

Seven Towns Meeting Minutes

Brazeau, Breed, Doty, Lakewood, Mountain, Riverview, Townsend

Location: Townsend Town Hall

Date: April 21, 2021

Call to order by: Town of Townsend Chair, Carla VanCamp, at 6:31 p.m.

Present:

Brazeau:	
Breed:	Richard VandeWettering, Ethel Firgens
Doty:	Andrew Stemp, Randy Siewert
Lakewood:	Joanne Roy, Richard Edison
Mountain:	Skip Maletzke, Brenda Carey-Mielke, Wayne O'Barski, Lynn Kauzlaric
Riverview:	Ann Hogan, Jim Zittlow, Dick Booth
Townsend:	Carla Van Camp, Linda Adamczyk, Joe Heyrman

Guests:

Todd Skarban	Oconto County Sheriff
Jess Keplinger	Northern Oconto County Community Officer
Sam Boucher	Oconto County Economic Development Corporation
Chris Schultz	MAS (Mountain Ambulance Service) Administrator
Adriane Bartels	Planning Commission
Dave Christianson	Oconto County Board of Supervisors
Don Bartels	Oconto County Board of Supervisors

Citizens: Jim Adamczyk Townsend

Introduction and welcome of new board members:

Randy Siewert, Doty
Richard Edison, Lakewood
Joe Heyrman, Townsend

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Establish Order of the Day

Business Items:

1. Motion m/s/c (VandeWettering/Stemp) to approve the 01/20/2021 minutes from the Seven Towns meeting.
2. Sam Boucher, Tourism Manager, OCEDC, reported on budget information, stated that she is a resource for seeking and completing all available grant applications and volunteered to contact Mark Dodge from Bertram Wireless, regarding the status of fiber optics in our area.
3. Sheriff Skarban stated that Oconto County now has 24-hour K9 coverage. He said that "the war on drugs" is very prevalent in our county and officers are seeing all types of drugs and drug reactions.
4. Jess Keplinger had to 'tailor' his schedule during the shortened winter, 2020-2021 snowmobile season. He flexed his schedule to work weekends, thus optimizing the times that snowmobilers were riding. Information regarding allowable/non-allowable ATV/UTV modifications were explained. Officers will be providing more information and fewer tickets to ATV/UTV owners this season.
5. Wayne O'Barski reported that the EMS Committee has discontinued communications with NWTC, and now has the (unanimous) backing of the Oconto County Finance Committee, who has recommended to the Oconto County Board of Supervisors that they support the efforts of the six towns to redistrict the northern third of Oconto County to the Nicolet Area Technical College District. The Oconto County Board of Supervisors meets tomorrow morning (Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.) to vote on this decision.

6. Brenda Carey-Mielke shared a text message from Ryan Giese that Ryan has nearly completed working through the ordinances for the town of Mountain. Then he will check the other towns' ordinances, which are listed on their individual websites.
7. Andrew Stemp stated that the ATV trails will open this Friday, April 23, 2021. Some speed limit signs on the trails may need to be changed. Riders are advised to be cognizant of logging activities in the area.
8. Ann Hogan asked for approval of the proposed Vision Statement. Motion m/s/c (Maletzke/Carey-Mielke) to approve the Vision Statement.
9. Ann Hogan led a brief discussion on GTA funding.
10. Ann Hogan asked for suggestions on how others are planning to use their American Rescue Plan funds to assist non-profits and for-profit businesses in their towns that lost income during the megaburst storm in July, 2019. She suggested paying for WPS bills and liquor licenses.
11. Sam Boucher will keep Ann apprised on all high-speed internet updates.
12. Ann Hogan shared that she called the DNR requesting federal funding for bike trails in our area. There is up to two million dollars available, but we aren't yet eligible. Sam has two smaller grants that may cover the cost of the trail head and she will be in touch with Adriane.
13. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brazeau Town Hall.

Agenda topics at this time include:

- Sheriff's report.
- NOCCO report.
- Animal Control Officer report.
- Bike Trails update.
- Snowplowing marginal roads.
- NWTC.
- Mark Dodge – Broadband updates

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kendall

Mary Kendall, Seven Towns Secretary