

**TOWN OF GULL LAKE
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS
TUESDAY, April 15, 2025**

1. Call the Annual Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Tom Thorp. This is the elector's meeting and any elector can bring up items.
 - Approval of April 16, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes on motion by Chris Rank, 2nd by Allen Webster, MC.
 - Presentation of the Financial Report for 2024 – A comparison of 2024 and 2023 financials was presented, along with the audited financial report for 2024. The importance of timber/forestry in the town was discussed especially as it pertains to dollars that are shared by forestry with 17 of the municipalities in the county. Gull Lake ranks #4 (following Frog Creek, Birchwood and Stinnett) with 14,131.48 acres out of a total of 150,191.43 acres in the county. The state requires the county to share 10% of the annual timber sale revenue with those municipalities, but the county has chosen to share 15%. Gull Lake has 28.6 miles of town road for which we receive state General Transportation Aids in the amount of \$19,541.26 quarterly (\$2733.04 per mile). Report will be placed on file.
 - Any Other Business as Presented by the Electors – none at this time.
2. Set Meeting Date for 2026 Annual Meeting (if not the 3rd Tuesday, then within 10 days following that date) – will be April 21, 2026.
3. Motion for Adjournment at 7:15 p.m. was made by Tom Thorp, 2nd by Chris Rank; MC.

April 15, 2025 Town Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Tom Thorp.

Roll Call – Elected officials present: Tom Thorp, Chris Rank, Allen Webster, Lolita Olson. Robbie Olson also present.

Certificate of Election and Oath of Office – Clerk Olson read the Certificate of Election and verbal oaths were taken to supplement the written ones received. The new town board will consist of Tom Thorp as Chair, Chris Rank and Allen Webster as the Supervisors and Lolita Olson as the Clerk/Treasurer. The position of constable had been eliminated. Voter turnout for the town was at 92 (60% of 154 registered voters.)

March 11, 2025 minutes were approved on motion by Chris Rank, 2nd by Allen Webster, MC.

Treasurer's Report was presented via written report from Clerk Olson. Account balances: Shell Lake State Bank Savings - \$173,556.96; checking \$500.00, total of \$174,056.96 in bank as of April 15, 2025. Receipts of \$21,976.21 and expenses of \$14,440.29 were reviewed for the period of March 12th through April 15th. Motion to accept treasurer's report was made by Allen Webster, 2nd by Chris Rank, MC.

Public Comment - None at this time.

Discussion/Action Can Be Taken on Any of the Following:

2024 Financial Audit performed by CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) – An annual audit is required due to the combination of the clerk/treasurer position. CLA does our annual audit and also files the required financial reports with the state.

Update on Road Conditions, Maintenance & Signage Needs – County road bans will be removed on all Washburn County highways effective at noon on Thursday, April 17th. Robbie spoke with the county regarding getting on the schedule for grading. The gravel portions of Hall and Taylor Lake roads will need to be looked at prior to taking the town road bans off due to shaded areas that are still wet. Normally the town follows the county's schedule but we will hold off until we feel these roads have dried up sufficiently. Rustin from the USDA is back on schedule for beaver control. Haynes Road will be looked at regarding condition.

Driveway Permit for Tim Knutson, W4570 Western Lake Road – Chair Thorp inspected the proposed location for the driveway; no culverts were deemed necessary. Motion to approve was made by Chris Rank, 2nd by Allen Webster, MC.

Proposal for Demolition of Outhouse – Three proposals were received: Northern Ridge Contracting, \$1625.00; Tyler Excavating LLC, \$1000.00; Tanner Schwanke Services, \$3584.00. Tom and Allen physically verified outhouse structure regarding whether or not it has a bottom and would need to be pumped. Tom reported that it does have a piece of concrete storm sewer standing on end going down about 6-8'. After further comparisons regarding what needs to be done, motion to approve Northern Ridge Contracting was made by Allen Webster, 2nd by Chris Rank; MC.

Proposal for Painting of Interior of Town Hall – One proposal received from Hartung Coatings from Hudson, WI; \$8400. Motion to accept the proposal on conditions regarding whether or not price includes any potential lead abatement measures by Tom Thorp, 2nd by Allen Webster; insurance certificate will also be required prior to start. Chris Rank stated he would like to re-advertise to see if we get a less expensive proposal. Discussed. Vote taken on motion: 2 ayes, 1 nay (Chris Rank); MC.

Proposal for 2025 Road Mowing and ROW Brushing – Proposals for both the 2025 Right of Way (ROW) Mowing and the 2025 Brush Mowing were received from Steve Meister/Sleepy Hollow Mowing. The mowing proposal is \$7176.00 and includes a double pass mowing (up to 15 ft wide where permitted) on town roads with triangle cuts at intersections and is planned for July 15 through July 25, 2025. Motion by Allen Webster to approve the 2025 ROW mowing for \$7176.00, 2nd by Chris Rank; vote taken; all ayes; MC. Brush mowing proposal includes brushing mowing up to 4-5 inch trees back to tree line/ROW on all designated roads specified by the town; also includes mowing 12+ ft vertically in addition to hand cutting/chainsaw cutting for leaning/down trees in pathway for \$96.00/hour. Time frame for brushing is up until June 1st of 2025 and/or to resume in September of 2025. This is to avoid any issues with oak wilt. Motion to approve the proposal for ROW brushing to be done within the time frame indicated was made by Chris Rank, 2nd by Allen Webster; vote taken; MC.

Set Town Cleanup Day Event(s) – Reviewed forestry proposed pilot project; more information will be forthcoming after the county forestry meeting tomorrow. Town Cleanup Day for Gull Lake property owners will be Saturday, August 30th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. This will include white goods (washer/dryer/refrigerator, etc.), electronics (TV's/radios/computers) and tires only. Tom volunteered to be available.

Confirmation of Board of Review – Open Book will be held over the phone from 9 AM to 11 AM on Monday, May 19th; residents will be notified by the assessor if any changes to assessment have been made. Board of Review will be Thursday, June 5th, from 4 PM to 6 PM at the town hall. Tom Thorp, Lolita Olson and Chris Rank received BOR training recently at a WTA district meeting held in

Cable on April 5th; clerk will file the required affidavit with the state. Only one member of the board of review will need training every year.

Communications –

- Washburn County Unit Meeting of the WTA will be Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the County Board Room in Shell Lake.
- Wisconsin Towns Association Spring Workshop for New & Continuing Officials schedule was given to all board members. If the dates are not convenient for the board, Clerk Olson is planning on attending and can share information received.
- Wisconsin DNR flyer received regarding Well Compensation and Well Abandonment Grants.
- Email received from Northwest Regional Planning Commission regarding the launch of their new quarterly newsletter; this issue deals with water resource planning.

Public Input – Robbie spoke with Mike Peterson, Washburn County Forest Administrator; Mike indicated that the county will purchase the gates for the dump access; as it is a DNR issue for the dump the town will still need to get in to mow so it can't be bermed. Bill Haddick Jr asked about culverts on the Hay Creek "corduroy" portion on Hall Road – nothing as of yet.

Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, May 13, 2025 for regular town board meeting; road trip will be Sunday, May 4th starting at 9:00 a.m. from the town hall.

Vouchers and Checks were signed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolita Olson, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Gull Lake