

Town of Mercer Annual Meeting
WEDNESDAY April 19th, 2023 at 6PM
Mercer Community Center
Unapproved Minutes

- 1.0 John called the meeting to order at 6:04PM
- 2.0 Supervisors Lambert, Schroepfer, Roberts, Ouimette, Chairman Sendra, Attorney Schellgell, Treasurer Joustra, Road Foreman Saarnio, Clerk Hohner and 97 voters were present.
- 3.0 The Clerk acknowledged that the meeting was properly posted
- 4.0 Pledge of allegiance
- 5.0 Read and consider minutes from the previous Annual Town Meeting held on April 20, 2022: Pam Davies made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Denise Thompson. Majority yes, one no.
- 6.0 The Clerk read the 2022 financial report and the Treasurer read the financial report for account balances as of April 19, 2023. After a few questions, Dorothy Bangle made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Pete Wetzler. Carried
Pam Davies made a motion to vote by hand, seconded by Jerry. All yes- carried
- 7.0 Chairman's report: the Chairman spoke about the Rice Lake Boat Landing, working on a possible extension to the bike path, increase of use at the transfer station, roads that were paved in 2022, etc. The full report is included in the minutes
- 8.0 Department head's reports
 - 8.1 FD- Todd reported that the FD had a total of 80 calls and logged in 732.5 hours of training for 2022. The full report is included in the minutes.
 - 8.2 EMS- Adam reported that there was a total of 315 calls. 2 people are on call at all times, all are EMR certified and most are EMT and some are nationally registered. Ambulances are rotated on a 10-year basis and there are 2 ambulances because there are incidences of double calls. Thanked Adam Kussard, Tony Pemble, Deb Schubitz, Eric Snow, Hanah, Kelly Joustra, Sam Kussard, Hank Joustra and Wendy Schmidt for their service.
 - 8.3 Library- Teresa reported that 10,727 items were borrowed, were 5464 digital downloads, 14,223 wifi connections, etc. The handouts are attached. She appreciated the support from the town and donations.
 - 8.4 Roads: Jake stated that much of his report was in John's report. Applied for a grant for a section of Popko Circle from the DNR. Was thanked for their work with a snowy year and work on the Rice Lake boat landing. Jake was asked who to complain to about their roads—they were told to contact the road liaison on the Board. John reminded the voters that our town passed the PRAT Tax but our representatives will not bring it to the state legislature. Hoping our new representatives will do this.
 - 8.5 Transfer Station: Jerry reported that we transferred to Waste Management. No longer will they be able to take shredded papers and handles need to be taken off of 5-gallon buckets.
 - 8.6 Planning Commission: Opal stated that the Planning commission is appointed by the town board and works with Iron County Zoning. They give their recommendations to the Board related the buildings, ordinances, etc.
 - 8.7 Parks: Tanner stated that the pickleball court was completed, LED lighting was installed, electrical is up to code, updated the bathrooms, finished beach pavilion and placed

charcoal grills. Future plans are lighting for the baseball fields, add more sand to the beach, gazebos with grills and improve the interior of the pavilion.

9.0 Discuss town garage

Opal stated that there was no reason to have a referendum in 2023 because they are not at that point yet and don't even have the land yet. They have a design company in mind but they are on hold because we are not there yet. The expectation is to bring to referendum in April of 2024 but this referendum is advisory. There has to be a special meeting for the electors to approve the construction and paying for a new garage. The design person estimated that the cost would be 3.1M for a garage 100X200. Borrowing from the Board of Commissioners for 10 years at the current rate of 5% at the current valuation would be \$65 per \$100,00 and the town will have something tangible for 40 to 50 years. The current garage is not safe or efficient for the town crew to work in and has no fire suppression.

10.0 Any town business the electors chose to discuss over which the town has statutory authority Will need 5-7 acres to build it on. Question if there has been a 2nd or 3rd recommendation on the current state of the garage and there hasn't been. A suggestion was made to include geothermal and solar. Most efficient fire suppression would need access to town water. Attorney Schellgell reminded everyone that the town can hold a referendum but it is not binding and is advisory in nature. The voters have to authorize and instruct the board to acquire land and build a building. This would occur at the annual meeting or a special meeting of the electors. The meeting would be posted following statutory notice.

Brian Swindle made a motion to have the electorate direct the town board to issue a referendum on the new garage once all costs are estimated and received by the Board, seconded by Denise Thompson. Majority yes, 1 no. Carried

Scot Lundquist made a motion for the town to hire an engineer to look at the old garage and figure out how much money will be need to fix it, seconded by Tim Lutgen. The motion was amended by Scot to add up to \$10,000 on the engineer, Tim seconded. Majority yes, 10 no. Carried.

Scot Lundquist made a motion to set the tax levy for 2023 at the same mill rate as current tax mill rate. Failed for a lack of a second.

11.0 The 2024 Annual Town Meeting will be April 16th at 6PM.

12.0 The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM

Debbie Hohner, Town Clerk
April 24, 2023
Unapproved