

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**Municipal Complex - Assembly Room - 2000 Municipal Drive**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2010 - 6:00 pm**

**Minutes**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Town Chair Arden Tews called the Annual Town Meeting of the townspeople to order at 6:00 p.m. He then announced that everyone stand; and the Town's newly formed Honor Guard would, for the first time, present the colors. Everyone remained standing and recited the Pledge of Allegiance; the Honor Guard then marched from the room and posted the flags outside of the assembly room.

**TOWN OF MENASHA ELECTORS PRESENT - (31)**

Jeffrey Sturgell, Annette Look, Dale Youngquist, Roger Clark, Rod McCants, Dale McNamee, Arden Tews, Mike VanDyke, Joyce Reiland, Len Kachinsky, Bob Liedl, Deb Swiertz, Keith Kiesow, Randall Meyer, Tracy Romzek, Chad Romzek, Gerald Voigt, Clarence Peterson, Michael Dillon, Michael Lynch, James Reiland, Dennis Gerhart, Mike Lettier, Maury Cox, Joe Nemecek, Greg Ziegler, Barb Hanson, Melissa Liedl, Paul Eisen-W.C. Supervisor, Dee Lynch, Randy Gallow

**NON-RESIDENTS PRESENT - (12)**

Myra Piergrossi, Karen Backman, Steve Laabs, Jeff Roth, John Andres-Baker Tilly, Joan Burrill, Richard Eiberger, Michael Kading, Lucas Telfer, Michael King-P. C., Mike Kemmeter-WHBY, Dan Johnson-P. C.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF TOWN BOARD AND TOWN STAFF**

Chairman Tews introduced the Town Board members, followed by the department heads, and Police, Park and Planning Commission members who were present. Our State Representatives and Senator had been invited to give a legislative update but they are now in session and therefore unable to attend.

**3. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Clerk Backman reaffirmed the swearing in of the re-elected Town officials by administering Oaths of Office to Supervisor #1 Dennis Gerhart, and Supervisor #3 Gregory Ziegler.

**4. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 2009**

**a) Virchow Krause and Company, LLP**

Certified Public Accountant John Andres of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause L. L. P. reviewed the Utility District's 2009 audit including financial statements of the water and sewer utilities, the rate of return and debt coverage, unrestricted funds on hand, and other general fund information for the Town. He stated the Town is in a good financial position.

Resident Dale McNamee, Whippetree Lane: Inquired about a rise in property taxes and whether it was due to stormwater/detention ponds; Fin. Dir. Myra Piergrossi stated it was based on the 2010 budget and not related to stormwater.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a) Annual Town Meeting - April 14, 2009**

**b) Special Town Meeting of the Electors - November 17, 2009**

MOTION: Resident James Reiland, seconded by resident Clarence Peterson to approve the above minutes. On the motion, by a count of hands, motion carried 29-0.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Fritse Park Redevelopment Update**

Parks & Rec. Director Mike Kading did a Powerpoint presentation showing pictures of Fritse Park before and after the improvements to various areas of the park; shown were the marina, south and north seawall, boat launch, comfort station, and play area. The fundraising goal was set at \$200,000 and the Town is 80% there with donations as of today totaling thus far \$160,696.00. Director Kading

gave a special thanks to the many donors who helped contribute to the project we see today, naming the large donors individually. He reviewed the project's budget amount of approximately \$1.2 million, grant funds used, the project's expenses to date, projected remaining expenses, and unused funds projected to be approximately \$43,966.00. The timeline for completion of Fritse Park is the end of June, 2010. Residents were reminded that there will be a fee starting July 5, 2010 for anyone who launches their boat and parks their boat trailer in the parking lot at Fritse Park.

Chairman Arden Tews commended staff for their efforts on the Fritse Park project, and stated he felt the placement of security cameras was very important for the control of vandalism at the park.

Resident Dale McNamee asked Director Kading about budgeting for and the actual cost to build the comfort station, to which he replied \$350,000.

**b) Solar Panels Report**

Comm. Development Director George Dearborn showed pictures and gave the chronology of the Town's solar panels project from its inception of assessing the site, bidding, and finally construction of the solar panels which were installed on the grass area to the west of the Municipal Complex building. Grant funds were obtained from Focus on Energy, WE Energies, and other State and Federal grants. Director Dearborn explained how the Town is exceeding the maximum 28 KW of power output on some days which is better than anticipated, and may help lower the original projected payback time of 16 years. The solar panels, which are the largest solar energy display north of Milwaukee, are said to have a life span of 50 years.

The Sustainability Committee 2010 goals were presented and include: creation of a Town farmer's market, complete The Natural Study Circles, adopt a Green Procurement Policy for municipal operations, creation of community gardens, create goals for waste reduction, pursue energy efficiency for the Municipal Complex, and generate more public participation. Meetings are held at the Municipal Complex on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month beginning at 5:30 pm. Information on sustainability and the solar panels can be found on the Town's website home page link, "Sustainability".

Resident Joe Nemecek, Susan Avenue, asked whether the Town's Fire Dept. was obtaining water from detention ponds or from the wells. Fire Chief Keith Kiesow stated well water is used because it is cleaner, and easier to access than the pond water; Mr. Nemecek asked that the department try using the pond's water. He gave pricing of composters and water barrels, and encouraged their use in order to conserve our water.

**c) Announcements**

Chairman Arden Tews announced the Water Department had brought in two sections of corroded water pipes to show residents; he then gave facts about the number of water breaks which have gone down significantly from previous years, and explained the benefits of reducing water breaks which can affect the Town budget as well as inconvenience residents.

Resident and Winnebago County Supervisor Paul Eisen, Brighton Beach Road, commented on the Tri-County Freeway expansion presentation given by the D.O.T. at last night's Town Board meeting.

Resident and Park Commission Chair Gerald Voigt updated residents on the process of choosing a new name for what is now known as CB Park; the new chosen name for the park will be "Woodland Prairie Park".

**d) Any Other Business Permitted by Law to be Discussed**

Resident Dale McNamee, Whippletree Lane: while a handout was being distributed to the townspeople, Mr. McNamee began stating reasons/purpose of annual town meetings; began to explain his feelings and concerns with a candidate's letter received in the mail, when Town Attorney Roger Clark interrupted Mr. McNamee and stated the issue was personal, not town business, and Mr. McNamee should pursue the proper processes. After unsuccessful attempts to speak, Mr. McNamee left the podium.

Resident and Board member Dale Youngquist stated despite the economy, Town staff was fiscally responsible and in some cases provided more services; stated he wanted to recognize department heads as being responsible for this success.

Resident and Board member Gregory Ziegler thanked the Honor Guard for their presence at this meeting.

Chairman Arden Tews gave some closing comments.

7. **SET 2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

MOTION: Resident Joe Nemecek, seconded by resident Maury Cox to set the next Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Complex Assembly Room.

On the motion to set the Annual Town Meeting, motion carried on voice vote.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:13 p.m., MOTION: Resident Roger Clark, seconded by resident Barbara Hanson to adjourn. Motion carried on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Backman, Town Clerk