The Town of Spider Lake Annual Town meeting of the Electors was called to order by Supervisor Brandt at 6:00 PM. Eleven electors, which included six elected officials, were present. Town Chair Hucker was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 4-21-15 were reviewed. Motion was made by McGuiness and 2nd by Cerman approve the minutes. All in favor. Motion carried. 11 aye votes and no nay votes.

The two financial reports that were distributed to the electors were reviewed. Huot noted that the 2016 budget for road maintenance and construction is only $90,000.00. McGuiness advised that $45,000.00 is earmarked for the purchase of gravel. Brandt advised that the 2016 budget was amended by $15,000.00 from the fire department’s 2015 surplus to purchase new radios. He also advised that the town board borrowed $40,000.00 in 2015 from the state trust fund to complete the paving of Brandt Road. The two year loan was paid back early (in full) in January 2016. Charlie Brandt asked what the $7,867.86 in the legal budget was spent on. Most of the expense was incurred by the Cook appeal regarding Ross Road.

McGuiness reported that the road bans were lifted on April 18th and road conditions will now be evaluated. A road committee meeting will be scheduled to prioritize road projects with the funds that are available. McGuiness also reported that the culvert on Forest Road 208 is scheduled to be replaced by the Forest Service. Two culverts on Mathey Road that were inspected by the Forest Service two years ago is not on the list to be repaired/replaced. McGuiness will contact the Forest Service to find out why. Charlie Brandt requested that all Spider Lake town roads be striped. He stated that if Round Lake can stripe all of its roads, Spider Lake should be able to stripe five roads a year. Cerman stated that there was a lot of opposition when Upper A was striped a few years ago. Cerman stated that he considered the striping of Upper A to be a safety issue.

Brandt set up a recycling display at the town hall. Posters and information regarding recycling are on the website.

Fire Chief Nelson reported that currently there are eight members on the fire department roster. Therain is almost finished with fire school. New turnout gear was ordered and new radios will be ordered shortly. There is still a lack of communication and he feels the county has not done its part to alleviate the problem. He and Overman are looking for grants and researching the tower issue to improve the communication gap. All equipment is in good condition. The fire department is always looking for volunteers.

Cerman and Overman attended a broadband expansion grant workshop that explained the grant guidelines, grant-eligible areas, possible public-private partnership models, previous grant award examples and timelines for grant applications. Overman reported that the definition of broadband is the base infrastructure to improve the reliability and speed of the internet and phones. The base infrastructure is needed to expand. Overman advised that the state map for her address shows that she has nine options available for internet which is incorrect. She said the map needs to be updated to show that this area is in great need. The chances of receiving a grant are greater if working with a public-private partnership. More discussion followed concerning this matter.

Motion to adjourn was made by Huot and 2nd by McGuiness. All in favor. Motion carried.

Christine Ferda
Town Clerk