

Town of Stockton Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Town of Stockton Town Hall

7252 6th Street, Custer, WI

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order:

Chairman, Mike Bronk called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The list of attendees is attached which included eight Town of Stockton residents including Chairman Mike Bronk and Clerk Lauri Novotny. There was also one non-Town resident in attendance.

2. Method of Voting:

Motion (Sandra Walters/Jim Dodge) to continue to use “by majority show of hands” as the method of voting. Motion carried by majority show of hands.

3. Approval of April 17th, 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Motion (Terry Johnson/Mike Skibba) to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried by majority show of hands. Chairman Bronk stated that he would like to commend Clerk Novotny for the attention to details, as always, in the minutes as well as everything else that she does for the Town.

4. 2018 Annual Financial Report:

Chairman Bronk stated that he would like to acknowledge the hard work over the past work of Supervisors Dodge and Johnson, Treasurer Sandy Walters and, as mentioned, Clerk Novotny. He also acknowledged the Chair of the Plan Commission, Ms. Cindy Davis, as well as the members of the Plan Commission. In addition, he acknowledged members of the Park Committee. Chairman Bronk also recognized the efforts of Fire Chief Chris Kluck, Deputy Chief Randy Shirek, Deputy Chief Joe Brandt as well. Chairman Bronk stated that it takes a lot of cogs in the wheel to keep it turning and thanked those who continue to work hard for the benefit of the Town. He mentioned that he felt that the Town is doing well and on a good path.

Chairman Bronk then reviewed the budgeted and actual income and expenses by category in 2018 using the attached “2018 Town of Stockton Financial Summary.” Total Income and Expenditures/Reserves were each reported as \$1,171,545.00 for the year. He further provided a brief description of the items included within the particular categories in order to provide the public with a better understanding of the overall financial summary. Chairman Bronk invited any questions of the Town Electors. No one came forth with questions or concerns regarding the 2018 Annual Financial Report.

5. Fire Department/EMS Reports: Fire Chief Chris Kluck reported to the electors as follows: **FIRE DIVISION:** In 2018, there were a total of fifty-nine (59) emergency dispatched calls of which fifteen (15) were rescue calls, forty-four (44) fire calls. Currently the department has twelve (12) probationary firefighters who are in various stages of the local and state mandated training which spans a period of two years. With the probationary members, the current staffing of the department is twenty-five (25).

Recruitment and retention of firefighters and emergency responders for the volunteer service continue to be one of the biggest challenges facing FIRE/EMS Departments today, and as stated one-half of the Department is currently within their first two-years of service on the Department.

EMS DIVISION: There were sixty-two (62) EMS calls during 2018 and the EMS group has added several new members to the Division bringing the total amount of responders to thirteen (13) fully trained members.

The chief officer staff (Chief Kluck & Deputy Chief Brandt) are currently working within the Division to standardize all policies and procedures in order to run an efficient and effective group.

PERSONNEL UPDATES: Recently, two individuals were promoted in rank within the Department. Jeremy Spencer has accepted the position of “Captain” with the duties of Fire Ground Officer, Fleet Maintenance Coordinator, and Administrative Records Coordinator. Erik Peterson has accepted the vacant position of “Lieutenant” with the duties of Fire Ground Officer. Erik currently works second shift which allows his to be available for calls during the critical “day time” hours. In the EMS Division, we are currently working on

identifying tasks and accountabilities for two officer positions that will assist in the daily operations of running the Division.

OFFICER STAFF: It takes a concentrated effort by the officers to effectively manage a successful operation throughout the year. I would like to take a few minutes to recognize my officers and their assignments for the Department.

Deputy Chief Randy Shirek: Fire Officer, educator, State of Wisconsin, Department of Safety & Public Services (DSPA) and National Incident Reporting System (NIRS) coordinator.

Deputy Chief Joe Brandt: EMS Officer, EMS group coordinator and Fire Ground Officer.

Captain Jesse Disher: Fire Training Officer, Lead Fire Inspections Coordinator.

Captain Dean Voelker: Fire Training Officer, Fleet Special Projects Coordinator.

Captain Steve Miroslaw: Safety Officer, Small Equipment Maintenance Officer.

Captain Jeremy Spencer: Fire Ground Officer, Fleet Maintenance Coordinator, Administrative Records Coordinator

Lieutenant Brian Higgins: Fire Ground Officer, Public Events Coordinator.

Lieutenant Erik Peterson: Fire Ground Officer.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System: (MABAS): Recently MABAS responses have been in the news within our communities. Many individuals ask about MABAS and the impact of MABAS on the Town of Stockton Fire Department.

Under the Governor Doyle administration, The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (known as MABAS) Senate Bill SB 642 was approved by the Wisconsin State Legislature and signed by Governor Jim Doyle on April 5th, 2006. MABAS is a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response. Participation in the mutual aid program is voluntary.

Mutual Aid between fire departments within Portage County has been in place since the late 1980's with (MABAS Division 110) being formed in late 2006. The following are standardized "cards" under MABAS in Portage County:

- Structure Fires (Residential & Commercial)
- Life Safety Events (Accidents, Mass Shootings, Major Fatality Incidents, etc.)
- Wildland Fires (Rural & Urban Interface)
- Ice/Water Rescue Events
- Hazardous Materials Events (truck spills, train spills, fertilizer plants, etc.)
- Technical Rescue Events (Entrapment, High Angle rescue, etc.)
- Disaster Events (Flooding, Tornadoes, Blizzards, etc.)

All of these events can quickly overwhelm the local Fire Department in a matter of minutes. MABAS allows departments to call for help when help is needed.

The direct impact of MABAS for us is that within a matter of minutes, 20 different local Fire Departments within four (4) counties can provide mutual aid when requested to the Town of Stockton. This number does not include all the other County and State agencies listed on the cards that are available if needed.

In turn, if the Town of Stockton Fire Department is called upon to respond to a MABAS event, we will proudly respond as requested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Each year, I can proudly state that the Department continues to improve; we continue to train; we continue to recruit; and we continue to upgrade our equipment to meet our # 1 priority, which is the safety of our firefighters and first responders. All of this improvement would not be possible unless we have the full support of the Town of Stockton Board. Chairman Bronk, Supervisors Dodge and Johnson, Treasurer Walters have been instrumental in the continued success of the Department. I would be remiss if I failed to mention Town Clerk Lauri Novotny in my comments this evening, Clerk Novotny has phenomenal organizational skills and has used these skills to "ride herd" on me during the past year on meeting all of the "paperwork" demands that comes with running a successful operation. I am truly honored to have this incredible talent working with me and with the Department throughout the year.

IN CLOSING: It takes time and dedication of many to run a successful FIRE/EMS operation. My role as Fire Chief could be diminished if not for the efforts of the people mentioned tonight along with all the men and women

under MABAS who respond on a moment's notice to people in need. I am humbled and honored to be a part of this great organization.

6. Road Work for 2018: Chairman Bronk stated that during last year's Annual Meeting, there was a plan to do certain things. He indicated that with the abrupt retirement of Jeff Herman, some of those items were changed and other items completed instead. Chairman Bronk indicated that the last portion of 6th Street, which has been on the radar for quite some time, the Board chose to pave it utilizing funds that were set aside from previous budget and that area needed upgrading due to some severe water issues on the East end. He indicated that the road crew did a fantastic job when it came to paving it. He further stated that when there were weather related water issues this Spring, we did not have issues in that area of 6th St as we did in the past. He stated he was very pleased with the job that the road crew did. With that being said, he stated that there were some items that didn't get completed last year but are on the radar for this year including the 4th Street widening project; continue crack filling as always to prevent water from getting in to the road itself. He stated that the Board and Road Crew will be doing a Road Tour this year to identify some challenging areas. Chairman Bronk indicated that the plan is also to do some chip sealing on some shared roads. He stated that there are a lot of trees along side the roadways that need brushing as well.

7. Items Brought Up By the Town Residents: Mr. Mike Skibba asked about the acoustics within the Town Hall as he was having difficulty hearing some of the conversations. Clerk Novotny stated that there is a microphone that can be used for future meetings of this nature. Supervisor Dodge indicated that the high ceiling was a concern when the building was built. Chairman Bronk agreed that a microphone should be used in the future for this type of event.

Ms. Cindy Davis stated that her concern related to the previous meeting in November of last year and the substantial increases voted upon by the electors for the Town Board as well as Town Treasurer. She felt that the Clerk position should have had more of an increase. Ms. Davis felt that the work performed by Clerk Novotny was extensive and that her salary should reflect the magnitude of her dedication to the Town as reflected by the previous comments of Chairman Bronk as well as Fire Chief Chris Kluck. Chairman Bronk explained that elected officials' salary, by state statute, is already in place for the next two-year election cycle. Ms. Davis understood. No one came forth with concerns that warranted motions to be made or voted on.

8. Next Annual Town Meeting Date & Time:

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Town Electors will be held on the third Tuesday of April at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

9. Motion (Jim Dodge/Terry Johnson) to adjourn at 6:53 pm. Motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauri Novotny, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Posted: _____