



# THE LAKELAND TIMES



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## Schiek declares violation in conservation committee meeting after all

### DA says open meetings infraction occurred but still no legal remedy

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Oneida County district attorney Michael Schiek has walked back his earlier declaration that no open meetings violation occurred when former county supervisor Bob Mott and the land conservation committee he chaired publicly noticed a formal public hearing and then turned it into an informal listening

session without any further notice.

In a June 30 letter to *Lakeland Times* publisher Gregg Walker, Schiek now says he agrees that a notice violation took place.

In a previous June 10 letter, Schiek explained that he could not charge Mott because it was clear that Mott and the committee were relying on corporation counsel Mike Fugle's legal advice at the be-

ginning of the meeting that, though it could not be a public hearing, the meeting could continue as a listening session.

By relying on legal advice, Schiek wrote, Mott could not be held accountable for an open meetings infraction under state law. He also concluded that "there was no open meetings violation."

Walker had filed a complaint with

Schiek in January. Specifically, Walker alleged that the committee and Mott failed to satisfy proper notice requirements when they twice published a Class II public hearing notice and issued an agenda for a proposed manure storage ordinance hearing but then held an informal listening session on January 5

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## Festive Fourth Fun

DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

Dancers from Camp Agawak for Girls fill main street during the Independence Day Parade, on Monday, July 4, in downtown Minocqua.

## Dave Imlah Sr. remembered

By Brian Jopek  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

In December, 2001, *The Lakeland Times* published an article by features writer Joyce Laabs about Dave Imlah, Sr., and his retirement from the Lakeland Sanitary District on Dec. 20 of that year.

He'd worked for the sanitary district for 22 years.

"Imlah began his summer visits to Wisconsin's Northwoods in the 50s," Laabs wrote in the *Times* article. "It was his wife, Dottie, who introduced him to the area as her parents had a cottage on Upper Gresham Lake in Boulder Junction."

"As we got to know people in the area, we knew that someday, we'd like to make our home here," Imlah told Laabs in an interview for the article. "But at that time, there was no year round work."

At the time, Imlah worked in appliance servicing in Lombard, Ill., but was eventually introduced to and employed by Glenn Handrick, owner of Lakeland Gas Service, who happened to be looking for a year round employee.

Handrick had contacted Imlah by phone in Lombard.

"We talked, I got the job," Imlah told Laabs in her 2001 interview with him. "Dottie and I moved up in the mid-60s."

The couple purchased a home in the part of Minocqua known as Reuben Town.

On May 20, 2022, Dave Imlah, Sr., died in that very same house at the age of 85.

### What was necessary

"Dad was born and raised in Chicago," Imlah's son, Dave Jr., said in a recent interview with the *Times* about his father. "He was a devout Chicago Bears fan. Until he

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## Supreme Court: Prehn can keep his NRB seat

### This time it's the court snipping away at gubernatorial powers

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

On a 4-3 vote, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled last week that a member of the state's Natural Resources Board whose term expired more than a year ago can keep serving until the state Senate approves a replacement.

Fred Prehn was appointed to the board in 2015 by then Gov. Scott Walker; his term ended May 1, 2021. Gov. Tony Evers tapped Sandra Naas to replace him, but the Republican-controlled state Senate has declined to schedule a hearing and confirmation vote, and Prehn has refused to resign, arguing that a 1964 state Supreme Court ruling allows

him to stay on the board until the Senate confirms a successor.

That prompted attorney general Josh Kaul to file a lawsuit last year to try and force Prehn off the board. Kaul lost in circuit court, and the case went straight to the Supreme Court, after Kaul asked the court to take up the case.

Evers expressed disappointment in the ruling.

"I remind the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the Republican Party of this state that we do still live in a democracy, a very basic function of which is the peaceful and respectful transfer of power, even — and most especially —

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