

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday, December 15, 2020
At - NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL – 7:30pm
MINUTES

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Chairman Rasmussen, Supervisors Jim Krueger and Jack McGregor, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and 21 others.

Chairman Rasmussen explained the snowmobile trail that crossed White Bass Road was no longer accessible. Another route is needed to continue the corridor trail. Brent Rueb purchased property 6 years ago on White Bass Lake Road. He allowed the trail to go through his property and at that time requested Steve Bollig to research another route, so it would not be permanent. Every year for three years, it was assumed that this route could be used without any agreement. Last year, Brent Rueb decided not to allow access through his property. After conversation with the snowmobile club, he decided to allow one more year of usage considering the importance of the trail. This year he chose to close again and now here we are. Chairman Rasmussen explained that an agreement was signed last year between the snowmobile club and property owner that the snowmobile trail would not be located within 200' of his house. Gene Dubiel thanked Brent Rueb, Ace Griffaw and Jeff Dahl for allowing the use of their property for a trail. The snowmobile club has been looking for an alternate route. It seems like every alternate route runs into obstacles. The snowmobile club is all volunteer. It would be good to work together with people to find a different route, rather than just say no. Chairman Rasmussen stated that this area is known for the snowmobile trails, and the club has done a good job maintaining the trails. The board has done some research as well in the past couple of days. The Town Board spent about 3 hours traveling the snowmobile trails and town roads to identify the existing route and possible alternate routes. Chairman Rasmussen also spent 2 ½ hours with Gene Dubiel touring the snowmobile trails and talking with several property owners, and he thanked Gene Dubiel for his tour. Supervisor McGregor stated that he spent another 3 hours with his GPS mapping the trail. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to amend Ordinance #17 by temporarily adding 1.2 miles of Buffalo Lake Road, also known as Pole Road, as a Town of Namakagon snowmobile route for the 2020-2021 season. This authorization will expire March 31, 2021 or when the trails are officially closed for the 2020-2021 season. Also, the snowmobile route on Buffalo Lake Road will be signed according to Ordinance #17 and follow uniform traffic control devices. The snowmobile club is requested to attend the June 2021 Town Board meeting presenting a written plan to re-route this trail. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger. It was noted that the sound factor is covered by state law, although it is not enforced very well. Gene Dubiel mentioned that he spoke with patrol to sit out there and enforce as much as possible. MOTION carried. Gene Dubiel thanked all landowners who have given permission to cross their land for a snowmobile trail and thanked the Town Board and thanked the property owners on Buffalo Lake Road. He requested help to get information out for a new route to other property owners that might have better access available. Supervisor Krueger stated the Town Board is here to support in any way they can. He requested the snowmobile club plan ahead and give the Town Board plenty of time to help as it is very frustrating to help at the last minute.

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk