

## **TOWN OF CABLE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 17, 2017**

Chairman Hancock called the Annual Meeting of the Town of Cable to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Chairman Art Hancock; Supervisors David Popelka and Sue Thurn; Treasurer, Lori Lang; Clerk Deanne Allen; Deputy Clerk Kelli Tuttle; and Roads Foreman, Bob Lang. Seventeen others were also present.

Chairman Hancock explained that at the Annual Meeting, motions and votes are only taken from the public.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Hancock requested an amendment to the agenda that would move item No. 7, Ambulance Report to item No. 6, after the Library Report.

MOTION to approve the amended agenda by Kristine Lendved. MOTION seconded by Lora Vanderploeg. MOTION carried.

### **Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting**

MOTION by Marilyn Jenkins to dispense with the reading of the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Jeanne Dixon. MOTION carried.

Sue Rosa requested the current Annual Meeting minutes be posted, even though they would not yet be approved.

MOTION by Kristine Lendved to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. MOTION seconded by Mike Most. MOTION carried.

### **2017 Financial Report - Presented by Former Town Clerk Laura Bjork**

Former Clerk Laura Bjork reported that the major differences that occurred in the financial report for 2017 are the purchase of a truck by the Highway Department, construction of a salt shed, construction of a town garage and land purchased on Ole Lake Road. The public restroom expenses are shown, but funds were raised separately for that project.

In response to a question about airport expenses, Former Clerk Bjork explained that the airport operating budget is separate from the town. The town gives the airport an allotment of \$8500 each year. The airport reimburses the town for costs for payroll, utilities and plowing expenses.

Paul Gilbert asked if only the Town Board votes on the purchase of a big ticket item like the truck. Foreman Lang explained that the only time there is a public meeting for expenses is to increase the levy. Chairman Hancock added that a used truck was purchased from Barnes. The new plow truck will be delivered in a few weeks and paid for in 2018.

MOTION by Sue Rosa to receive the 2017 Financial Report. MOTION seconded by Mike Most. MOTION carried.

### **Library Report - Presented by Library Director Kristine Lendved**

- Let me begin by bringing you up to date on our “facility development” project. While we are not nearly as far along as we imagined we might be last year at this time, we are making ... slow...progress, and learning something with each person and organization we speak with. In mid-July we staged a *Novel Affair on the Lawn* which functioned as a showcase of library services, but, was also an opportunity for us to engage with patrons about features they’d like to see in a library addition. We also participated in the Cable Tomorrow visioning sessions, where we received additional input on desired services. Data recorded during this effort also ensured us that there is strong community support both for the library and for a library addition. Before the end of 2017 we conducted interviews with architects from three different firms; two from the Duluth/Superior area and one whose principal office is in Iowa, although the firm has an office in Madison. We had grand plans to make a decision before the end of the year, but, instead decided it would be beneficial to take a look at libraries designed by these respective architects. Thus, a committee composed of a few current and a few former Board Trustees have visited three libraries: Eagle River, Iron River and Ely. In the meantime, news of our proposed project seems to be working its way around. We got a call from a representative of Market and Johnson, the construction management firm that built the Cable Natural History Museum. That individual offered a presentation to a small group of us and will return to present to our full Board at our next scheduled meeting. We also got a call from Keller, a construction management group located in the Fox Valley. A representative from there came to see us on 4/10. They, also, hope to return to present to the full Board. While this may seem...confusing...in fact, we feel we are getting educated! We have also done some preliminary work investigating possible funding sources. We will definitely keep you posted on our progress.
- Another major thing that happened in the prior year was some serious outside maintenance of the log cabin. The Cable Natural History Museum, who owns the building, wanted to use some of the Griggs-Burke Foundation granted Endowment funds for the maintenance of the library building...TO maintain the building. We were closed for two weeks in October to accommodate sand-blasting, de-chinking and log replacement and spent another three weeks swathed in plastic while the maintenance team re-chinked and re-stained the building. We expect the team to return this spring to repaint the trim and facia. And, yes, it looks great. It did require us to take off every single thing that was on an outside wall. There were boxes and carts full of books everywhere, covered in plastic sheeting. Since we had everything off all of the shelves on the wall, we took advantage of the opportunity to reorganize our collection, consolidating our fiction and mystery collections and moving them to

the main room. It was a huge effort, and props to the staff and volunteers for getting it done, on both ends of the project, on time...and in good spirits.

- Utilizing statistics from our Annual Report, the Forest Lodge Library checked out 16,615 items in 2017. While this represents a decrease from the prior year, as stated above, we were closed for two weeks...and looked like we were closed for three weeks beyond that. For 2017 we had 1103 registered users at our library. We offered 37 separate programming events which served 639 patrons. Our programming events included Community Conversations, film and documentary screenings, Makerspace events and “stand-alone” events, not part of any series. Some of the fun Makerspace events offered in the last year included a session on how to start a fire without matches, one about bike repair and in another we created glass Christmas ornaments. We brought historical entertainer Bill Jamison back with his “Daylight in the Swamp” show, about the early days of logging. We sponsored MILPA, a presentation about ancient Mesoamerican gardening techniques. We also welcomed Wisconsin author Nick Butler for a reading, in a partnership event with Redbery Books. In another partnership with Redbery, every other month we welcome the Get a Clue Book Club, an open club that reads mystery and crime fiction.
- Although not counted as specific programming events, in February we’ve offered an annual “Blind Date with a Book” where people check out a book or movie wrapped in paper...based on a few hints of what it’s about. In April we tear out some pages from an old book and offer up an opportunity to create some “black-out poetry”...another fun activity.
- One of larger programming efforts in 2017 was our offering the Aging Mastery series, developed by the National Council on Aging. We learned about this program while researching topics in order to offer a series of lectures with funds from the Genevieve Mattle Memorial, based on the family’s request. This program seemed tailor-made! This was a 10-week series and topics covered included Navigating Longer Lives: Basic of Aging Mastery, Exercise & You, Sleep, Healthy Eating & Hydration, Financial Fitness, Medication Management, Advance Planning, Healthy Relationships, Falls Prevention and Community Engagement. This program was well received and well attended and we hope to offer at least some portion of it again this summer.
- Hope everyone got a chance to see the library all lit up through the Christmas season...through Birkie. We were quite charming. Thanks for that go to Rose Rothstein as part of a Cable Tomorrow committee.
- One of the things identified as a priority by the Cable Tomorrow group, which was, conveniently, also identified in our own Strategic Plan, was the development of a comprehensive Cable Community Calendar. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with some of the Norvado staff to discuss the logistics of that. It has since come to pass that we’ve learned we’ll need a new website, but, it is our plan to roll calendar development into that effort which we hope to get to work on in the very near future.

- Director Lendved participates in the work of the Merlin Consortium by attending meetings at the Northern Waters Library Service system headquarters, and sometimes via webinar. Ongoing federal funding, databases available to our patrons through various state programs, reports from the Public Library System Re-design project and protecting patron privacy have been among the many issues that have been discussed. Our system did provide us with a broadband upgrade this year, which should come in especially handy during tourist season. Lendved also attends meetings of the Bayfield County Library Committee. We are grateful for Bayfield County's Building Strong Libraries Grant Program, which, in 2018, enabled us to purchase two new laptop computers for patron use.
- We said farewell to Library Aide Rose Lahti late last spring and have been happy to welcome Jennifer Hartling as new Library Aide. Jennifer not only IS a relentless reader, she runs a Facebook page of the same name.
- We also offer a farewell and sincere thanks to Anita Warren and Colleen Carter who both completed a second three-year term of Board service in the last year. We are happy to report that both continue to be involved in our facility development efforts. We are happy to have Anne Paul now serving and will soon welcome Maureen Palmer as a new Trustee.
- We thank the Towns of Cable and Namakagon for their strong support. We hope that, if you have not already done so, you'll "like" us on Facebook...or make regular visits to our library or our website, <http://cable.wislib.org>, to keep track of all that we offer our communities. For example, on May 15<sup>th</sup> local writer and marathon enthusiast Jim Anderson will offer a Community Conversation aboutS his latest publishing effort. While it's still in the planning stages, we're excited about an upcoming tailgate party, followed by a screening of the documentary CHEESEHEADS...with the filmmaker! And...we always look forward to seeing you...at the library! We further encourage any of you to let us know how the library might be of service to you, your business or your organization. Thanks!

### **Great Divide Ambulance Report - Presented by Ralph Pauls ALS Coordinator for Great Divide Ambulance**

The Great Divide Ambulance service responded to 1203 calls this last year, which is a 33% increase over the previous year. Of those calls, 800 were transfers to hospitals; 200 were critical care transfers.

Great Divide Ambulance serves 10 core communities and has three stations and four trucks. Six communities in Ashland County are leasing services. Those communities would like a full vote on the board, but no changes have been made. Great Divide is now using a communication system through [wis.com](http://wis.com) that has its own channel. This has been a huge help in communication with cell phone coverage so spotty.

Two big changes have occurred in the last year with the retirements of Ted Green and Candy Henkins. Laura Bjork is taking the position of Financial Manager.

The ambulance service experiences challenges and stress every hour. He has concern about how to keep up and avoid burnout of employees. There are employees who plan to push for health benefits and overtime pay. There are also many successes and good outcomes which is the main focus of the department.

Sue Rosa asked if more money needs to be allotted to Great Divide Ambulance from the Town Board. Mr. Pauls explained that Great Divide has a budget of \$1.5 million. The six townships in Ashland County pay a total of \$240,000. The rest of the budget is fee generated. There are four crews. One car is in operation 24/7. The service area covers 762 square miles and is the biggest service area in the state in terms of mileage.

Suzanne Rooney noted that information regarding service calls is written manually in the ambulance. She asked if it would be easier for employees to have iPads or some device for entering information. Mr. Pauls responded that he is not a believer of electronic devices because when employees are looking at a screen, they are not looking at the patient. His greatest priority is patient care. There is no comparison to live patient care and entering information on a computer.

### **Fire Department Report - Presented by Fire Chief Kevin McKinney**

The department responded to 20 calls in 2017 which is about average for the year.

Currently we have 8 active firefighters, with our newest member John Tuttle who, with his wife, relocated to Cable from out west. Kevin McKinney is the Fire Chief and Bob Lang is the Assistant Chief.

The low number of active firefighters is a trend that has been sweeping the entire fire service for the last 10 years. We are short staffed during the day when the majority of our members work out of the area. As a result, we rely upon mutual aid with our neighboring departments to ensure that the public is protected.

Last year we performed biannual fire inspections on 118 commercial buildings within the Town of Cable. Spring fire inspections will be starting again in May. Kevin Alajoki is still our fire inspector.

Moving forward to 2018 and beyond. We have started to brainstorm and plan for the replacement of our Class A fire engine. The truck is 20 years old this year and should be due for replacement between 25 and 30 years old. The process of planning and building a new fire engine takes years of work since this is a vital piece of life safety equipment that needs to meet the demands of the future and perform without issues for 25-30 years.

Chairman Hancock asked the type of calls firefighters are asked to respond. Fire Chief McKinney stated that most calls are to respond to a vehicle accident. The fire truck carries equipment for medical calls. The number of actual fires is small.

Mike Most asked if there is money set aside in an account to purchase a new fire truck. Fire Chief McKinney answered that in 2006, the money was borrowed. There is not a special fund to finance the purchase of a new truck.

### **Airport Commission Report - Presented by Airport Commissioner Sue Thurn**

2017 laid the groundwork for many exciting opportunities for the Cable Union Airport. Paperwork was submitted to the FAA in Chicago to approve the conveyance of the airport property to the Cable Rod and Gun Club. Two new hangars are being constructed. Improvements on the property included work on the town hangar and Terminal (roof and chimney work.) Fly-ins brought in local and regional pilots who were provided with meals to promote use of the airport and recreation area.

We sadly accepted the Retirement of Bill DeVries and Phil Rasmussen from our Commission and thank them for their many years of service to our Cable Union Airport.

Upcoming developments for 2018 include an Environmental Assessment for further improvements in the airport, as well as communication with potential Telemark Developers HK Hospitality. Final steps are being taken in the sale of property to the Gun Club. We are making good progress and doing our best to promote our area through the use of the airport.

Lora Vanderploeg asked the source of funds for the new hangars. Commissioner Thurn explained that pilots lease the land from the Airport Commission and use their own funds to build a hangar.

Jeanne Dixon asked the reason for the sale of property to the Gun Club and cost. Commissioner Thurn answered that the sale of property is so all Gun Club activities are contained on Gun Club property and not airport property. The assessed value of the property being sold is \$27,000.

### **Sanitary District Report - Presented by President David Popelka**

As we approach another busy Summer season in Cable, it is time to bring you up to date with the Cable Sanitary District.

Long time District Commissioner, Ted Benson announced his retirement from the commission effective June 30, 2017, we lost Ted to his battle with cancer only a couple of months later. Town Chairman Art Hancock appointed Jeannie Dixon to fill the vacant term through 2020. Unfortunately this resulted in a few glitches in paperwork and the commission appreciates the

understanding of those affected. Current Commission members are: President - David Popelka, Secretary - Jeannie Dixon, Clerk/Treasurer – Bob Flowers. Chris Johnstone continues as operator.

The Restrooms at the Town Parking Lot were substantially completed in time for Fall Fest last September, which means a couple of week's use before they closed for the winter. After completing landscaping and a few other touches this Spring, the Town will be publicizing the opening of the facility. Congratulations to the Cable Tomorrow Team who was able to raise the majority of the funds for the restrooms through donations, translating to a very small taxpayer investment. This is an important way to welcome visitors to our community while easing the demand on our business facilities, so The Sanitary District Commission voted to contribute by waiving the connection fee and exempting the public facility from user fees.

After a seemingly long period of low activity in the District, we are experiencing a flurry of ownership changes and new businesses startups. The Commission has been actively working with these entities to ensure that our rules are properly followed. Welcome to the Community!!

Despite a lot of press and great start, the activity around the redevelopment of the Telemark facility has been put on hold. The developer had approached the Commission to discuss the potential of connecting their project to the District, which could be very beneficial to both parties. The Commission informed the developers from the beginning that we could not spend any district funds on the project at this time but were willing to commit in the planning and act as a sponsor for other funding requests. This could be a boon to the area, so I am optimistic that the planning will continue.

The District Commission finds itself in the position where we must ask you to contribute more to pay for the operation of the system. Last December We found ourselves having to borrow from our contingency funds to make the annual payment on our loan due to unpaid user fees. These funds will be put back into contingency as we receive them through special tax assessments. This does not negate the fact that although we want to keep user fees as low as possible, we also must be fiscally responsible, our last adjustment was in January 2011 and an increase is truthfully overdue. On April 17, 2018 we will be conducting a hearing to amend our ordinance which will allow the Commission to review and adjust the fees on an annual basis with the approval of the Town Board. Our proposed monthly increase would be \$4.00 per REU starting second quarter 2018. Although none of us likes an extra expense, we appreciate your understanding.

**Enforcement Report - Presentation by Deputy Kevin Johnson**

Deputy Johnson reported that in the town of Cable, he logged 3,516 miles and 295.25 hours last year. Between the three townships he serves, he logged 7,479 miles and 570 hours. The following is a list of calls responded to:

- 6 Motorist assists
- 24 Township ambulance calls
- 5 Township fire calls
- 33 ATV/UTV contacts
- 5 Motor vehicle accidents
- 0 ATV accidents
- 1 Snowmobile accident
- 100s Property checks
- 8 Snowmobile contacts
- 23 Deputy contacts/assists
- 18 Special events worked
- 6 Incidents passed on to Bayfield County Sheriff's Department
- 2 Problems passed on to road boss
- 36 Boat landing checks
- 100s Cable Park checks
- 3 Dog complaints
- 46 Community policing/public contacts
- 1 Tree on roadway
- 1 Go-kart contact
- 3 Fire works permit check
- 9 Weather warnings, on patrol
- 1 Helicopter landing zone assist
- 1 Lost kayaker
- 1 Burning complaint

### **Road and Property Report - Presented by Road Foreman Bob Lang**

The last year has been incredibly busy. We have had numerous maintenance and construction projects.

We put the finishing touches on McNaught Road. Seeding and mulching as well as signing was done last spring.

We relocated the Ole Lake intersection during 2017. We moved the intersection to the south and out of the low area where it was previously located. This improved visibility immensely and eliminated the winter snow and ice issues with the hill. This project will be complete once we remove the asphalt from the old intersection.

We also completed a number of the projects that were directly related to the flood of 2016. This includes the excavation of the bridge approach on Leonard School Road, the excavation and



installation of two 48 inch overflow culverts in Big Brook on Sunset Road, the replacement of two culverts on Frels Road, the replacement of a 36 inch culvert on Silver Birch Drive, and the paving of these repairs along with the paving of the repairs that were done in 2016.

We contracted Fahrner Asphalt to perform crack sealing and flex patching on most roads in the Village, as well as Resort Road, North Riverside Road, and Frels Road.

In August we had a significant rainfall which resulted in the failure of a culvert on Spider Lake Fire Lane at the start of Spring Creek. We had to close the road while the water levels receded, and then replace the old culvert with two new ones to better handle the elevations and capacity needed. Spring Creek crosses Spider Lake Fire Lane in four places and then Telemark Road twice more. I anticipate more failures and these culverts age.

In July we started the reconstruction of the half mile hill section of Spider Lake Fire Lane. This segment of road had no drainage for its entire length so even mild rain fall events resulted in erosion and damage. We elevated the road or created ditches, installed culverts, and created channels for the water to get the water away from the road. We will complete this project this early this construction season.

In August we started the reconstruction of the almost two miles of West Cable Lake Road. We removed three dangerous hills and created ditches along the majority of the road. We estimate we moved approximately 39,000 tons of earth so far. We hope to have this project done by the end of June.

We made some major infrastructure changes out at the town garage in 2017. We lowered the elevation of the entrance and approach to the west side of the new garage, and then graveled the area along with the road on the south side of the building. We then elevated an area off the south east corner of the garage and had Cleary Building construct a three sided pole building. We had the floor paved and then lined it with two foot thick solid concrete stacking blocks. This building is used for salt sand storage and brings us into compliance with all state requirements.

We did some major brushing in the Village this past year. We opened up visibility at intersections, created clearance for the plowing and sanding equipment, and created a few places to deposit the snow. We documented the Phillipi/Randysek intersection changes with pictures to demonstrate how dangerous these situations can be.

Also Village related was the Discontinuance of Brakken Street. This was done to accommodate the new establishment at the corner of Highway 63 and County M. The gift of the old railroad grade land adjacent to the former Brakken Street perpetuates our access to Town land south of there and results in a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Another exciting addition to our village area is the public restroom that was constructed adjacent to the municipal parking lot. The town crew was involved in the construction during different phases, but most of the money and construction was donated or billed at a reduced cost. We still have some landscaping to do around the building and the bubbler needs to be installed, but the restrooms are operational and will be open again as soon as the weather cooperates.

As a gesture of gratitude to the Lutheran Church who allows the utilization of their parking lot as an over flow facility for community events, we refurbished their parking lot with some equipment time and a gravel. We are grateful for the access to this addition parking capacity.

We have made a few significant upgrades to the Community Center during the past year. Most visible is the lighting. All of the fixtures in the entry way, main room, hall way, and bathrooms have been replaced. An LED wall pack light was added to the west side of the building to help illuminate the parking lot too. We had some much needed major plumbing work done in the men's bathrooms. After an unanticipated failure, we also replaced components of the electrical system which feeds power into the Community Center.

We have been somewhat successful with grant applications during the last year. We will be receiving money from the Wildland Fuels Reduction Grant for tree removal in Wilde River and we will be receiving funds from the Bayfield County Road Aids program to continue our work on Spider Lake Fire Lane.

Soon we will take delivery of a new plow/haul truck which is currently being fabricated. This will replace our aging unit which has been less than dependable lately. We also have a new road side mower being delivered before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Our major project for the 2018 construction season will be the reconstruction of a one mile section of Sunset Road ending at the intersection of Sunset Extension. This combined with the completion of the other projects mentioned in this report and the routine and unanticipated maintenance of our roads and buildings, will make for a busy year.

### **Plan Commission Report**

There was none.

### **Cable Tomorrow Annual Report - Presented by Suzanne Rooney**

The Cable Tomorrow process began with a Community brainstorming session focused on what we value about living in Cable along with a survey about Cable and the surrounding areas. The process began in June 2017 and continued through fall. Six focus areas were identified, strategies outlined, and tactics developed to accomplish the agreed on priorities.

I don't think it's a stretch to say this process was enthusiastically embraced. Over the winter, five of the six groups have been working on the identified priorities with much success. Examples include the Town Trails, event check list, acceptance into the Connect Communities program, trail use communication process, old school task force prospectus. Projects in various stages of completion include: an urban plan, business survey, asset analysis, locals' card, branding ideas, recreational plan, communication across user groups, themed walks, benches, flowers, banners, community calendar, youth video game night at Norvado, and agreement to develop road standards.

Beyond the easily tracked accomplishments are the less visible successes of open communication, Community engagement, the discipline of progress reporting, sourcing programs to support objectives (grants), accountability to agreed on goals, developing the support systems for communication (web page, email lists), and the joy that comes from making a difference where you live. All Cable Tomorrow information including upcoming meetings is available on the Town of Cable website under Cable Tomorrow. Anyone may attend any meeting and/or volunteer on an activity of interest.

Next steps include streamlining of the teams to eliminate duplication, enhance communication, and maximize volunteer time. New Plan Commissioners have gladly taken on coordination activities to keep the process moving, remove roadblocks, and provide access to the plan commission and/or Town Board when approvals are needed. This week, Wednesday, Cable hosts Marie Steenlage Northwest Regional Economic Development Director. There will be a tour of downtown Cable at 9 A.M. followed by a discussion of Cable's assets, issues, concerns, and needs. All are welcome to attend both or either activity beginning and ending at the Community Centre.

Cable Tomorrow gratefully acknowledges the support of the Action Captains and volunteers, the Town Board, and the Plan Commission.

Chairman Hancock expressed huge appreciation for how much has been accomplished in the last year through the hard working members of Cable Tomorrow.

### **Chairman's Report - Presented by Art Hancock**

My fellow citizens of Cable, it has been just over a year since I was elected as your Town Chairman. I have been privileged to serve in this capacity, and so far, have found it to be rewarding and challenging. There is so much that is going on in our community, and I feel fortunate to be in the position of helping to make decisions that will affect our common life. I do not take the responsibilities that you have entrusted to me lightly, and have done my level best this year to lead wisely and faithfully.

Over the course of the year, I, and others, have spent a good deal of time and energy restructuring the various commissions and committees of our town so that they function well in our current context. As a result, I have sought to give my full support to those who are serving in existing committees and services: namely, the Plan Commission, the Cable Union Airport Commission, the Sanitary District Commission, the Forest Lodge Library

Board, the Great Divide Ambulance Service, and the Fire Department. It is so easy to take the work of these various bodies for granted, but without their loyal and unflagging work, our town would be much deprived. My heartfelt thanks to all who have served and continue to serve on these various bodies.

In addition to these existing committees and as a result of the *Cable Tomorrow* process, we created a number of task forces to further the work identified through the process. These Task Forces are: Infrastructure, Culture and Education, Downtown/Housing, Recreation, and Economic Development. These groups have met and have generated any number of great ideas for our town. As a result of the hard work of these groups, new planning tools such as the Façade Improvement and Design Guidelines, the new Recreation Plan for the town, and a new Events Checklist have been created that will greatly assist our work going forward. In some cases, these new groups have not only talked about what could be, but have actually executed new exciting projects for the town. From the perspective of your Chairman, the *Cable Tomorrow* process has been a huge success, and we will be garnering the fruit of your labor for years to come.

I would like to thank Bob Lang, who, along with Jason and Travis have maintained our buildings and roads in the midst of a number of significant and extraordinary challenges this year. Bob has been immensely patient with me as I have learned about roads and what it takes to keep them up. He has also been extremely accommodating in meeting with our residents and coming to extra meetings so that we have the information required to make wise decisions. Many thanks to Scott Gooler and Cody Kiss, who through good weather and bad, have served at the Recycling Center and to Corine Kiss who has kept our buildings spic and span.

I also would like to thank my colleagues who have served on the Town Board over this past year. Jeff Rasmussen and Sue Thurn have worked so hard and have been so patient with me as I have learned my job. Laura Bjork, who has served for over 11 years as our Town Clerk has been absolutely indispensable as we have navigated any number of complex governmental issues. Our Administrative Assistant for most of the last year was Tammy Rasmussen, and I was constantly amazed at the number of town concerns that she was so competently juggling at any one time. All of you kept me relatively sane and happy! I am sad to see Tammy, Jeff, and Laura leave their leadership roles. They each were faithful and diligent in their duties, and they will be sorely missed. With their departure, however, we have put together a great team of folks to lead us forward. David Popelka has taken Jeff's position as Town Supervisor, Kelli Tuttle has taken Tammy's position, and Deanne Allen has just come on board, taking on at least some of the many duties that Laura was doing as our Clerk. I am confident that our new team will be able to make good decisions and execute the plans and projects that will take Cable into its next chapter. Again, many thanks to all of you for giving of your lives in service to this town. Finally, I would like to posthumously thank Ted Benson for the years and years that he served on the Sanitary District Commission. Good folks like Ted don't come around often, and we can't take them for granted.

The year has been a whirlwind! In addition to our two big events, the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Fall Fest, our town has hosted many other races and events. I am in constant amazement at the way in which our residents volunteer to pull off huge feats; our businesses graciously serve thousands of visitors; and you hospitably welcome those from away who have wanted to experience, in some small measure, the magic of our town. James Bolen, our Chamber of Commerce Director often describes Cable as “the little town doesn’t know it.” I couldn’t agree more!

Some of the projects that have been completed this year include: the new restroom facility located at the municipal parking lot; significant road construction on Sunset Road, Spider Lake Fire Lane, West Cable Lake Road, and Ole Lake Road; the abandonment of Brakken Road in preparation for a new park that will serve the town; the construction of a new salt/sand storage building beside the town garage; and the construction of a whole new set of non-motorized town trails behind the Community Centre in the newly established Marvin Fagg Memorial Forest. And this list doesn’t even include all of the new businesses or businesses that are making major renovations in town, of which there is an impressive number.

If you are feeling proud of your town and are impressed by what may be, and has been, done with good hearts and a bunch of elbow grease, you are not alone. Just yesterday, Governor Scott Walker signed a bill into law that enables our town to act like a city and establish a Tax Incremental Financing (or TIF) District that gives us the opportunity to come alongside a developer to solve the Telemark dilemma. Even in the hyper-partisan political climate in which we find ourselves, the Cable TIF bill received unanimous bipartisan support. Whether we actually use this new-found tool or not, it is a huge compliment that the State Legislature and Governor have afforded us, and we should all be proud as we consider how others in the state regard our town.

Now, as we move forward into the remainder of 2018 and 2019, we have substantial challenges and an impressive agenda before us. The Historic Depot will get a new roof and a new coat of paint; Perry Lake Landing will receive upgrades that will make it much more family-friendly; benches will be purchased and placed around town for people to sit and stay for awhile; planters full of flowers will adorn our streets, new trails will be built in the Town Trails system. In addition, core long-term planning tools, namely a complete overhaul of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan and an Urban Plan will be completed.

All of this will entail many decisions and much work. And that’s where you come in.... We need your input at Town Board meetings. We need your participation on committees and commissions. We need your time and talents to continue the spectacular legacy of volunteer work for which we are known. Stay involved or get involved. This is our town and it is a sweet spot. With your hearty souls and strong backs, with your sound minds and good hearts, we will meet the challenges before us and continue to fashion a town worthy of our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren. I am honored to be and to serve among you.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There were several comments about needing to keep good employees at Great Divide and concern about work hours and the fact health insurance is not offered. More information about the service of Great Divide needs to be published to make the public aware of the importance of their work and how it is structured. Great Divide is its own separate corporation. While the four towns of Cable, Drummond, Namakagon and Grand View own Great Divide, there is a separate board to direct operations. Larry Ludzak is the Cable representative, and Esther Rondeau is the representative for the Lions Club. These would be the people to contact about changes to benefits.

### **SET DATE FOR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION was made by Paul Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. MOTION seconded by Cathy Midwood. MOTION carried.