

# DECEMBER MINUTES

## December Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Mentor Town Hall  
N3049 King Street

Chairman Gile called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

All board members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Verification of posting in 3 places

The previous month's minutes were read. Supervisor 2, Will Scholze made a motion to accept the November 2023 minutes. Supervisor 1, Carol Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was carried.

The treasurer's report was read. Chairman Gile made a motion to accept this month's bills starting with check number 16234 through number 16264, excluding check 16242 and including all E-Pays. Also, the board approved check 16265 in amount of \$169.92 for Hudson's garage. Supervisor 2, Will Scholze 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was carried.

Reports & Correspondence from Officers:

- The American Legion Post 320 extends a heartfelt thank you the Town of Mentor for the donation towards replacing the flag poles by the gazebo.
- Chairman Gile provided an update on the matters related to the Hedrington, Prindle, and Knetter properties.
- Chairman Gile received a notice of timber cutting for the NWSW parcel 040.0105.000 of the Monnat property. The cutting agent is Northwest Hardwoods.
- Chairman Gile provided a reminder that the Neillsville police service hours will extend to 15 hours per month starting January of 2024.
- Chairman Gile received information on a course called G0402 Incident Command System Overview for Senior Officials. Chairman Gile will sign up for this course.

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Agenda items:

- a) Rep. Karen Hurd attended via telephone. Chairman Gile and Supervisor 2 Will Scholze voiced concern to Rep Hurd about improvement programs that require 100% payment up front, and asked Rep. Hurd fight for not using the reimbursement approach.

As an example, the ARIP Grant program is 90/10. Under this program roads need to meet certain 4 season criteria which could potentially cost over \$1 million per mile. This means that Mentor would have an upfront borrowing cost of \$1 million per mile, which exceeds the town's borrowing limits.

Additionally, beyond the borrowing, the Town would still be responsible for paying 10% or \$100,000 per mile. Which puts these types of programs out of reach for small towns.

Chairman Gile also noted the Town's levy is only \$140,000. That the cost of blacktop is \$160,000 per ½ mile. Even when we consider the state's transportation aid, this imbalance of funding -vs- cost makes it nearly impossible for towns like Mentor to properly maintain 43 miles of road.

Rep Hurd assured Chairman Gile she has fought hard to ensure small towns like ours get proper funding and she will continue to work on our behalf. She noted the following:

- The 90/10 program was originally presented as a 100% program. But legislators said municipalities need to have "skin in the game" and changed it so Towns would be responsible for 10% of overall costs. She disagreed with this.
- She'll take the suggestions of stopping the use of reimbursement style programs and see what she can do.
- She'll also see about tying the "skin in the game" requirements to Town budgets instead of the overall costs.
- Rep Hurd also provided info on WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority). WHEDA has a program called "[Restore Main Street 0% Loan Program](#)" that encourages small towns to increase the supply of housing and apartments.
- Rep Hurd also suggested we reach out to members of the Joint Committee on Finance, specifically Representative Mark Born and Senator Howard Marklien. She'll forward their contact information to Clerk/Treasurer Jack Ikhtiari.

- b) Victims Impact Statement regarding case 2023CM000130 – The board decided to request the **outcome of the case**, but **not restitution**.
- c) Livestock Ordinance – Supervisor 1, Carol Johnson presented a proposed map with boundary lines. Supervisor 2 Will Scholze stated the DACTP has no live stock

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restrictions for smaller towns. Supervisor 2, Will Scholze recommends not pursuing an ordinance at this time. Clerk-Treasurer Jack Ikhtiari voiced his concern for not pursuing an ordinance. This agenda item was tabled for the January 2024 meeting.

- d) Security Camera's – Jack estimated the cost of two camera systems to be \$1091 but still needs to get an estimate for installation cost. This item was table for the Jan 2024 meeting.
- e) Tires for Enloader – Estimated cost for Tires is \$2500. Chairman Gile motioned to approved \$2500. Supervisor 2 Will Scholze 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was carried.
- f) Election Workers – Chairman Gile made a motion to appoint Mavis Burkhalter, Bruce Walter, Cindy Walter, and Rebecca Fry as election workers for the next 2 years. Supervisor 2, Will Scholze 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion was carried.
- g) Hall Painting – The painting project will begin on December 13, 2023.
- h) Flag Posts – Chairman Gile reported that the flag project is done and the costs exceeded \$2000 and requests the board's approval to pay the balance of \$3450.00. Supervisor 2, Will Scholze made a motion to approve the payment amount. Chairman Gile abstained. Supervisor 1, Carol Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was carried.

Open discussion:

There was a concern about chickens. That they should be confined to their owners property and no roam around on neighbors property.

Chairman Gile adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Dated this 13th day of December 2023, Jack Ikhtiari Sr, Clerk /Treasurer