

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN
BUFFALO COUNTY
ANNUAL MEETING
Held the 3rd Tuesday of April
Lincoln Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.**

The monthly Annual meeting was held on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Lincoln Town Hall, S1491 State Road 88, Alma, WI 54610.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bruce Auset. Members present, Chairman Bruce Auset Supervisor Cody Ritscher, Supervisor Steve Heller, Clerk Lori Dahl, Deputy Clerk Carolyn Thomsen and Ray Secrist. Lori noted all notices were posted as required.

Lori read 2023 Annual meeting minutes. M/S: Cody / Steve to approve minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's balance reflected: checking \$40,994.57, savings \$100,709.42, totaling \$141,703.99; Public cemetery account \$506.55; Lincoln Public Methodist Cemetery \$1,318.17. Equipment fund CD \$3,906.20 and 2 Bridge CDs totaling \$10,614.69.

Annual report was reviewed. Clerk reminded those present the town's website is a great source of information. The website appears at the bottom of all town meeting agenda postings.

Bruce reported that town roads need blading this year, which he will complete soon. Some roads, including Piel Road, Heller Valley Road, and possibly Feuling Road, may need rock. Arm mowing for brush on town roads should also be done this year.

Bruce reported on bridges. Schaub bridge is complete and paid for. LRIP funding has been applied for Yapp Bridge replacement. May also consider ARIP grant application if LRIP funding is not received.

Lori reported on the status of dog licenses. Approximately 29 dogs have had their license applications renewed equaling \$166.00 dog license income. She reported that approximately 9 dogs licenses need to be renewed, totaling \$142.00 which include fine at \$10/dog. Follow up with residents that have not applied for their pet's license needs to be done. With rabies outbreak on the rise in the county, it is important the town continues to enforce compliance.

It was recommended by Bruce to increase the salary of the Clerk to \$6,700 from \$5,000 and Treasurer to \$4,400 from \$4,000. Discussion was had regarding Clerk responsibilities. M/S: Cody / Carolyn to increase Clerk salary to \$7000 per year and Treasurer salary to \$4,400. Motion approved.

M/S: Carolyn / Steve to continue advertising in the Buffalo Co News. Motion approved.

Lawn Mowing and Snow Plowing contracts with 5-year term were approved in 2021 with J&K Lawncare.

Lori confirmed that Fire department invoices will be sent in January (due February) and July (due August). The Fire Board decided that the 2% fire dues will be paid in addition to the 20% share, not as part of it, and will be used to replace air packs. Cody reported that Western Buffalo County Ambulance service has an ambulance on order and has invested in an online training program for EMT/EMR license renewal. Its effectiveness will be monitored. The per capita fee increased from \$19 to \$25 this year.

Town hall foundation: James Wilson has been hired to complete foundation repairs to help alleviate floor and wall bowing. He has also provided an estimate of \$2,800 for tuckpointing the foundation. M/S: Ray / Carolyn to have James tuckpoint the townhall foundation. Motion approved.

M/S: Carolyn / Cody to continue banking with Bank of Alma. Motion approved.

M/S: Carolyn / Steve to give the board the power to borrow short term. Motion approved.

Bruce asked for public comments. Carolyn raised concerns about a large falling stone in Lincoln Public Cemetery. Randy Rotering offered to lend a machine to help fix it. Carolyn also recommended a headstone cleaner costing around \$50 per gallon. M/S: Cody / Steve to purchase 2 gallons of the head stone cleaner using Cemetery funds; 1 gallon from each cemetery account. Motion approved.

Carolyn emphasized the importance of cybersecurity, urging vigilance with suspicious emails and the maintenance of computer security and backups through Computer Wizards.

Ray confirmed with the Board that he will continue mowing and spraying town roads as needed.

Newly found Boettcher bridge invoices from last fall were questioned. Ray confirmed that, as Chairman, he signed off on the bridge's completion and payments were made in full after the 3-year waiting period. Carolyn, as Clerk, confirmed the remaining funds were transferred to the Lincoln appropriation fund. M/S: Ray/Carolyn for the township not to pay the 2017-2018 Boettcher bridge invoices found during a county audit after the bridge was closed out. Motion approved.

Next annual meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of April, 2025.

M/S: Ray / Carolyn to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Dahl, Clerk