

Town of Silver Cliff Annual Meeting Minutes

April 16th, 2024, 6:00 pm.

Town of Silver Cliff-Town Hall-N11929 County Rd I. Silver Cliff, WI

1. Chairman of meeting calls meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. The Chairman reviewed the Annual Meeting procedure: Meeting attendees need to be recognized by the Chairman to speak, state your name for the record.
4. Did everyone sign in? This is the people's meeting, only people eligible to vote in the Town of Silver Cliff can vote on items. Property owners can speak about town items but are not able to vote. Fifty-eight signed in as voting members.
5. Review the minutes of the last Annual meeting: Minutes were available for review; no motion was made to accept the minutes.
6. Review of Town Financial Reconciliation for 2023: The traditional statement, statement overview and statement details were provided as handouts and reviewed. The Clerk and Treasurer balanced at \$1,083,200.77, the \$150.00 check for park rental was entered into THS and is resolved.
7. Town Budget Summary for 2023: Bank balances were reviewed.
8. Financial Position: Account Balances were reviewed. Tax account \$157,094.31, checking \$48,000.00, Money Market \$54,848.00, Equipment funds (2) \$25,000.00 each. State budget money for EMS building has been put into CDs to maximize interest earned; \$500k, \$250k, \$100k and \$150k put in the money market. Town will spend state funds first, then CDBG, then insurance money and approach the state for more funding. Pending court, possible to receive payout of remaining insurance money. Levy limit is \$166,000.00. In 2023 the levy limit was over \$200k, due to the garbage fee, per state statute, must reduce levy by budgeted amount in 2013. Chairman Bruce Weber talked about the ratio for 2023, should be 90% or better. The Department of Revenue base value is up to 197 million assessed, we no longer meet municipal assess value.
9. Fire Department Report, financial position/accomplishments: Chief Alan Walesh gave an update on the Fire Department. Twenty calls, two fires; one a total loss, the other was an interior fire, lightning, vehicle, brush fires, 2 ATV accidents, two snowmobile, CO2 detector call, six lift assist, two mutual aid (missing person) and trees across the road. Donated house was burnt for training purposes, possibly there are two other houses being donated. There were two major benefits, \$18k raised from the gun banquet, 6k for the golf outing. The August picnic proceeds were donated to the fire department. June 17th, 2024 is the next gun banquet and September for the golf outing. Jeff is considering applying for a \$50k grant, would like to build a satellite station at some point. Financial balances: CD \$25k, checking \$5160.00, savings \$14,634.00, net \$44,419.84 and will open accounts at Laona State Bank.
10. Insurance Update/lawsuit: Actual cash value is \$608k, once spent will release \$177k. Lawsuit is for \$180k plus \$60k in attorney fees and \$100k for efforts. Jury trial scheduled in August of 2024.
11. Authorization to Work from Home: Motion by Jeff De Bauche to approve work from home, seconded by Joanne Sisler, motion carried to approve work from home.

12. Authorization to Retain Laona State Bank as Town Depository: Motion by Daryl Victoreen to keep Laona State Bank as the town depository, seconded by Jim Sommers. Motion carried to keep Laona State Bank as town depository.
13. Salaries for elected officials:
 - a. Chair; motion made by Chris Norton to keep the Chair salary the same, seconded by Joanne Sisler. Jim Sommers reminds the attendees of the extra duties for the position and the extra work for the EMS building. Chair asked his thoughts. Salary is low but he does the work for volunteering. Ed Burdick asked how the salary compares? Lisa Scheurman states the tornado affected duties. Vote; thirty-one yes to keep the salary the same, 24 no.
 - b. Supervisor's salaries: motion made to keep the salaries the same made by Chris Norton, seconded by Lisa Scheurman. Forty yes, 15 no.
 - c. Clerk: Motion to keep the salary the same made by Chris Norton, seconded by Lisa Scheurman. Amy Vann gave an updated list of duties. Riana Ventura Bishop gave an overview that this is a full-time job and should be compensated. Chris asked if a separate special town meeting could be held to address? Chris then retracted his motion. Vicki Farrell made a motion to up the salary to \$22k, motion seconded by Mike Cios. Thirty-seven yes, 27 no.
 - d. Treasurer: Motion by Chris Norton to keep the salary the same, motion seconded by Jeff DeBauche. Forty-five yes, 11 no.
 - e. Constable: Motion made to keep the Constable salary the same, motion seconded by Daryl Victoreen, unanimously carried via a show of hands.
14. Grant of authority to take a loan up to \$550,000.00 from the Office of Public Commissioners for the remainder of costs of constructing the EMS building: grant authority to submit an application up to \$550k, when needed, possibly early 2025. If Laona Bank has a better rate, an application could be made there instead. Donnie, let's wait. Joanne Sisler, how did the \$550 come about? Total cost is 3.7 million, original estimate was \$3.2 million. The CDBG grant is non-interest bearing but the state money is. Handwritten financial position says \$45k, why more now? That includes a \$443k loan originally. The cost of engineering increased and other increases. Town would spend state money first, then CDBG, then insurance money and ask the state for more.
 - a. Riana Ventura Bishop: 4 years ago, loan was taken out for the town garage, now the savings can't back the loan, no money in money market, town is \$375k in the hole, any increase would go on taxes. Town had money to back the loan now it is gone, and the town needs an assessment at a minimum of \$150k. In November, this will go on taxes. Chairman Bruce Weber stated the town is not in the hole, the payment on the loan will be exactly the same as it is now (if borrow and combine loans).
 - b. Donnie; Any estimate on church renovation? Chairman Bruce Weber states no renovations at this time, possibly in the future when the budget allows. Reminder, the electors voted to approve buying the church.
 - c. Chris Norton, at a special electors meeting, it was said no overruns and assured this. Now asking for \$550k, where is the fiscal responsibility? Increase in taxes if money is

borrowed for the future. Chairman Bruce Weber states up to \$550k, either pay cash or borrow.

Motion made by Ed Farrell to grant authority up to \$550k for either Laona State Bank or Office of Public Commission, whoever has the best rate, motion seconded by Paul Primakow. Thirty-two yes, 24 no.

15. Other - Anything the towns' people would like to discuss:

- a. Request to have the referendum on the last election clarified.
- b. Gillis store, anything happening? Sabin Rosenbaum indicates citations coming but need to trace ownership, then possible condemnation.
- c. Al Walesh, fixing or widening Cables Camp Rd, he talked with the County if it's possible to help. Roberta Knier states there are blind spots, and it is icy.

16. Keep or eliminate the Code Enforcement Officer; Chris Norton made a motion to eliminate the Code Enforcement Officer, Ed Burdick seconded the motion. By raise of hands, thirty to eliminate, nineteen to keep. Advisory vote only, the Board can create the position again.

17. Adjourn meeting to following year is determined by the people to be held on the 3rd Tuesday of April (April 15th, 2025, 6:00 pm at the Silver Cliff Town Hall). Motion to adjourn made by Vicki Farrell, seconded by Ed Farrell, adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Reminder that the Time Capsule is in the Cemetery, and it is to be opened in the year 2050.

Town Clerk-Amy Vannieuwenhoven
Town of Silver Cliff