

TOWN OF OTTAWA ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes

April 16, 2024

The Town of Ottawa's Annual Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rupp.

Supervisor Wiedenman gave an update on Recycling in the Town. He shared that at some future point the company would like some sort of automated collection, so they don't have to staff for Saturday garbage collection.

Supervisor Wiedenman shared two different correspondences he received regarding an increase in traffic on Parry Road due to construction. The residents were wanting some unspecified signage to route traffic elsewhere. Chairman Rupp added that there have been some requests for "slow, children" type signs also on Parry Rd. by the spring.

Supervisor Wiedenman gave an update on the lakes. He stated that a couple of residents have reached out regarding having the Town consider an ordinance banning the wake-enhanced boat feature on the lakes. He said it sounds like they are forming some sort of group representing all three lakes to gather support to bring to the Board. This is what he and Supervisor Jones have been asking them to do. He expects this to move forward with increasing concern over the issue.

Chairman Rupp welcomed new Town Supervisor, Kurt Ahrens, and congratulated him on his election. Supervisor Ahrens shared some information he found regarding School Section Lake possibly having to take ownership of the dam. Supervisor Wiedenman shared that what he has heard from the School Section Lake meetings is that this is a pretty strong possibility sometime down the road. He is not sure how many years in the future, but that the County made some strong indications that they are not interested in maintaining that dam long term.

Maureen Cavaianie, Pretty Lake, shared that she has come fresh from the WI Lakes convention. She said there is legislation coming, but what some Towns are doing is putting in their own legislation or writing an ordinance. This is going to take another couple of years and is very concerning. There are thousands of lakes in Wisconsin, but only 250 belong to clean boats, clean waters. As a lake district, Pretty Lake has taxing ability and also receives grant money. They use those funds to have someone at the launch site, checking boats and completing paperwork required for the grant. With wake boats, they can't inspect the ballast tanks. That creates a possibility for water from one lake to get dumped into another lake. Pretty Lake, because it participates in clean boats, clean waters program, can deny access to those boats to their lake because they cannot inspect the ballast tanks. Supervisor Wiedenman stated he's aware of only one boat in Ottawa and it's on Hunters Lake. Ms. Cavaiani believes that one boat goes to several lakes. Ms. Cavaiani also shared that she is involved in research for swimmers' itch on lakes.

Water testing is very expensive. The parasites can be transferred through birds, or birds carrying shells to another lake. When there are really bad levels and prevailing winds making it risky in those areas, they could put up a sign, but it needs permission from a board. It will get more severe with migration patterns and climate change. The DNR doesn't have enough manpower. She would like one liaison from the board to streamline things. Chairman Rupp stated we have two lake liaison's – Supervisor Wiedenman for School Section Lake and Supervisor Jones for Pretty Lake and Hunters Lake. Ms. Cavaiani would like one liaison, so they know what is going on with all the lakes and if the lakes need to have something done immediately, they have that contact person. Supervisor Ahrens asked if the three lakes communicate with each other, or do they operate separately? Ms. Cavaiani responded separately, there's very little communication because of different views, they're all different. Pretty Lake doesn't have a dam, but they have a deep well. Pretty Lake doesn't have a wake boat issue, but Hunters Lake does. They all have different waterfowl. Supervisor Wiedenman explained that he and Supervisor Jones do communicate about lake information, it is always agendized on the Town Board meeting agenda to bring up and discuss any information they receive. They, as lake liaisons, attend the individual lake meetings, and if not able to attend, coordinate with a lake contact to get the information. As the liaisons, they bring back to the board any necessary information.

Clerk Geyman brought up that Norm Hausser, our recycle center manager, would like to look into some cement or brick walls around the mulch and compost piles.

Supervisor Wiedenman made a motion to set the date, place, and time for the next Annual Meeting. It will be held at the Ottawa Town Hall, on April 15, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.
The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

Supervisor Wiedenman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023, Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

Chairman Rupp stated that some roadside brushing has begun with Northwest Services. She also drove roads with Jeff from Crack fillers and they are looking at numbers for Hardscrabble, Scuppernong and Countryside.

Supervisor Wiedenman made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

Respectfully submitted, Lori J. Geyman, WCMC, Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Ottawa
(This is a draft version pending Elector approval)