

## **OTTAWA TOWN BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes December 9, 2024**

The meeting of the Ottawa Town Board was called to order by Chairman Rupp.

Roll call attendance was taken and Town Supervisor Ahrens and Jones were present.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Treasurer's monthly financial activity report. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Building Inspector's monthly activity report. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to accept the Western Lakes Fire District report (WLFD). The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

A Waukesha County Sheriff was present. There were no questions for him.

Public comment was held. The following residents spoke:

Pete Kraeger, Pretty Lake, shared that WLFD did respond to a call to rescue a swan on Pretty Lake. The team brought a hovercraft and once it was approached, the swan took off. He added that there are 34 swans on the lake this year because it's such a clean lake. He is in favor of a wake boat ban.

Randy Cavaiani, Pretty Lake, shared that 33 towns have enacted wake enhancement bans in Wisconsin. A reference to a UW professor by the name of Bill Banhosier, who is an advocate for wake surfing, also agrees that wake surfing should not be on smaller lakes less than 100 hundred acres or less than 10 feet deep.

William Bosenbecker, Parry Road, in favor of a ban on wake enhancement as it's not fair to fisher people, kayakers or the shoreline.

Jean Bosenbecker, Parry Road, shared that she will be running for a Town Board Supervisor seat this spring.

Public comment was closed.

The next item on the agenda was for artificial wakes from wake boats on Town of Ottawa lakes draft ordinance consideration. Chairman Rupp shared the attorney stated he would like the draft to go to the DNR for edits and then back to him. He reiterated again that Ottawa may want to be cautious or slow down. On the chance of being sued, this could be costly to the Town. The Town may not want to be the test community in this County. Supervisor Ahrens said it might be prudent to not create the wheel and if the DNR is working on it we should wait. Supervisor Jones disagreed; he said there are other municipalities in the state who have written ordinances. He spoke with the DNR at the Wisconsin Towns Association presentation, and they would like

to review the draft and condition reports, rather than sending them the final approved ordinance. Supervisor Jones stated he did send the DNR the draft and the condition reports. The goal is not to ban wake boats, just the wake boat mode. Supervisor Jones did not like the attorney's edits that added public comments with the residents names. The lakes have put public opinions and comments in their condition reports, which would support that it's a safety issue. He sent the draft on October 28<sup>th</sup> to Jason Roberts, DNR, and has had no response. Supervisor Jones knows there is a 60-day window. After some phone tag, Jason Roberts of the DNR stated he didn't receive it. Supervisor Jones forwarded it again with the original email, hoping he will back date it and the 60 days would start then. Supervisor Jones would like to table this topic to January in hopes for some DNR recommendations, to have Jason Roberts review and submit his edits to the board. If the board approves that draft, it can then be sent to the attorney. Supervisor Jones made a motion to table this topic to the January 13, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried. Supervisor Jones stated that if he receives the edits from the DNR, he will provide them to Clerk Geyman to get to the board so the board can see it ahead of time.

The next item was for an update on the progress of ATV/UTV signage. Steve Spak, Pretty Lake, was present and shared that the ATV club is looking to tentatively put some stakes and bases in this weekend. Supervisor Jones will drive the roads and endorse sign placement. Clerk Geyman inquired if there is a timeline so that it can be updated on the Town website for the residents? Mr. Spak said he will let her know, as it is weather dependent. Once Diggers Hotline marks, they only have 10 days to get something in the ground, or you have to re-apply. Chairman Rupp asked what type of hardware they might be using, as we have had cases of sign theft in the Town. Supervisor Jones stated he will mention that to the ATV club.

The next item on the agenda was for Wisconsin DNR, for property located on the east side of Waterville Road between Parry Road and Manor House Road, request for an extension to record the CSM. Supervisor Jones made a motion to grant an extension until January 8, 2025 to record the CSM in the Waukesha County Register of Deeds office. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

The next item on the agenda was regarding having a survey done for the Ottawa Cemetery. Chairman Rupp stated that Supervisor Wiedenman did receive a quote and will reach out for a second quote. Supervisor Jones made a motion to table this until the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow time to receive another quote. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and carried.

The next item on the agenda was to review the policy on signage in the road right-of-way. Supervisor Jones made a motion to approve the policy as it is written. Supervisor Jones seconded the motion and it carried.

The next item on the agenda was to review the policy on purchases that was written in July. After some discussion, the board made a change to item B to add the word "and". Supervisor Ahrens made a motion to approve the updated policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried. The board agreed that this change can be made by the Clerk and does not need to come back for another approval.

Under Lakes update, Supervisor Jones has been speaking with Pretty Lake and Hunters Lake to move testimonials into their condition reports. Mr. Cavaiani stated that legally, there is a timeline when presenting the wake enhancement ban ordinance to the DNR. Legally, a written response of an advisory review by the DNR needs to happen within 20 days. If the Town Board reviews and edits, the submission starts over, with 20 days for DNR written response and 60 days before Town Board approval. Chairman Rupp allowed resident Karen Russel, Hwy. 67, to speak. She approached the board table and wanted information on Town Board attendance. Clerk Geyman provided her with her contact information and to reach out to her the next day with any records requests.

Under Park update, Supervisor Ahrens shared that the park is closed and roped off for the season.

Supervisor Ahrens made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024 public hearing and meeting. The motion was seconded by Chairman Rupp and carried.

Under correspondence the following was shared: Chairman Rupp updated that the post wraps were returned, that she is working with Wolf Paving to close out the 2022 road program payment, an announcement that Sharon Lear is retiring as Chairman in Genesee as well as from her role in the WI Town's Association. Chairman Rupp also added that there will be a future event to honor Bill Riemenschneider's retirement from the WLFD fire board.

Supervisor Ahrens made a motion to pay bills as listed, in addition to payroll and associated withholding payments for L Geyman, M Barnhart, cardmember services and WE energies and Wolf paving. His motion was seconded by Supervisor Jones and carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Jones and seconded by Supervisor Ahrens to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori J. Geyman, WCMC  
Clerk/Treasurer, Town of Ottawa