

ANNUAL MEETING

April 21, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Steven Rahmlow. Board members present were Steven Rahmlow, Donald Rabitz, and Duane Argall along with Clerk/Treasurer Linda Herman.

Pledge of Allegiance recited. 32 people in attendance (2 non-residents).

Chairperson asked electors to discuss and decide which manner of voting would be used during the meeting. Motion by Richard Wegner, second by Gary Novitski, Jr. to use voice vote method, with show of hands if necessary. 30 voted aye by voice vote, 0 voted nay. Motion carried.

Minutes of the April 15, 2025 Annual Meeting and December 1, 2025 Special Town Elector Meeting were read and approved on motion at 7:07 p.m. by Steven Zeitler, second by Richard Wegner. 30 voted aye by voice vote, 0 voted nay. Motion carried.

Financial report given by Clerk.

Recycling report given. Costs and activities of the operation were reviewed and discussed, including options of using printed bags, stickers or other methods for trash disposal. Motion made by Terry Koenig, second by Tom Krajnik, at 7:20 p.m. to have town purchase and sell stickers with residents providing their own bags. 30 voted aye, 0 voted nay by voice vote. Motion carried.

Ambulance report given by Rahmlow and he read a letter updating the state of the ambulance service (copy attached), gave information on current staffing issues, and costs of other services. An informative discussion was held on both the ambulance service and the fire departments, response times, rising costs and mutual aid availability for additional coverage. Mike Koeppel, Mishicot Area Ambulance Service director and Mishicot Fire Chief, presented information on number of service calls, response times and the very early discussion stage of possible merger with other area departments. Rising costs to the town and the departments, alternate service organizations with higher rates, staffing, education/training requirements, number of volunteers were all points discussed. Comments from town residents indicated desire to keep the current services, including Wes Prochazka's comment of staying with Mishicot and Steve Zeitler liking the idea of working toward future combination. Supervisor Rabitz applauds the starting of the conversation for a responsible path toward possible future combination which has a lot of merit. Rahmlow stated town will continue to work with the ambulance service and fire departments and keep the status quo at this time.

Dan Dufek of Manitowoc County Fish & Game Association gave a brief summary of the Adopt-A-Dumpster program held in 2025 and the benefits of the program to combat the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). He reported that Manitowoc County Fish & Game Association applied for and received a grant from Forward Endowment covering cost of dumpsters this year. At this time, a donation is not needed. Supervisor Rabitz asked that if sufficient grant funds are not received in the future, the town would consider future donations to the association.

Motion by Terry Koenig at 7:55 p.m., second by Richard Wegner, to authorize the town board to appropriate money toward weed control if board deems necessary. 30 voted aye, 0 voted nay. Motion carried.

Town officer compensation was discussed. Motion by Steve Zeitler at 8:00 p.m., second by John Lyons, to increase the salary for chairperson to \$9,000.00 annually and the salary for supervisors to \$6,000.00 annually to become effective for the two-year term beginning in April 2027. 30 voted aye by voice vote, 0 voted nay. Motion carried.

New Business & Road Report –The board provided various updates on road projects: Rockledge Road bridge is complete, Old Y Road project is complete and the ARIP Jambo Creek/Hillview Road project is in engineering process. Comments were taken on Novy Road turnaround and route used by milk trucks – the board will look into these.

Motion at 8:13 p.m. by Tom Krajnik, second by John Reindl, to set next annual meeting for Tuesday, April 20, 2027 at 7:00 p.m. 30 voted aye by voice vote, 0 voted nay. Motion carried.

Newly elected County Representative, Shae Sortwell, was not in attendance at the meeting. Chairperson Rahmlow thanked former County Representative, James Falkowski, for his many years of service to the town.

With no more business to be discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by Terry Koenig, second by Dan Dufek. 30 voted aye, 0 voted nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Linda S. Herman, Town Clerk

PENDING APPROVAL

Town of Gibson

Good evening, I am _____, your ambulance board representative. I would like to provide an update on the state of our ambulance service.

First, I want to remind everyone that as taxpayers, you are the owners of the ambulance service. The Town of Two Rivers, Town of Two Creeks, Village of Mishicot, Town of Mishicot, Town of Gibson, and part of the Town of Kossuth, all share ownership of the service and its equipment. As owners, you hold all the power and make all the business decisions for the service. The ambulance board believes it is in the best interest of all taxpayers to continue owning our own service.

You currently pay \$14.40 per capita, which means per person. You also own 2 ambulances that cost about \$9,000 a year which adds an additional \$6.91 to the per capita. For a total \$21.31 per capita a year, or if you break that down, it equates to about \$1.78 per month—a small price for a “subscription” that could save your life. If you follow local news, you’ve likely seen ambulance services make headlines for rising prices. Some areas now pay as much as \$90 per capita for private or contracted services. Not all ambulance income comes from the per capita fee; we also submit all calls to a billing company and receive payment for those calls. We have some influence over billing for non-Medicare calls, but for Medicare, we have no control over what we can bill, which sometimes results in losing money on those calls. Unfortunately, more of our calls each year are Medicare-related.

Currently, our ambulance is staffed with paid crews from 6 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday, made up of three full-timers and two part-timers. Outside those hours, volunteers sign up to be on call. Like any volunteer organization, finding people to volunteer is becoming increasingly difficult, making it harder to schedule crews for nights and weekends. We’ve had to make exceptions, allowing some volunteers to live outside the service area, about 33% do not reside within it. While we’re grateful for their dedication, this can slow down our response times. We should all appreciate the volunteers we have; their responsibilities extend beyond transporting patients—they also complete extensive paperwork and reports, often late at night.

Looking ahead, the ambulance board is considering moving closer to 24/7 staffing. We’re not certain what this will look like yet, but our goal is to continue providing excellent service to our owners. We hope to keep our strong group of volunteers, but having someone at the station around the clock would significantly improve response times during nights and weekends. However, this comes with additional expenses. Paid staff currently cover about 36% of the calendar year hours, so the price may need to double to ensure 24/7 coverage.

To conclude, nothing comes free anymore. The volunteer world isn't what it was when Mishicot ambulance started in the 1970s, and we're responding to far more calls now. Over the past three years, our service has averaged 378 calls annually, with 31.5% occurring on weekends understandable as more people are present in the area then. Over half (54.5%) of calls happen when the station isn't staffed with paid personnel.

The ambulance board is committed to providing this service to our residents and is working on solutions, so we ask for your support when it comes to increasing the per person rate and the effect that will have on the general budgets of each community we serve.

Thank you for listening. If you have comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to bring them forward at this time.