

**TOWN OF NAMAKAGON  
MINUTES for ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY APRIL 17, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**Regular April Board meeting to follow immediately after the Annual meeting adjournment.**

**The Oath of office was Sworn and signed by the following elected officers, prior to the start of the annual meeting. Oath was given by Clerk - Jeffery M Raether:**

**Robert Rasmussen; Chairman**

**Jim Krueger and Jack McGregor; Supervisors**

**Jeffery M. Raether; Clerk**

**Arlene Skultety; Treasurer**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Robert Rasmussen. Supervisors present were Jim Krueger and Jack McGregor. Jeff Raether; Clerk and Arlene Skultety; Treasurer, were present, along with an audience of 29.**

**Meeting opened with the pledge of Allegiance.**

**A moment of silence was taken in honor of all the past area residents, who passed away during the past year.**

**Jeff Raether read the minutes from the last annual meeting held on April 18, 2017. Motion made to approve by Karen Pliska and seconded by Amanda Staudemeyer. Motion was carried.**

**Financial Report was read by Treasurer Arlene Skultety. Motion made to approve, by Sandy Scoville and seconded by Kathy Sill. Motion was carried.**

**Discussion of using the Local Government Investment Pool. Money can be borrowed at 2.5% or invested, if a surplus, in order to operate the Town of Namakagon. Motion was made by Jim Deroma, to use the local government invest pool to borrow or invest money for the town, if required. 2nd by JoAnn Schultz. Motion was carried.**

**Motion made for Board to be able to use any FDIC approved bank for Town funds was made by Patty Raether and seconded by Jim DeRoma. Motion carried. The Town currently uses Chippewa Valley Bank.**

**Ambulance Report was presented by Rob Puls. Rob mentioned the department is always looking for new employees. Pay is very good with minimal training time required for an EMT. The department has increased service to additional local areas and is perusing added business to help defer the rising costs and vehicle maintenance utilized by the service. The amount of Transfers has increased tremendously over the last year. Rob is proud of the fact that the service has come a long way over the years. Laura Bjork has come on board to take Candy's position as Treasurer/ office manager. Great Divide operates on a \$1.5 million budget. Collectively, the four towns that own Great Divide, only contribute \$60,000.00 annually. This area gets a great service for a very minimal cost.**

**Fire department report was presented by Chief Henry Rieckhoff. Henry also mentioned the department is always looking for new recruits. (There are 13 members at the current time). Henry reiterated that there is continuous inter-town training with our neighboring Towns.**

All firefighters are highly trained. A concern is the width of driveways and people keeping the address signs clear of debris and visible from the road. Henry reiterated that there is still concern about the lock boxes on several properties. A box could be used and only the fire department would have the key. Henry asked for the town board's help in obtaining better cell tower service for our area to help protect our residents. The department has responded to 18 calls since the last meeting, plus mutual aid calls to assist neighboring towns. Various equipment was identified and reviewed. At the end of 2022 the oldest truck will need to be replaced and will be 20 years old. Cost is expected to be over \$300,000.00 Residents are reminded to keep fire numbers cleared so they can be readily seen from the road. Henry wanted to thank resident for their support over the year. June 9, 2018 is open house at the Fire Dept.

Chairman Rasmussen suggested the need to possibly make Lock Boxes mandatory in the town.

Chairman Rasmussen gave a Cell Service update. T Mobil has gone on all 11 towers that Norvado owned. Our Town still has problems with T mobile as well especially on the east side of Town. T Mobil offered free cell phone to Town employees to try out and see how they work. They can be obtained in Duluth.

Current tower is too short for most providers to put their equipment on this tower. There is a safety concern for ambulance, sheriff and fire dept cell phone availability.

Airport Commission Report given by Chairman Rasmussen. There will be 4 new hangers by end of the year. Tree work will continue.

The Comprehensive planning report was given by Jim Krueger.

Committee is continuing work on revising the plan that is required by State law ever 10 years. His report indicated that there were 6 short term rental zoning requests during the year. 3 Special use permits. 5 driveway permits were issued. 2 wastewater permits issued. The committee meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 9am at the Town hall. Commission expressed the need to develop a Town Emergency plan. Jim wanted to thank Mary D'Andrea for all her tireless work on updating all computer files during the long and tedious process.

Law enforcement report was given by both Kevin Johnson the Town enforcement officer and Jeff Kissner; Recreational officer from the Bayfield County Sheriffs dept. Kevin listed and discussed a number of the events he was involved and assisted with during the past year. 3456 miles of patrolling & 209-1/4 hours were spent in our Town over the last 12 months.

Jeff stated that Namakagon is one of the quietest and the least problem town in Bayfield County.

Report on Town Roads was given by Robert Rasmussen. Chicago Ave. will be blacktopped this summer. Crack sealing is planned for White Bass Lake road.

Lake Association Report was given by Jim DeRoma. The mill foil has been curtailed by local hand pulling in the Lakewoods marina. Harmony Environmental has been hired to create a long term plan for the Lake. GLIFC electron shocking has shown that our Walleye population is down to 2.1 Walleyes per acre. A committee has been formed to research what can be done to solve this problem. The DNR currently will not allow stocking of Walleyes in the lake. The committee is working with both GLIFWC and the DNR.

Forest Lodge Library report was given by Library Director Kristine Lendved. Kristine mentioned the library had 1,103 registered borrowers and recorded 16,650 physical check out of books, DVDs, audio books and magazines. Down from the previous year, probably due to the construction on the exterior. Outside maintenance was a big project over the last year. Please stop by and take a look at how nice it came out. The Library will continue planning and designing for the new Library to be developed on the adjacent Aldrich property, paid for with reserve library funds and currently titled to the towns of Cable and Namakagon.

Jim DeRoma made a motion & Karen Pliska 2<sup>nd</sup> -to vote on Resolution 1-2018 of the eligible electors voting at the annual town meeting, with notice, assembled and voting resolves and orders as follows:

A. Except as provided in subsection B, an hourly wage of up to \$25.00 per hour, shall be paid under s. 60.37 (4), Wis. stats., to Town of Namakagon employees who are also elected town officers.

B. The total amount of hourly wages paid under section A may not exceed \$5,000 per year for each such employee except, that the total amount of hourly wages paid under section A to an employee who also serves the town clerk or town treasurer, may not exceed a total of \$15,000 per year.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats., within 30 days of the below-noted adoption date.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

Number of town electors authorized to vote 25

Ayes 22

Nays 0

Abstain 3

Not voting 1

Motion carried and resolution votes.

**Town update:**

May 12, 2018 is scheduled for Road cleanup & fish boil.

Sculpture outside of Town Hall is planned to be finished this spring. Statues are now complete.

The Town Website is currently maintained by Mary D'Andrea and she is to be thanked for her excellent work. The past four months have had 6,407 visitors to our website.

**Public Comments are as follows:**

Residents wanted to thank Clay and Road crew for job well done the past year.

The three official Town information posting sites are Town Hall (in vestibule), Lakewoods and Evergreens bar. The website and town email list are offered as a convenience to residents.

The Town has decided to pass an ordinance to change the Clerk position to appointed as opposed to elected. This will be done at the next town board meeting later tonight. Q & A session was held.

Chairman Rasmussen said that many applications for the open road crew position have been received and interviews are underway. An appointment is expected soon.

Ratify all actions taken by Town Board 4/18/2017 to 4/17/2018. Motion made by JoAnn Schultz and seconded by Mary D' Andrea. Motion carried.

**Date was set for next Annual Meeting: Tuesday April 16, 2019**

**Motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 pm by Patty Raether and seconded by Laura Munich.  
Motion carried.**

**Jeffery M. Raether - Clerk**