

**TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
MINUTES FOR ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY April 20, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Rasmussen called the annual meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Chairman Rasmussen, Supervisors Jack McGregor and Jim Krueger, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and 17 others; Corrine Rasmussen, Mary D'Andrea, Kathy Sill, Sy Wera, Carol McGregor, Kristine Lendved, Rob Puls, Larry Pribyl, Joann Schultz, Tom Biasi, Terry Biasi, Judy Krueger, Henry Rieckhoff, Dave Haan, Sarah Boles, Heather Ludzack and Mike Jacobs. Total 15 Residents; Robert Rasmussen, Jack McGregor, Jim Krueger, Arlene Skultety, Corrine Rasmussen, Mary D'Andrea, Kathy Sill, Carol McGregor, Larry Pribyl, Joann Schultz, Tom Biasi, Terry Biasi, Judy Krueger, Sarah Boles and Mike Jacobs.

Agenda was posted at the Town Hall and on the website. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION made by Joann Schultz to dispense the reading of the minutes from the July 14, 2020 Annual Town Meeting and approve the minutes as presented. MOTION seconded by Arlene Skultety and carried.

MOTION made by Corrine Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the Special Elector Meeting held on November 12, 2020. MOTION seconded by Jack McGregor and carried.

2020 Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Skultety. Account balances as of January 1, 2020 were \$754,373.78. Total Revenues for 2020 were \$965,573.04 and Advance Tax Collections were \$374,968.20. The town added the Fire Department accounts of \$41,399.75. Total Disbursements for 2020 were \$875,534.44. Account balances as of December 31, 2020 were \$790,349.33. 2020 Highlights on Finances:

We received \$2,000 from Bayfield County Forestry for a Road project agreement on Wilderness Road. We also received \$25,000 from the US Forest Service for Old Grade Rd. We received \$5,306.95 from the Routes to Recovery Grant. General Transportation Aids went up by over \$15,000! In 2020, the GTA rate was \$2,628 per mile with 66.24 miles of roads. In 2019 it was \$2,389 per mile. We received an Election Subgrant of \$492.60. We also added the Fire Department Accounts into the Towns accounting system. We saved a good deal in mileage and training costs due to COVID-19 for everyone. Both the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer were allowed through the budget to attend an Institute for learning. This will happen again this year. It is a three-year process. The Fire Department building received repair to the Facia and Soffits. Because expenses were down, the Town Hall was able to upgrade to a new refrigerator within the budget! We switched insurance carriers saving the town money and a Privy building was built at the Transfer Site.

MOTION made by Judy Krueger to approve the financial report as presented. MOTION seconded by Larry Pribyl and carried.

Ambulance Report Laura Bjork, Business Manager for Great Divide Ambulance Service presented the 2020 Financial Report. In 2020, Great Divide Ambulance went on 1,492 runs (up by 17% from last year), compared to 1,272 runs in 2019, 1,288 runs in 2018 and 1,202 runs in 2017. The runs were billed out for a total of \$3,426,349.90. This is a breakdown of the runs:

Fire Standbys 31, DOA 10, Not Patient Found 2, Lift Assist 10, Cancelled Calls 26, Refused Care 30, False Alarm 5, Standby on Shooting Scene 1, Drowning Recovery 1, Paramedic Intercept 1, Law Assist 1, Crew Refused to Transport 2, Treat & Release 2, Transports 238 and Transfers 1,099.

Rob Puls, ALS Coordinator for GDAS thanked the board for supporting the ambulance. Last year was a difficult year with the pandemic. The ambulance took the brunt of that being the only Full-Time service in the area. Extra precautions were taken by disinfecting and wearing protective equipment. Rob Puls encouraged the residents not to let their guard down just yet. There was a spike that happened last week. Handwashing, wearing masks and practicing social distancing is very important. The ambulance has been so busy with transfers that Bayfield County informed us that they would no longer continue to dispatch them. As of December 31st, Norvado put together an alternative system using radios and cell phones. Last year in July, GDAS notified Ashland County that their contracts would not be renewed. There was a mix of emotions with this decision, but the ambulance service needed to focus on the communities that support and own them. As of January 2021 the service functioned with one less crew because of the change in service area, however, currently we are only 20 runs behind from last year! We purchased a building on Highway 63 in Cable for approximately \$250,000. The building is under renovation since January for another \$250,000. The Town of Drummond sponsored a loan and the four townships are helping to pay that loan back through their subsidies. The service has upgraded their cardiac monitors, as the previous ones were no longer able to be maintained. The ambulances are still running, but they are depreciating fast with the miles that are being put on them. The last eight ambulances have been purchased within our budget. The service is stable with employees, which has not happened in a very long time. The wages were raised and employees were offered a QSEHRA, Paid Time Off and WI Retirement to help create stability. It will be easier to recruit, when needed, with a professional building. There is a movement currently happening that is in support of creating a county wide ambulance service. Bayfield County started a committee to help with this planning. Laura Bjork thanked all those who donated to the ambulance service. She thanked Rob Puls for all the extra efforts he put in during 2020, as he put in strenuous hours to keep the ambulance running. Chairman Rasmussen thanked Rob Puls for all his efforts.

Fire Department report was presented by Henry Rieckhoff.

I would like to thank the Town Board for their support of the Fire Department over the years.

Membership at this time has increased by 1 as Evan Koch has joined the department and is in the finishing stages of Entry Level FF training which brings our roster to 17 members.

Dave Haan and Tom Biasi are both Assistant Chiefs and are involved in covering when any of the other officers are not available. Matt Piller and myself are EMT's and work with Great Divide Ambulance.

Sy Wera and John Moore have been doing Fire Inspections for the town this past year. Several of the spring inspections were done by phone due to the pandemic restrictions approved by the state; the fall inspections were done in person.

The fire meetings continue to be on the second and fourth Thursday of the month with a time change to 6pm giving us approximately 60 hours of training for each member throughout the year. We are looking at having Hazardous Material Operators certification in addition to our other training.

The dept. will have an Open House on Saturday, June 12 8am to Noon for the community to have their fire extinguishers inspected and recharged if necessary, and they can buy new ones if needed.

One of our concerns still remains to be the addressing numbers at the end of each driveway being visible from both directions of travel on the road for any responding vehicle (Fire, EMS, or Law). Please make sure you can see your fire number in all directions!

List of calls since the last Annual Meeting:

Motor Vehicle 2	Snowmobile 3	ATV/UTV 2
Alarm 7	Wildland 1	Mutual Aid 2

One major house fire of note in November 2020 on Juneks point, the house was deemed a total loss but many personal items were retrieved after the fire was brought under control. We also had a house fire at the Dave Hanks residence on Lake Avenue off of Garden Lake Road, we were able to save the structure but with smoke and water damage to the interior of the building.

Equipment in need of replacement in the near future are the 1980 Equipment Truck & Brushtruck, which were purchased from the Government Surplus and also the 2002 Engine #1.

We were able to be involved with the Weenie Roast at Lakewoods this past year. But due to COVID cancellations we were not able to have the Pancake Breakfast or help with the Hunters Dinner and many of the fall events that we have helped out in the years. We did hold fund raising by mailing letters and the community was very responsive and generous.

We will be celebrating 50 years as a Fire Dept. this year and have some plans that will be brought forward by the Anniversary Planning Committee in the near future.

Namakagon and Grand View Fire Dept. received a grant from Bayfield Electric Company to place a backup generator at the Pioneer Station so that it is fully functional when there is loss of power for response from there. The generator has been installed but is not hooked up to the Pioneer Station yet. That should happen before the end of the month.

I have been associated with the Department since 1982 and became Chief in 1996. I have enjoyed serving the community over these years but have decided to step away from the

Chief's position after this year. I plan to remain a member of the department, but not in an officer position. We have a great group of dedicated volunteers that I look forward to being a part of. I encourage anyone to get involved with the department in any way. If anyone is interested, contact myself or anyone on the department.

Sy Wera shared a little about the plans for the Open House. This will be a 50-year anniversary party. The members are wearing shirts to promote the anniversary. Decals will be going on equipment. There will be an extinguisher open house. Banners will be put up. Department pictures and equipment pictures will be taken. We want this to be a community event. Work is being done on a printed pamphlet. Koozies will be available stamped with fire safety themes. They are working on a photo display of past history of the Fire Department. This will be a community wide picnic and they are looking for some financial help. They are also looking for media outreach, possibly radio and TV. The date is not set yet, but plans may be for next summer.

Airport Commission Report was presented by Chairman Rasmussen. He reported they are doing an environmental assessment that is dealing with trees in the airpath with Cooper Engineering, which will be happening soon. We have 8 hangers and 11 based airplanes. We need more hangers now! The commission is looking at replacing the beacon. Now that there are more aircraft at the airport, there is more federal funding available. They are giving money for upgrades and equipment. They appropriate \$120,000 a year for improvements. The runway will be looked at for lengthening after the tree removal.

Comprehensive planning report was presented by Sarah Boles

During the year 2020 marked by COVID, the CPC met monthly except for July and December.

Permit applications that came before the committee; 4 special use short term rental, 1 conditional use Multi Unit Development, 1 Class A, ATF shoreland grading, 1 Special Use B Mini Storage, 3 Variance requests.

During our last meeting in November the committee voted to only meet at the request of the Town Board generally to review Special Use Permit applications or any other priority items. The committee was questioning our role due to the lack of communication with Bayfield County Zoning. And our meeting for Short Term Rental permit requests was unnecessary as those requests have not needed our recommendation for approval. If there was a unique situation, we would schedule a meeting.

The CPC had changed the meeting time from 9am the first Wed. of the month to 7PM the first Wed. of the month. This was to accommodate committee members that have other commitments during the day and in the hope that the evening time frame will allow interested members of the community to also attend.

The CPC worked consistently on drafting an Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Namakagon. As of June, we were to conduct a final review to present to the Town Board and then we didn't meet in July, and with other topics like zoning issues and special use permit applications the EMP got lost in the shuffle. We are taking that up again at our next meeting to finally present to the Town Board in the next 2 months.

We welcomed two new members last year, Larry Pribyl and Linda Kraft. This year we have a new member, Ruth Goetz who is filling the seat held by Abett Icks for so many years. We thanked Abett for her many years of volunteer service.

There are 7 committee members, PC Rasmussen, Jim Krueger, Linda Kraft, Jeff Raether, Larry Pribyl, Ruth Goetz and Sarah Boles. Sarah Boles fills the seat of Chairperson. Having a town supervisor on the committee provides us with a direct link to the business happening during town meetings and serves to report to the Town Board on a monthly or when we meet, basis.

Law enforcement report – Kevin Johnson put in 254.5 hours and 4,087 miles covering the Town of Namakagon throughout the year.

Road Report was presented by Chairman Rasmussen. The town will be working on Lake Five Rd and Birch Bend Rd this year. The Town Board opened bids last month for crushing 7,500 of gravel. New timbers are being put around the town garden and the rock river will be put through our sculptures at the Town Hall. A road inspection will be happening soon. Crack sealing will be done as regular maintenance.

Lake Association Report was presented by Larry Prybil.

The Namakagon Lake Association has 345 members as of our meeting on April 10, 2021. In 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, we had to hold our first two meetings using Zoom technology and cancel our annual meeting.

The following is an update on some of the Namakagon Lake Association key projects:

Last spring after “ice out” under the leadership of Mike D’Andrea and with the help of Red Cliff, we netted walleyes to harvest eggs. Between Red Cliff and the DNR over 14,000 seven-to-eight-inch walleyes have been put in the lake the last couple years. In 2021 the plan is to return another 40,000. It has started off well this year with the harvesting of 1.5 million eggs which are being grown at Red Cliff (0.5M) and the Northern Aquaculture Facility run by UW Stevens Point (1.0M). We were also able to add another 12 fish sticks units (total of 16) to the lake this spring to enhance fish habitat. Poor ice conditions prevented placement of additional units. Another 28 are on the future list.

The lake was surveyed in 2020 for aquatic invasive species which have been identified as hybrid milfoil by Matt Berg. Approximately 23 acres was treated chemically in early May. However, this effort did not appear to work. We believe the treatment was too early. This year chemical treatment which is directed by the DNR will involve 3-4 large areas and we will be trying 3 different DNR approved chemicals and monitoring the results after the treatment. We anticipate this will occur sometime in the second week of June. We have hired Harmony Environmental to help us with our lake management planning for invasive weeds and to help us apply for additional grants.

We have contacted the 550 residences around the lake to educate them about shore restoration and fish sticks and how this can benefit our lake. Our communication has resulted in 63 new members. We have received \$17,000 in donations to support the mission of the NLA.

To help prevent new invasive weeds coming into the lake, we continue to monitor three landings on the lake with paid personnel. Funnies Bay, County Road D and Lakewood’s landing. All three of these landings also have cameras at the landing sites and videos are

reviewed as part of our grant requirements. The town of Grand View also contributes to the NLA to defray costs associated with Funny's Bay which is in their township.

The NLA could not function without many volunteers, but I also want to give a special thanks to Mike D'Andrea who over the last three years has worked tremendously hard on the walleye program as well as fish sticks and shore restoration. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

For additional information please see our website
www.namakagonlakeassociation.org.

Library Report was presented by Kristine Lendved.

I think we can all agree that 2020 was a year like no other! Although we were sometimes open and sometimes closed to the public, excepting the time when Governor's orders shut us down completely, we continued to find ways to provide service to our patrons.

We were encouraged to learn that, despite being closed for much of the year, our circulation was still at about 62% of what it had been in 2019. Our patrons took advantage of our offered curbside pickup service and either ordered books online or called us or emailed us. For a while, when inter-library loan was shut down, we were constrained to only offer items from our own collection, but we have pretty darned good collection! Curbside pick-up has proven to be very popular. Even though we do offer open hours, there are many who prefer the outside pick-up option. That may, in fact, work out to be a hard service to cut out!

We also took note that use of ebooks increased by 10% and e-audiobooks by 8%. While there has been, annually, an uptick in the use of our digital services, this year it was significant.

According to our 2020 Annual Report prepared for the WI Dept of Public Instruction:
1082 registered borrowers, resident (799) and non-resident (283)

In our collection:

8949 book titles

408 audio titles

1962 video titles

+ access to 153,894 ebooks, 59,002 e-audiobooks and 573 video titles. Magazines are now available as digital downloads.

We checked out 9,023 items in 2020.

282 used our public access computers.

4074 individuals utilized our WIFI.

There were 6800 visits to our website.

Our patrons checked out 2,274 ebooks and 1,351 e-audio books.

We were also active in working to provide entertaining video content on our website and Facebook page and we were entertained to learn that 2063 people watched our online videos with content that included stories, poetry, jokes and songs. Am I proud to tell you that THE most popular video we posted was one of me telling Ole & Lena jokes? Yah, I am! We also had 115 people attend 3 virtual programs in "real" time. One of these programs was a session with a professional storyteller scheduled to coincide with the last class day before the Christmas break for Drummond School students.

During the early months of business closures and folks being encouraged to stay at home we offered a couple of ways to engage our patrons and our community. One was the *Confined by Corona Quiz Contest*. We offered 3 questions, five days a week, for four weeks, and three questions twice a week for a few weeks beyond that. There were questions regarding literary quotes or movie titles, local history or who wrote what. We purchased a number of gift certificates from local businesses and awarded them as prizes. On our website, we created and kept a log of How to Entertain Yourself During a Pandemic, links to museums and storytelling sites and aquarium cams. We offered an April Poetry Challenge. Downtown Cable businesses and residents were invited to put a word in their window. Aspiring poets were encouraged to wander around town collecting words and to use them to write a poem. Prizes were awarded here, as well. April is National Poetry Month and we're offering a different type of challenge this year, offering weekly "poetry prompts" and asking people to use that to write a poem of any style or length. You still have a chance to participate! And...of course...win prizes!

Despite the pandemic and all that entailed, we have continued to work on our library expansion project. We had determined, late in 2019, to work with Baker Street Consultants out of Stevens Point in development of a fundraising plan. In the spring months of 2020 Jim Radford, Baker Street President, conducted a virtual mini-feasibility study. He talked to a number of Cable and Namakagon residents about our proposed project and we are happy to report that his study encouraged us to believe that sufficient funds could be raised...if not right then. (the pandemic HAD just begun and nobody really knew what was going to happen.) He communicated to us that one of the messages he'd received was that people found it very "hopeful" that we were continuing to move forward. We eventually formed a Capital Campaign Executive Committee, a group of seven which includes a few Board members and community members who are committed to the success of the project. More recently we have assembled a Capital Campaign Cabinet, a somewhat larger group of people who support the work and may function as liaisons to potentially significant donors. We will hope to launch the public portion of the Capital Campaign later in the summer, in celebration of our 96th Anniversary...since we didn't really get to celebrate our 95th in style.

Also, in furtherance of our project, a civil engineering survey was conducted in advance consideration of water retention issues that affect the adjoined properties and how an additional structure might affect them. A topographical study of the expansion property as well as Cable Natural History Museum property, which contains the historic log cabin was completed. Soil borings were collected from a number of places on both properties. The civil engineers report became available early this year and a virtual meeting between library staff and select Board members, representatives from the Cable Natural History Museum and our liaison to Keller Builds, our contracting firm, was conducted. Possible water mitigation strategies were discussed. The report did support that these strategies, if effected, would be sufficient to accommodate water run-off through expected rainfall. The two Town Boards at these, our Annual Meetings, will ask Electors to approve a Resolution allowing the eventual removal of the existing buildings on the library expansion property. The Towns are the co-deed-holders of the property on behalf of the Forest Lodge Library. We ask for your support in helping us move this project forward by approving this Resolution.

We have also been working to update our campaign information and marketing materials. Our website on the subject has recently been updated, so, please take a look! forestlodgelibrary.com/libraryexpansionproject. We are finalizing updates to our print materials and expect to have those available soon.

This does seem like a good time to offer our thanks to the Town of Namakagon for their pledge of support in acquisition of the Naming Rights for the Wisconsin Collection Reading Room! THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Other naming rights that have already been assigned are the Media Center; Fritz & Kathy Friday, two Study Rooms, one by Pat & Sue Quinn and one as a Memorial to Fred and Winnie Gall. The Cable Area Lions have spoken for the Adult Learning and Tech Station. Scott and Stacey McKinney have pledged the North End Sustainable Garden and the family of Katie Flowers has acquired the Director's Office. We are grateful, deeply grateful, for this early support of our expansion project. Further, we look forward to working with the Town of Cable on the development of a municipal parking lot which will serve the library and other downtown destinations.

Some of you may have seen signs, posters or social media postings for something called SAVE TO GIVE. This is a program launched by Focus on Energy that combines an effort to encourage customers to save energy with an opportunity to raise money for a number of Bayfield County non-profits! Bayfield County is functioning as a pilot project for this effort which could end up raising as much as \$25,000 to be spread amongst 7 Bayfield County non-profits, one of which is the Katie Flowers Endowment which will hold any raised funds on behalf of the library expansion project. If you're an Xcel Energy customer...please visit our website and check it out! The cost to participants is either nothing...or a small cost for a kit or products that could result in big savings. Participants are asked to take a number of energy-saving actions...real tough stuff like turning the lights off when you leave a room...or turning the thermostat down a degree or two. Small actions that can mean considerable savings.

After being open and then closed...and then open and then closed (but for curbside pickup) the Forest Lodge Library has been open daily except Sundays since March 1st. Our hours are still limited, 12-4 M -F and 11-2 on Saturdays and pandemic protocols are still in place. We ask that patrons enter through the back of the building and exit through the front, wear masks and sanitize their hands or wear gloves. Our Board considers our existing pandemic library policy every month and makes changes based on the advice of County, State and Federal Health agencies. We will soon hope to consider extending our open hours, but that will depend on the COVID situation in the County. We will also continue to offer curbside pick-up as long as it is relevant and, as always, our WIFI is on 24/7. In fact, in the last year, through our library system we acquired a gizmo, I call it, that extends our WIFI service area.

Regarding the Book House, while we hope to, at least, offer a 4th of July book sale this year, whether or not we'll be able to be open on a more regular basis depends a great deal on COVID.

It comes to pass that we've seen significant Library Board Turnover in the last year. We offer our sincere thanks to departing Board members Judy Krueger, Terry Miller and Amy Wiebusch, who each fulfilled two 3-year terms, Anne Paul, who left us for her kids in the Pacific Northwest and Maureen Palmer, who continues to offer support and counsel. Terry Miller will be serving as Honorary Chairperson of the Capital Campaign

for Cable. We welcome a new group of committed and talent library lovers; JoAnn Schultz, Kathy Bergin, Carl Lippert, Mary Jean Fenske and, most recently Jackie Kruse, appointed by the Drummond School District.

I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about library operations, library services or the library expansion project. Please feel welcome to contact me at the library, 715-798-3189 or via email, klendved@cable.wislib.org. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to report all that's been happening with the library!

Town update - Chairman Rasmussen stated that the Town Board opened bids for a new metal roof for the Town Hall, which will be happening this year. Also, the Town Board opened bids to remodel the kitchen at the Town Hall, which will be happening this year as well. This building was built in 1968. The town will be receiving significant grant money in the future due to COVID-19.

Old Business – None.

New Business –

Consider Revaluation for the Town of Namakagon - Chairman Rasmussen explained that every year when the assessor does assessments he needs to stay within 10 percent of full value in the same year as required under state law. Otherwise, there would need to be a revaluation. The revaluation would cost \$51,300 plus the maintenance charge of \$7,950. The revaluation is not required at this time. The town board will continue to monitor if the re-assessment is necessary.

Resolution #2021-02 Authorizing the Destruction of Buildings - MOITON made by Joann Schultz to approve Resolution #2021-02 as follows:

Resolution #2021-02
Authorizing the Destruction of Buildings
Town of Namakagon of Bayfield County, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes 60.10(2)(g) provides that electors at the Annual Meeting have authority to authorize disposal of town real property, other than property donated to and required to be held by the town for a special purpose, and

WHEREAS, the property located at 13430 County Hwy M, Tax ID 10801, specifically the Village of Cable E ½ of Lots 13-16 Block 2 in 2016R-566601 125V, located in S18, T43N, R07W is deeded to both the Town of Cable and the Town of Namakagon on behalf of the Forest Lodge Library requiring both town electors to have approval of the disposal of the property,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the town meeting of the Town of Namakagon, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, by a majority vote of the eligible electors voting at the Annual Town Meeting assembled and voting, resolves and orders as follows:

The Town Board of the Town of Namakagon is authorized to exercise the right to tear down and dispose for the purpose of constructing an addition onto the existing Forest Lodge Library, the following real property in the town, described as:

13430 County Hwy M, Tax ID 10801, specifically the Village of Cable E ½ of Lots 13-16 Block 2 in 2016R-566601 125V, located in S18, T43N, R07W.

The Town Clerk shall properly post this resolution as required under s.60.80, Wis. Stats., within 30 days of the below noted adoption date.

MOTION seconded by Mary D’Andrea. 15 Ayes/Unanimous. MOTION carried.

Set elected officials compensation – Chairman Rasmussen explained that the electors set the wages of elected officials, which needs to happen before the election starts. The wages have not changed in at least 10 to 20 years. The salaries are already set for the next two years as the election was just this month. However, the electors can set the wages for 2023 at any time. The treasurer has been appointed and her wages will be set by the Town Board. If the electors choose, this will be talked about during a budget meeting before an election.

Public Comment – Chairman Rasmussen stated that the Namakagon Community Club is still not meeting. There will be discussion in August about meeting taking into consideration the status of the pandemic. The Town Board will be meeting for a road inspection soon. Terri Biasi requested the Town Board to inspect the erosion on Buffalo Lake Road. Cookie Skultety requested the Town Board to inspect Bear Point Road.

Date set for next Annual Meeting: Tuesday April 19, 2022.

MOTION made by Mike D’Andrea to adjourn the Annual Town Board meeting at 8:26pm. MOTION seconded by Mike Jacobs and carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk