for delivery until 2019.

**Actual Expenditures** - \$1,753,595 creating a net change in Cash Fund Balance of (\$216,766). An addition to the Town Hall in the amount of \$275,317 was paid with cash reserves.

**Cash Fund Balance** beginning 01/01/19 was \$667,179; Cash Fund Balance ending 12/31/19 was \$450,413.

**Long Term Debt** as of 12/31/19 is \$438,507. The Town incurred no new debt. A detailed financial report was provided.
  - b. Town Board Report – Chair Jenson reported the highlights of the year -
    - Completion of the beautiful new addition to our historic town hall
    - New town bulletin boards were constructed;
    - A Health & Safety Manual was compiled and adopted;
    - A 10-year renewal of the Joint Transfer Station Agreement between Wascott and Gordon was approved;
    - An excavator and trailer was purchased for the Highway Department;
    - Road work projects included East Mail Road, Lynch Road, Rediger Road, Red Lake Road, Denver Road, Bond Lake Estates, Miles Lake Road, Town Hall parking lot and closing of Lawler Bridge.

Chair Jenson thanked the many volunteers, ad hoc committees, and organizations who serve our community.

- c. EMS Services – Absent. Report on file. Highlights of Director Ebert’s report -
  - 182 runs from medicals to fire standby. 86 Gordon, 76 Wascott, 23 mutual aid;
  - Refreshers for responders have been completed;
  - Added 2 new members and 3 members have moved up in licensure;
  - Eligible Service Award Program members received buy back years;
  - New septic system was installed.
  - 2020 plans - training will continue to keep up to date on the ever-evolving treatment of patients; add dementia friendly training to the service; initiate incentives for recruitment of new members; purchase Monitors for each ambulance; purchase a new ambulance by 2021.
- 8. Wascott Volunteer Fire Department – Absent. Report on file. Highlights of Chief Michalek’s report -
  - Run reports for 2019 - 63 First Responder calls; 5 wildland fires; 8 structure fires; 7 false alarms; 9 car accidents and traffic control; 8 mutual aid; 6 ATV/snowmobile accidents; 7 hazardous conditions/service calls;
  - The 2020 Wascott FD Open House is cancelled due to Covid-19;
  - Asked that residents check their fire number signs to make sure it is not obstructed by trees or brush and that it is properly displayed at the end of the driveway. Your driveway should be 20’ wide and 14’ in height for the fire trucks and ambulance to access your property;
  - The Fire Department is always looking for new members.
- 9. County Board Supervisor Report – District 2 – Absent. Report on file. Highlights of Mary Lou Bergman’s report -
  - Unfounded state mandates in Health and Human Services were a serious concern for the County. However, the State provided some funding enabling the County to deal with the mandates;
  - Sales tax revenues came in considerably higher than anticipated;
  - Numerous changes occurred in the Zoning Office due to reorganization;
  - County Finance received its’ ninth consecutive award for excellence in reporting and record keeping;
  - Forestry continued to plunge forward despite the natural disasters encountered in 2019. It was a record year for timber sales. A Forestry audit took place and received no tags or recommendations. Improvements to the County parks included new and updated bathrooms, pavilions, landings, docks, water and electric;
  - Reminder to those who received a yellow post card requiring a sewer inspection, which needs to be done by a licensed Wisconsin plumber, and a sewer pumping, that this must be completed and paperwork submitted to the State by the Spring of 2021. There will be a penalty for non-compliance;
  - The Communicable Diseases Cervide Committee posed a draft ordinance for game farms and hunting preserves, hoping to slow and/or eradicate Chronic Wasting Disease in our county.
- 10. Civic Organization Reports
  - a. Wascott Community Club/Fire Department Auxiliary – President Patti McDermott reported -
    - The Wascott Community Club/Fire Department Auxiliary continues to grow with over 30 members;
    - The Community Library continues to be a focus of our group. Each month we shelve returned books and stock newly donated books;
    - The new addition provides so much more room for our fundraisers and is the best facility in the area!

- Purchased 5 new tables and 28 new chairs. The town Board also purchased the same amount. Purchased additional dishes, cups, glasses and silverware to make it possible to serve 150 in one seating. Also, purchased 2 new 100 cup coffee pots.
  - Last July held an Open House inviting the community to view our new addition;
  - The WCC/FDA donates, provides and helps with numerous projects throughout the year - scholarships for Northwoods graduates, school supplies & winter clothing, donates to CASDA, donates to Septemberfest supporting the Northwood Education Foundation, plant flowers at cemetery and town hall, provide treats and serve at the FD Open House, provide refreshments for Elections, help the Town Clerk/Treasurer stuff tax envelopes, donate to the G/W Food Shelf and COMFORTS in Minong, baked cookies and served at the Wascott Area Children’s Christmas Party, donated to Gordon/Wascott EMS;
  - We are able to be a **“Giving Group”** as a result of our two fundraisers - **Friday Fun Day** and the **Swedish Meatball Dinner**. Our **Cans for Kids** at the Stop A Sec has been a huge success;
  - The WCC/FDA meets the **first Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. (book shelving at 1:00 p.m.) at the Wascott Town Hall.**
- b. Four Seasons Recreational Club - Absent. Report on file. Highlights of President Youngquist’s report -
- The 4 Season’s Recreation Club hosts several community events to support the Town and encourage tourism in the area
  - Food and Fun was held on the Saturday before Labor Day which attracted nearly 1500 people;
  - Donated to the Wascott Children’s Christmas Party;
  - Participate in the Adopt a Highway clean up program cleaning a section of Hwy 53;
  - Held an ATV Color Ride in October. Attendance was between 30-55 people;
  - Prepared and maintained trails for summer ATV riding and winter ATV and snowmobile riding. Assisted our neighboring club, Jackpine Riders, by grooming a section of Trail 41;
  - Purchased 2 new tracks for the Tucker snow groomer;
  - Replaced and added ATV and snowmobile trail signs as needed;
  - Held a membership drive;
  - Club membership has increased to over 150 members;
  - Built an addition to the Club building;
  - Continue to do trail improvements.
- c. Wascott Tourism & Development Association – President Jon Meteraud commented the Association works with local businesses in Wascott to aid and promote getting their information out to the community which include the 4 Seasons Rec Club, Wascott Community Club, Wascott FD Gordon/Wascott EMS, Indianhead Visitor Guide, Washburn County Visitor Guide. In addition, the Association sponsored a Christmas family, helped at the Wascott Children’s Christmas party, did road clean-up on Hwy T, erected a new road sign on Hwy T & Lost Lake Road, donated to the Gordon/Wascott Food Shelf. Jon related there are a couple new businesses coming to Wascott. Visit us on [www.visitwascott.com](http://www.visitwascott.com) for more information.

## 11. Specific Matters for Discussion by Qualified Electors Present

- a. Set meeting date for 2021 Annual Town Meeting – **A Jon Meteraud/Chuck McDermott motion to set the Annual Meeting date for Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 10 a.m., at the Wascott Town Hall. Motion carried by voice vote.**

b. Items Added by Town Meeting

- 1) Senior Housing - Patti McDermott commented there is no place to live for those who move out of their homes and wish to stay in the area. The Town owns a vacant piece of property near the Ballpark. Perhaps the Town could explore the possibilities of building some type of senior housing. Jan Newsome asked how many acres are there and has the Planning Commission reviewed. Jan commented there is no rental property for all age groups. Steve Trainor thought this is a very good idea. Jon Meteraud stated that Gordon has developed an area selling land lots and Minong has built some housing units.  
**A Patti McDermott/Steve Trainor motion to recommend to the Board to explore options for developing a portion of that property into rental housing and could be offered as an incentive to a developer; motion carried by a unanimous hand vote.**
- 2) Roads - John Glindinning expressed his concern on the following - Gravel issue -John feels the town's gravel would not pass the sieve analysis test because it does not have enough clay content (binder). John cited examples of why he thinks the gravel does not meet the standard. Storm Water Management - the goal is to get storm water safely off the road surface and into good vegetative covered ditches and riprap where necessary to prevent erosion. Some of our roads have shallow and sandy shoulders resulting in erosion. Blacktop Roads - Unfortunately, our blacktop roads often have shallow or no shoulders to allow the storm water to flow away from the edge of the road. Gravel should be added to the edge of the blacktop roads where sand has been lowered by traffic.  
Jan Newsome would like to see more town residents have input into road maintenance projects.  
Chuck McDermott - Each of us have had our road fixed. Road crew is not always wrong. We have 202 miles or roads. Years ago, roads were done with 100% cold mix. Now those roads are falling apart.  
Jan Jenson - At a recent Board Meeting, the Board made a decision that the gravel was tested and passed all DOT requirements and therefore, the Town will keep crushing our own gravel and no need for testing.  
Bob Beglinger commented our roads were blacktopped without doing a proper gravel base - they were just blacktopped. Were never done right in the beginning and now keep doing over because didn't last. Do the roads the right way.  
Steve Trainor commented that lots of counties are looking at using less salt in the salt/sand. Less salt going into our ground water.  
Agnes Kennard commented perhaps some of these challenges are unsolvable. i.e. on hills where water is washing down and washes the area out.  
This was a discussion item only.
- 3) Brush Dump - Jon Meteraud - The West side Brush Dump has had dumping of big trees and stumps. Perhaps the Town should consider establishing a fee for dumping of large items hauled in by a company hired by a resident to haul the brush away.  
**A Jon Meteraud/Patti McDermott motion recommending the Town Board look into the possibility of assessing a fee for companies hired by residents to clear their**

**property of brush and then dumping it at the West side Brush Dump; motion carried by hand vote. 10, yes; 2 no.**

**12. A Chuck McDermott/Jon Meteraud motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Atkinson  
Clerk/Treasurer

(Posted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020 at the Town Hall, FD, Stop-A-Sec,  
Backwoods Bar & Grill and the town's website - townofwascott.org)