

Town of Mercer  
Meeting minutes for April 6, 2017  
(unapproved)

- Before the meeting was called to order Chairman Kichak presented Bonnie with a certificate of appreciation for her 12 years of service on the Mercer Town Board.
- Chairman Kichak called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm in the Haines Building.
- **Roll Call:** Chairman Jim Kichak, Supervisor's Bonnie Banaszak, Mike Lambert, Jeff Stenberg, John Sendra, Clerk Christan Brandt, Treasurer Lin Miller and Attorney Fritz Schellgell.
- **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as written made by Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Public Comment:** Jim Hanneman asked when Hadley Brush Pit would be open. Norm McKindles from the Iron County Broadband Committee updated the board on the progress of installing the towers. He stated that the Popko tower is now live and the Springstead tower would be live between May and June. The Committee is also looking to host an Internet Fair on July 18, 2017 to inform residents of what is available to them, the dangers of scammers and the importance for education. They would also like to be placed on the next agenda to request town support and funding.
- **Bob McMahon with Fahrner:** Bob informed the board of new options for maintaining and making our roads last longer with the new products they now offer.
- **Discuss Popko Circle purchase:** John Jagodzinski stated that he spoke with a realtor and it would be around \$1500 to \$2000.00 to purchase the land from him. He also stated that we need to make sure that the Snowmobile trail would still have access and that no cost would come to them because of rerouting the road. Motion to proceed made by Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried.
- **Open/ Award bid for old Fire Department Pickup truck:** We received one bid from Steve Jacobs for \$5200.00. Motion to award the bid to Steve Jacobs made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg. Carried.
- **Discuss committee responsibilities for the care of the bike path:** Rick Boes was present to represent the committee and stated that the committee's intentions are to do spring and fall cleanup. This would consist of grooming, leaf blowing, mowing the sides of the trail approximately 3 to 4 times a year, and cutting fallen trees. Attorney Schellgell stated that larger trees that are approximately 16 – 20 inches in diameter and the "window maker" trees need to be left alone and an individual from the committee should contact the town to have the town crew take care of them. We also have a release form that will need to be signed by the committee members to work on the above beautification activities.
- **Discuss retaining Attorney to seek compensation from Coleman Engineering:** Our insurance company stated that they would not cover the issue of Coleman's survey error and the cost incurred by it. They stated that we would have to hire an Attorney to proceed with this action. Supervisor Jeff Stenberg asked how much money we were looking at possibly getting back. The Clerk stated that the figure was around \$10,500.00 Attorney Schellgell informed the board that it could be taken to small claims court, but we would lose \$500 as the amount could be for no more than \$10,000.00. Motion to have Attorney Schellgell move forward in small Claims Court made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Budget Amendment to move \$2,000 from line item Contingency to line item Aging/Senior/ Transportation:** Motion to approve made by Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried.

- **Employee Handbook Health Insurance amendment:** The Clerk stated that the following paragraphs would be added to the handbook as follows: “At times, the Mercer Town Board deems it necessary to temporarily lay off town employees for a determined amount of time. During those periods, the town will cover the employees’ health insurance plan premiums until the employees are requested to return to work. If a full-time Employee chooses not to collect unemployment during a temporary layoff but uses accrued sick leave or vacation days instead, then the percentage the Employee pays for Insurance premiums will continue to be deducted from the Employee’s wages. If a full-time Employee is permanently laid off, then at the time of termination, the town will not pick up the percentage and the insurance will be terminated.” Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried.
- **Approval/denial for a class A Beer License for Inter City Oil at 5256 Hwy 51 agent Ronald Winqusit:** Motion to approve made by Supervisor Mike Lambert, seconded by Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak. Carried. Jeff Stenberg abstained.
- **Legal:** Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak asked about if the town should be seeking a Phase II Environmental Study of the Kannenberg building. Attorney Schellgell stated that he had individuals go look at it and that they were not able to contact one another before meeting.
- **Vouchers:** The Clerk presented checks 36416 to 36462, 100266 to 100270 totaling \$52538.98 and the vouchers for checks 36463 to 36491 in the amount of \$21,924.42. Motion to approve the vouchers and issue the checks made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried.
- **Treasurer’ Report:** The treasurer stated that the general account ending total was \$205,983.89 and our total amount of funds is \$1,876,814.05. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Liquor Licenses:** An application for a temp beer license for the Mercer Lioness Salad Luncheon at the Community Center on May 6, 2017. Motion to approve made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried.
- **Chair’s Report:** Chairman Kichak stated that they will have Hadley pit ready to open next weekend. They shop is working on the equipment to get ready for summer as well as cutting trees along the roads. The road crew was out patching roads with what we had left in asphalt. He spoke with Brian from Pitlik and Wick, and we will have to go get a load in the next 10 days when they have a new batch ready.
- **Supervisor John Sendra:** He heard that there are tanks about 8-feet down behind the door behind Porky’s bar. This possibility would be investigated as it is the first they have heard of it. He also mentioned the letter they received from Jane Zillmer regarding the Cramer Bridge reconstruction issues. Chairman Kichak stated that he did speak to all the residents out that way and the County is going to have another meeting regarding the bridge, so they will have a chance to speak on the issue. Sendra also mentioned that Camp One had asked him when limits would be off as Waste Management will not go out and pick up garbage. Chairman Kichak stated that it would be a few weeks yet but that they would need to contact the County Highway Department regarding their issue.
- **Supervisor Jeff Stenberg:** Had complaints regarding the tree that is all apart next to the Gize house on Hwy 51. Is it on the town property? It was stated that it is not on town property, but that we should send a letter to them to remove the tree.
- **Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak:** Informed the board that we have received a \$500 donation from the Northwood’s Realtors Association for the bike path. She also thanked the Town for the last

12 years. She also stated that what a great job they have done together with so many accomplishments such as the Carow Park project, Hwy 51 project, bike path, and Railroad Street Beautification.

- **Supervisor Mike Lambert:** The tanker truck at the 24-section fire hall has no breaks, and we are wondering if the town mechanic can look at it? Chairman Kichak stated that he would send the mechanic out tomorrow or Monday. He also asked if the Clerk could have a base radio in the office, so when issues arise they could be taken care of through this system.
- **Clerk's Correspondence:** The Clerk stated that she wanted the board to know that there is a Town Officials Workshop that will be on May 11 in Minocqua for anyone who would like to attend. She will be attending.
- **Public Comment:** No items
- **Closed Session per WI State Statutes 19.85 (1) (c )** discuss Employee matters: Motion to move to closed session at 6:49pm made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried. Roll Call taken.
- **Return to open session:** Motion to return to open session at 7:11 pm made by Supervisor John Sendra, seconded by Supervisor Bonnie Banaszak. Carried. Roll Call taken. Motion to rescind the disciplinary write up against Ken Brunell made by Supervisor John Sendra, seconded by Supervisor Mike Lambert. Carried.
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm made by Supervisor Jeff Stenberg, seconded by Supervisor John Sendra. Carried.

Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Christan Brandt, Town Clerk