

VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

March 3, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.

Village Hall, 105 E. Main Street, Twin Lakes, WI

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT SKINNER AT 6:30 PM/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL

CALL: Present: Trustees Barb Andres, Bill Kaskin, Aaron Karow, Kevin Fitzgerald, Ken Perl, Tim Infusino, President Howard Skinner. Also Present: Administrator Laura Jager, Police Chief Katie Hall, Clerk Sabrina Waswo.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.

Bryan Neal, 142 West Park Drive, spoke regarding concerns with the candidate process. He feels that by requiring candidates to file a campaign finance registration statement before circulating nomination papers, the Village gains inside knowledge of potential candidates before the legal filing deadline. He stated Trustee Bower withdrew her candidacy after being notified of the ballot candidate placement. Trustee Bower had obtained 38 signatures on four different nomination sheets, all of which were collected by the Village President. He noted Bower's absences from meetings from May through December due to her chronic medical conditions. He suggested that President Skinner, having prior knowledge of potential challengers, sought to maintain an incumbency advantage by having Trustee Bower run for re-election. He speculated that should Bower be unable to serve, the President could later appoint a replacement. He said that while these actions were not illegal, they raised ethical concerns and suggested possible election manipulation, which could undermine the integrity of the local democratic process.

PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE REPORTS

TRUSTEE TIMOTHY INFUSINO - ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, JUDICIARY, LICENSING

Discussion regarding an Event Permit for Business in the Park and Car Show on May 17, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Chief Hall asked if both sides of the street would be barricaded, to which President Skinner confirmed they would, as in previous years.

Discussion regarding an Event Permit for Rock the Lake on June 14, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Discussion regarding a Temporary Class "B" Beer License for the Twin Lakes Chamber for Rock the Lake on June 15, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Discussion regarding an Event Permit for Libertyfest Parade/Fest and Fireworks on July 5, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

It was noted that there will be pyrotechnics, however that was not checked on the permit.

Discussion regarding a Temporary Class "B" Beer License for the Twin Lakes Chamber for Libertyfest on July 6, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Discussion regarding a Temporary Class "B" Beer License for the Twin Lakes Chamber for Cornfest on August 14, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., August 15, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and August 16, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Discussion regarding updating the process for Pier, Raft, and Buoy Permits.

The board discussed proposed changes to pier permit fees, suggesting a shift from the current \$10 per year to \$80 for three years. Fitzgerald questioned the need for ongoing permits beyond the initial installation, arguing that most piers remain in place for decades. Administrator Jager supported annual inspections to prevent unauthorized modifications, while Chief Hall noted instances where piers were relocated or expanded without approval. Fitzgerald raised concerns about the village's enforcement role, particularly regarding riparian rights, questioning the necessity of the permit if the village does not enforce such issues. The board discussed whether the permit should be eliminated, with suggestions that it should only be required for new installations or

ownership changes. Jager noted that the Wisconsin DNR has authority over piers extending beyond 100 feet, which may justify the village's involvement.

Infusino supported annual inspections and permits for rafts and buoys. The discussion then shifted to background checks for pier permits, which cost the police department \$12 per check. Fitzgerald questioned their necessity, as property rights remain unchanged regardless of a person's criminal background. Chief Hall explained that background checks identify outstanding warrants and past cases of non-compliance. Karow emphasized the need for proper placement to align with DNR regulations and supported eliminating annual background checks due to costs. The board agreed to further investigate state requirements before making a decision.

TRUSTEE AARON KAROW - BUILDING AND ZONING, PLAN COMMISSION, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Discussion regarding requiring new pier installations to be approved by the Plan Commission.

Karow clarified that the proposed changes apply only to new pier installations moving forward and felt that pier approvals and replacements should be managed by the DNR, a position supported by Skinner and Perl. Fitzgerald suggested that while the village should not regulate piers, property owners should receive information on shoreland ordinances to ensure awareness and compliance with DNR regulations. Infusino raised concerns about potential unregulated aspects, such as double piers, while Fitzgerald noted the existing DNR regulations on pier dimensions.

Karow emphasized that the village's role in permits has primarily been to document pier locations, not to enforce placement rules. However, Chief Hall stated that when violations occur—such as exceeding the 100-foot limit or depth restrictions—the police department is responsible for enforcement, as the DNR does not intervene. Hall noted an ongoing case involving a pier extending 150 feet and a request for an extension. Fitzgerald asked if enforcement issues relate to property encroachments, which Hall confirmed, noting that such disputes are civil matters. Fitzgerald pointed out the difficulty of obtaining surveys of riparian zones. Karow concluded that DNR guidelines and village code provide the best available framework and reiterated that the permit's primary function is to document pier locations for emergency services. Administrator Jager will conduct further research on the issue.

TRUSTEE KEN PERL - POLICE, FIRE, LAKE CONTROL, PARKS AND BEACHES

Discussion regarding a Concession Stand Lease for the Scout House at Lance Park.

The proposed draft remains unchanged from the previous agreement, except for updated dates. No complaints have been received at Village Hall.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT HOWARD SKINNER

President Skinner made a statement emphasizing that he will not tolerate accusations or harassment from any individual in the audience, and he will not live in fear of being sued. If the public chooses to vote for someone who has sued the village over the past several years, that is their decision.

ADJOURN – Skinner/Andres motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

/s/Sabrina Waswo, Village Clerk