

1. Call to Order:

Chairman, Mike Bronk called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The list of attendees is attached which included eight Town of Stockton residents including Chairman Mike Bronk and Clerk Lauri Novotny. There was also one non-Town resident in attendance.

2. Method of Voting:

Motion (Sandra Walters/Toni Bronk) to continue to use “by majority show of hands” as the method of voting. Motion carried by majority show of hands. Chairman Bronk wished to note on record that Fire Chief Chris Kluck is present but unable to vote as his residence is out of jurisdictional range to be a Town resident.

3. Approval of April 18th, 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Bronk stated that he would like to commend Clerk Lauri Novotny for doing a fantastic job. The minutes are very, very organized and well-written minutes from the previous Annual Meeting. Motion (Sandra Walters/Randy Shirek) to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried by majority show of hands.

4. 2017 Annual Financial Report:

Chairman Bronk stated that he typically provides a State of the Union type message for the Town of Stockton prior to the annual financial report. He stated that he is very appreciative of the Town of Stockton residents for continuing to believe in him and the Board Members. He thanked Supervisors Dodge and Johnson. He thanked Clerk Lauri Novotny for the fantastic job that she does in keeping everything organized in regards to making sure we have postings done properly and everything submitted in a timely manner. He also thanked Treasurer Sandy Walters for her organizational skills as well. Chairman Bronk stated he sleeps very well at night knowing the Town is in good hands when it comes to the technical stuff that they do especially when it comes to numbers and those type of things. It is very much appreciated. He also thanked Cindy Davis, the Plan Commission Chair, and members of the Plan Commission for taking time out of their schedules to continue to move the Town forward as planning out future development. He recognized our Fire Chief Chris Kluck and commended him for a job well done along with Deputy Chiefs Joe Brandt and Randy Shirek. Their dedication is also recognized. Chairman Bronk also mentioned the Road Crew with Foreman Jeff Herman, Brian Zimmerman, Chris Kizewski and Kathy Herman. He stated they went through a very trying weekend this weekend with the snow. He indicated that you never really realize how much they do in situations like this. I’d like to thank them for all that they do and the time that they spend on call as well including the amount of hours that they put in on a weekend like this is very much appreciated.

Chairman Bronk then moved on to the 2017 Annual Financial Report. He reviewed the budgeted and actual income and expenses by category in 2017 using the attached “2017 Town of Stockton Financial Summary.” Total Income and Expenditures/Reserves were each reported as \$1,065,177.00 for the year. He further provided a brief description of the items included within the particular categories in order to provide the public with a better understanding of the overall financial summary. He also made special mention that the \$98,644.56 was placed in a contingency fund, restricted for future road maintenance and construction, specifically as we did not have enough time to get done the projects that were scheduled for 2017 due to the storm damage, therefore the funds have been set aside to do so in the future. Chairman Bronk invited any questions of the Town Electors. No one came forth with questions or concerns regarding the 2017 Annual Financial Report.

5. Fire Department/EMS Reports:

Fire Chief Chris Kluck began by stating that during 2017 the Department lost one of their own. Former Chief Mike Spencer passed away. He was the first Chief for the Town of Stockton. Chief Kluck indicated that a lot of what he has to report on tonight was built on the foundation that Chief Spencer began so many years ago.

Chief Kluck went on to report that for the Fire Division, in 2017, there were a total of forty (46) emergency dispatched calls of which five (5) were rescue calls, twenty one (21) fire calls, four (4) downed power lines, and 16 service calls. Currently the department has 8 new probationary firefighters who are in various stages of the local and state mandated training which spans a period of two years. With the probationary members the current staffing of the department is twenty three (23).

Recruitment and retention of firefighters and emergency responders for the volunteer service continue to be one of the biggest challenges facing FIRE/EMS departments today.

Recently Randy Shirek has accepted the vacant position of Deputy Chief – Fire. Chief Shirek is a full time teacher in the Stevens Point School District and we are excited about him bringing his drive and formidable teaching skills to the department.

Chief Kluck reported that for the EMS Division, there were fifty (50) EMS calls during 2017 and the EMS group has added a new member as of this date, bringing the total amount of responders to seven (7). Deputy Chief Brandt continues to recruit new members to the EMS division and in 2018, Chief Brandt another accomplished teacher with Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) will be teaching a first responder medical training course that will be hosted at the Town of Stockton.

Chief Kluck indicated that it takes a concentrated effort by a number of officers to effectively manage a successful operation throughout the year. He took a moment to recognize the officers and their assignments for the department:

- Deputy Chief Randy Shirek is a Fire Officer, an educator, a State of Wisconsin Department of Safety & Public Services (DSPS) Coordinator and a National Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Coordinator.
- Deputy Chief Joe Brandt is an EMS Officer, an EMS group coordinator, an educator and a Fire Ground officer.
- Captain Jesse Disher is a Fire Training Officer and a Lead Fire Inspections Coordinator.
- Captain Dean Voelker is a Fire Training Officer and a Fleet Special Projects Coordinator.
- Captain Steve Miroslaw is a Safety Officer and a Small Equipment Maintenance Officer.
- Lieutenant Brian Higgins is a Fire Ground Officer and the Public Events Coordinator.
- Lieutenant Jeremy Spencer is a Fire Ground Officer, a Fleet Maintenance Coordinator, and the Administrative Records Coordinator.

Chief Kluck noted that the Fire Department had completed several audits during the past year. One audit, in particular, was on audit conducted by the Insurance Services Office. The ISO audit rates Fire Departments for purposes of homeowner/property insurance premiums. The last audit was completed in 2006-2007 which designated the department as a level eight (8) rating on a 1 to 10 scale. The lower the number, the better it is for premiums.

He stated that he was proud to announce that as a result of the audit, the Stockton Fire Department's ISO rating has been reduced from a level eight (8) to a level (6). This is the lowest rating a Fire Department can achieve without the use of a municipal water source. Beneficial to this rating is the current automatic aid agreements the department has with Park Ridge as well as Amherst Fire Departments. He stated that the Departments, in turn, work as one Department when responding to fire scenes in our coverage areas.

Chief Kluck stated that each year he feels that the Department continues to improve. They continue to train. They continue to recruit. They continue to upgrade our equipment to meet the # 1 priority, which is the safety of our Firefighters and First Responders.

He stated that all of this improvement would not be possible without the support of the Town of Stockton Board. Chairman Bronk, Supervisors Dodge and Johnson, Treasurer Walters have been instrumental in the continued success of the department. Chief Kluck indicated that he would be remiss if he failed to mention Town Clerk Lauri Novotny in his comments. He stated that Clerk Novotny has phenomenal organizational skills and has used these skills to "ride herd" on him during the past year on meeting all of the "paperwork" demands that comes with running a successful operation. He indicated that he is truly honored to have this incredible talent working with him and with the Department throughout the year.

Chief Kluck stated that, in closing, that it takes time and dedication of many to run a successful FIRE/EMS operation. His role as Fire Chief would be diminished if not for the efforts of the people mentioned along with all the men and women who respond on a moment's notice to people in need. He further indicated that he is both humbled and honored to be a part of this great organization.

6. Road Work for 2017:

Chairman Bronk stated that 2017 road work was slightly difficult due to the storm constraints and subsequent clean-up work. However, despite the weather related issues, the Town was still able to complete some projects. The shared road projects between the Town of New Hope and the Town of Stockton which included final section of paving on a portion of Five Corner Rd. The Town also completed a shared project which entailed seal-coating a portion of Kennedy Ave which was a shared project with the Town of Plover.

Chairman Bronk indicated that in 2018 they will continue to work on 4th St with tree and boulder removal to widen out the street in order to make it safer. He also indicated that there are some older cul-de-sacs in Town that need attention. He stated that they were built before we had a Road Ordinance that regulated the cul-de-sacs. These areas make it very hard for the snow plows to turn around and for emergency vehicles. He stated that the Road Tour was scheduled for today but with the current weather conditions, there are not a lot of roads that are visible at this time. He said that during the road tour, they will be spending some time looking at the cul-de-sacs specifically. Chairman Bronk stated that they will continue to work on more paving, seal coating and a lot of crack filling during the 2018 calendar year.

7. Items Brought Up By the Town Residents:

Mr. Mike Skibba indicated that he was rather discouraged by the amount of time that it has taken for the garbage company to respond to requests for replacement garbage cans. He provided two specific situations. He also stated that the second time, he was able to contact Clerk Novotny to obtain a garbage can from the Town to replace his as the time to get a new one was not acceptable to him. He thanked Clerk Novotny for all of her help. Chairman Bronk stated that he appreciated Mr. Skibba’s concern. He further indicated that most Towns are dealing with larger refuse companies and the typical delivery time is ten to fourteen business days. He indicated that reaching out to Clerk Novotny can be beneficial as she has established a local contact person that can be of help in situations that timing is a concern.

Chairman Bronk then recognized Supervisor Dodge and her husband, Jim, as they arrived after attending the Portage County Board Meeting where Supervisor Dodge was sworn in to her continued position on the County Board.

Sandra Walters requested that the Annual Meeting be held at 6:30 pm in subsequent years as most Town meetings are at the 6:30 pm time. Motion (Sandra Walters/Mike Skibba) to change the time of the Annual Meeting to 6:30 pm for subsequent years. Motion carried by a show of hands.

8. Next Annual Town Meeting Date & Time:

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Town Electors will be held on the third Tuesday of April at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

9. Motion (Sandra Walters/Toni Bronk) to adjourn at 7:33 pm. Motion carried by a majority show of hands.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauri Novotny, Town Clerk

Approved: _____
Posted: _____