

TOWN OF OSCEOLA ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 — 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The 2024 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Osceola was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Osceola Town Hall, Dresser, Wisconsin.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Lindh called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

VERIFICATION OF MEETING POSTING: Clerk Pratt confirmed that the notice was posted at the Town Hall, Dresser Post Office, the Town Web site.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Lindh led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Chair Lindh, Supervisors Cronick, and Weingarten, and incoming Supervisor Caliguri.

ABSENT: Magnafici, Johnson

Staff attending were: Town Treasurer Jan Carlson, and Town Clerk Dani Pratt.

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Lindsay Coles (Representative of Town's Attorney), Alissa Behl (SCV EMS), Curt Millermon (Allied Emergency Services), Bob Schmidt (Osceola Area Ambulance Services), Darell Hall (Animal Control Officer, DACS), Jeremy Utke, Ed Everson, Denise Skjerven, Mark Skjerven, Jim Berg, Donna Berg, Sandy Ball, Al Bader, Jim Brundage, Carrie Lindh, Dave Johnson, Lanette Johnson, Warren Johnson. Virtual Attendees: Matt Anderson, Pam(Unverified)

Chair Lindh commented virtual meeting capability for the Annual Town Meeting will be provided as a courtesy for those that want to see/hear the meeting. Only in-person electors will be able to participate.

REGULAR REPORTS AND BUSINESS

1. Approve Minutes of the April 16, 2024 Annual Meeting

Motion by Jon Cronick/Jim Berg to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2. Chair's Report. Chair Lindh provided a report, and highlighted:

- a. A history of the Town's levied property taxes, which for many years was only increased annually at the rate of new construction and assessed valuation. In 2024 the municipal levy saw an increase of \$16,953 based on the rate of new construction. The mill rate was increased 0.3% to \$2.90
- b. The levy expenses for 2024: 17% General Government \$230,998.00, 63% Public Works \$862,513.00, 15% Public Safety \$212,529.00, 4% Debt Service (Fire Loan) \$50,308.00,

1% Health and Social Services \$6,871.00, less than 1% Conservation and Development \$3,797, less than 1% Culture Recreation and Education(Parks) \$4,077.

- c. The year-end cash balance was \$986,962: \$133,956 for Liabilities (payroll withholding, property taxes, and special charges collected for subsequent year); \$182,837 Assigned: Parks & Recreation: \$11,837; Broadband Internet Project: \$80,000 (ARPA fund); \$191,000: Public Works Projects (\$64,428 Simmon Drive). \$670,169 Unassigned Reserve; \$15,299: Trap Rock Saving Account; \$212,495: Public Works Equipment; \$442,375: Banking Accounts; the Town has 49% of Unassigned Reserve which is in line with the Town's auditors' recommendation.
- d. Public Works Supervisor was Todd Raddatz, with Joseph Gaffney as a full-time Public Works employee.
- e. Town road miles are 63.13:
 - 39.63 miles Seal Coated
 - 11.2 miles Hot Mix Asphalt surface
 - 8.5 miles Scrub Seal/Slurry
 - 0.9 miles GSB88
 - 2.9 Miles Gravel
- f. The Town roads have an average PASER rating of 6.2 (Good) or higher.
- g. The Town maintains three properties for mowing: Town Hall, Dwight Lake, and Sand Lake. Scott Williamson Lawn was contracted to do the mowing services. Raska Services provides 2 porta-pottys, 1 at Dwight Beach and 1 at Sand Lake. Beaches and docks are maintained by the Public Works Department. A new dock was installed at the Sand Lake landing.
- h. Health and Human Services – Darel Hall continues as the certified Humane Officer for animal for the Town of Osceola.
- i. The Town population was estimated to be 3,110 with 2,398 estimated to be of voting age.
- j. Chair Lindh covered monthly highlights (more detailed information can be found within the meeting packet materials):
 - i. January: The Town Board Members were Chair Dale Lindh, Supervisors Jon Cronick, Tony Johnson, Debbie Thompson, and Webley Weingarten. A motion was accepted to purchase new snowplow/dump truck accessories from Universal Truck Equipment for \$168,569 to be completed in early 2025.
 - ii. February: A motion was accepted to aid in the road costs with the Village of Osceola to repave Simmon Drive for \$64,427.86.
 - iii. April elections: Jon Cronick was re-elected to Supervisor position for a two-year term. Tom Magnafici received the most write-in votes for and was elected to Supervisor for 2 year term. Appointments to the Plan Commission were made; Jeremy Utke was appointed to Plan Commission for a three-year term to serve as Chair. Dan Tronrud was appointed to Plan Commission for a

- three-year term. Jon Cronick was appointed as Town Representative to the Plan Commission. A motion was accepted to approve the petitioning with Polk County for an Emergency Road Bridge Aid for a failed culvert on 200th Street. In April the town contributed money from the Town's cemetery fund to Sand Lake Cemetery, Bethesda Cemetery and Pleasant Prairie Cemetery.
- iv. May: Appointments to Community Boards included: Fire Board: Chair Lindh, Supervisor Cronick, and Supervisor Johnson. Osceola Are Ambulance Board: Chair Lindh and Town representative Dan Burch. Finance Committee: Chair Lindh and Supervisor Cronick. Media and Technology Committee: Supervisor Cronick and Supervisor Weingarten. Personnel Committee: Chair Lindh and Supervisor Johnson. Public Works Committee: Chair Lindh, Supervisor Johnson, and Supervisor Magnafici. A motion was approved to appoint Supervisor Cronick as the Designated Supervisor and Johnson as the Designated Alternate. A motion was accepted to appoint Jan Carlson for the Town Treasurer for a maximum of three-year term.
 - v. June: Motion was accepted to go to Referendum to increase the Town's levy 36.08% for \$317,000.00 for each fiscal year to be used for road maintenance.
 - vi. July: A motion was accepted to continue the use of tabulator and election voting machines during Town of Osceola elections.
 - vii. August: A motion was accepted to approve the Ordinance to Adopt the 20230 Comprehensive Plan: Amended 2024.
 - viii. September: The Referendum Questions for increasing the levy for road construction cost failed. August 13 Primary election results: 728 voters, 214 voted yes, 489 voted no.
 - ix. October: A motion was accepted to work with COM 2 Recycling for an electronic recycling event.
 - x. November: The November 5 General Election had 2055 voters turn out for the election. The election received many positive comments regarding the election being held in the Public Works Garage.
 - xi. December: The Town was contacted by Polk County, informing us that a property on Skyline Drive would be going to public auction. Polk County Abstract inquired if the Town would be willing to take over the property if there was a quit claim deed, and that the Town would be taking on an estimate of \$20 worth of past due taxes. The quit claim deed was signed to the Town.
 - xii. At the end of 2024 Town Board Members consisted of: Chair Dale Lindh, Supervisors Jon Cronick, Tony Johnson, Tom Magnafici, Webley Weingarten.
- k. In 2007, the Adopt-A-Road program was started in the Town of Osceola. Volunteers of ages eleven years or older choose an area of road at least one mile in length and provide clean-up two times annually, usually in the Spring and Fall. All supplies are provided by the Town. The Adopt-a-Road program is always encouraged for participation. The Town has 13 groups participating in this project.
- l. Gopher Bounty 2024. The Town paid \$3,901.50 for gopher tails as compared to \$1,824.00 in 2023.

- i. Com2 Recycling Event: COM2 Recycling came to the Town Hall on November 9. Approximately 50 vehicles came through and residents recycled 9 pallets of electronics. 6,217 pounds of electronic waste was collected.

Motion by Warren Johnson/ Second by Mark Skjerven to accept the Chairman's report. Motion carried.

2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Jan Carlson presented the financial report from the completed audit. (As presented in the Meeting packet. Assets of \$986,962 , Liabilities of \$133,956 **Motion by Jim Berg/Second by Warren Johnson to accept the 2024 annual financial report. Motion carried.**

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Darel Hall presented a report. Darel is the Animal Humane Officer, Animal Control for the Town as well as for 30 other municipalities in Polk and St. Croix counties. Hall noted 20 complaint calls, with a slight uptick in dogs at large. A noted incident was repeated calls for goats running at large on 248th Street. Hall's contact information is noted on the Town's website. **Motion by Ed Everson / Second by Warren Johnson to accept the Animal Control Officer's report. Motion carried.**

PLAN COMMISSION REPORT

Plan Commission Chair Jeremy Utke reported Planning Commission Members were: Dan Tronrud, Jim Berg, Warren Johnson, Cindy Thorman, Kim Kaiser, Jon Cronick (Town Board member), and himself. Building permits issued for 2024= 62 up 14 from 2023. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan was Approved in August of 2024, after a public hearing was held and extensive Board of Supervisors review. The Comprehensive Plan is available to view at the Town Hall and is available as a pdf of the Town's website. **Motion by Lanette Johnson / Second by Donna Berg to accept the Plan Commission report. Motion carried.**

BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

Chair Lindh presented the report provided by Ben Campbell, the Town's Building Inspector. Reported during 2024 there were 62 permits issued. 8 Alterations, 2 HVAC, 11 Electrical, 6 Other, 5 Addition, 14 Accessory Buildings, 3 Sheds, 8 New Homes, 1 Porch, 5 Decks, 2 Fireplace, and 1 Raze. Total Value of Permits \$5,675,693.94. Campbell's contact information is noted on the Town's website. **Motion by Ed Everson / Second by Al Bader to accept the building permit report. Motion carried.**

ALLIED EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

Curt Millermon, Dresser Assistant Chief presented the yearly summary. For 2023, there were a total of 464 runs (161 fire/rescue/moto vehicle accidents, and 303 medical runs), an increase from 361 in 2023. Allied serves 135 square miles, which includes the Town of Osceola, the Town of Garfield, the Village of Dresser, and most of the Town of Alden. The Department has a Junior Fire Department Club with members at the Osceola High School, lead by a volunteer member who is also a teacher. The April 12 Spaghetti Fundraiser was exceptionally successful with over 800 in attendance. Monies have gone to purchase equipment that is outside of the normal budgeting process. In November of 2024 a tender was replaced at the Dresser Station, this truck provides an additional 3,300 gallons of water for structure fires. The last payment of the Dresser Building loan was made in March of 2025.

Motion by Lanette Johnson / Second by Denise Skjerven to accept the Allied Emergency Services report. Motion carried.

OSCEOLA AREA AMBULANCE REPORT

Chair Lindh presented highlights from the annual report provided by Osceola Area Ambulance Service (Bob Schmidt): The communities they served helped by raising money through donations for the ambulance and their equipment. Osceola Area Ambulance Services provides care to the residents of the Village of Osceola (100%), Town of Farmington (100%), Town of Osceola (67%), Village of Dresser (50%), Town of Alden (30%), and a small portion of the Town of Garfield. The Osceola Ambulance service is owned and operated by the taxpayers of the communities that are served. Their service charges a \$15.00 per person assessment (no increase since 2022) and each community pays an annual amount based on the population it serves. The total annual budget for 2024 was \$372,845.00 There were 103 runs in the Town of Osceola with a total of 448 total runs for 2024. **Motion by Jim Berg/ Second by Mark Skjerven to accept the Osceola Area Ambulance report. Motion carried.**

ST. CROIX VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES REPORT

Alissa Behl, from St. Croix Valley EMS, was present to provide highlights from the provided report. Copies of the report were provided to the public. Their run volume for the Town of Osceola was 35, out of a total run volume for St. Croix Valley EMS was 2933. Average run times En Route: one minute and 12 seconds(1:12), To Scene: ten minutes and 41 seconds(10:41). Top 10 dispatch requests are Sick person:19.61%, Falls:17.74%, Breathing Problems: 9.75%, Traffic Incident: 6.74%, Unconscious/Fainting: 5.6%, Chest pain:4.62%, Abdominal Pain:3.63%, Traumatic Injury: 3.27%, Stroke/CVA: 3.22% and Hemorrhage/Laceration: 3.01%. SCV EMS has an overall customer satisfaction rating of 4.95 out of 5, and are continually seeking ways to provide better care. **Motion by Ed Everson / Second by Denise Skjerven to accept the St. Croix Valley Emergency Medical Services report. Motion carried.**

UPDATE ON 2024 ANNUAL MEETING DIRECTIVES/MOTIONS

Chair Lindh covered updates from the 2024 Annual meeting:

- **The Town continues to pay a \$4.50/tail Gopher Bounty**

ANY OTHER TOWN BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY STATE STATUTES

Chair Lindh opened the floor for public comment and/or motions/directives as may be authorized by State Statute.

1. Al Bader stated his view that the Town should consider continuing the gopher bounty at the rate of \$4.50 to keep the gopher population down within the Town. Discussion by Denise Skerven inquiry what other towns are paying. **Motion by Al Bader / Second by Dave Johnson to continue to pay for the pocket gopher bounty at \$4.50 a tail. Motion carried.**
2. Jim Brundage advised the Town of President Trump's Executive Order Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections and requested that the Town have an advisory motion vote concerning the use of voting machines going forward. **A motion by Jim Brundage / Second by Mark Skjerven to have an advisory vote for the Board of Supervisors to consider hand counting ballots versus the purchase of new voting machines.** Discussion was followed: Jim Berg suggested that the Town's electors present do not have enough information to vote on the issue, that the County works with the Town to determine what machines are used, and that there is more opportunity for election fraud in hand counting. Clerk Pratt stated that it is not a fact that the machines will be invalid. Mark Skjerven stated that the vote is an advisory motion that the Town Board of Supervisors will consider

removing the machines having hand counted ballots. **Motion failed. 5 Ayes, 11 Nos, 2 Abstained.**

SET DATE FOR 2026 MEETING

**Motion by Warren Johnson/Second by Donna Berg to set the 2026 meeting date to April 21, 2026.
Motion passes.**

Adjournment

**MOTION BY Jim Berg/Second by Ed Everson to adjourn the 2025 Annual meeting.
MOTION CARRIED.** The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

To be approved: April 21, 2026

Approved:
4-21-2026

Dani Pratt

Dani Pratt, Town Clerk