

TOWN OF DRUMMOND

Bayfield County
Drummond, Wisconsin 54832



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: April 19, 2022.

The meeting was called to order in the Civic Center at 6:30 pm by Royden Bloom. There were 61 electors (including the board) in attendance.

Minutes from the April 20, 2021 annual meeting were read aloud by the clerk. Motion by Mark Jansen, second by Gail Bloom to approve the minutes. CARRIED by voice vote.

Update from various Town departments and committees were given. The following are highlights of the reports:

- Fire Department has 22 active members and has one of the highest memberships in the county. Fire calls for 2021 were down.
- Great Divide Ambulance Service has completed the renovations to the new building. The ambulances are aging and they will be looking to replace some of the fleet.
- Parks & Recreation committee is continuing with the campground expansion for 2022. This will include installing a lift station that will allow flush toilets to be placed in the park in the future. The pavilion floor is in disrepair. The wood floor will be removed this summer and some type of new floor will be laid down.

The clerk reviewed and answered questions regarding the 2021 Annual Report.

Due to a conflict of interest, meeting chair Bloom recused himself and Jim Crandall chaired a discussion regarding the Mill Pond dam. Crandall explained the DOT was planning to remove the dam and return the pond area back to a creek. The DOT has given the Town the option to retain the dam if the Town assumes ownership, operation and liability of the dam. The Town must also agree to pay the cost difference between reconstructing the dam and its removal/replacement with a bridge. This price tag was estimated at over \$513,000 in 2021 by the DOT. The floor was opened to comments and questions from the electors. The following is information provided during the discussion:

- There are still unknowns regarding the final cost payable to the DOT, price of liability insurance, and costs of inspections and maintenance.
- The town board is proposing to finance the cost through \$600,000 loan at 5% interest for 20 years.

- The board said there are no known grants available for this project since the Town does not currently own the dam.
- Town chair Bloom stated that as the firehall loan will be paid off in 2022, and the budgeted money (approx. \$32,000) from that loan would roll over to make the full debt service payment of the dam loan. No additional property tax would be levied.
- Crandall explained that the proposed loan would require over \$46,000 in annual debt service payments and roughly \$350,000 in interest in addition to the loan amount of \$600,000.
- Supervisor Elkins said there would be several more Town meetings and votes before anything is finalized.

A formal resolution that would detail how and to what extent (dollar amount) the board could negotiate the ownership transfer and financing of the dam was distributed. No formal motion or second was made to consider the resolution. Instead, an elector informally called for a vote asking “Who’s in favor of saving the dam”. This vote yielded 38 yes votes and 11 no votes by a show of hands. The board considered the vote consent to proceed with negotiating the transfer of the dam up to \$600,000 with final approval by the electorate once the details have been settled.

There being no further business brought up by the electors, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm

The 2023 Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023.