

**TOWN OF NAMAKAGON  
AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY APRIL 16, 2019 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 Michael D'Andrea, Deputy Clerk Laura Bjork and 15 others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Deputy Clerk Laura Bjork. MOTION made by JoAnn Schultz to approve the minutes as presented. MOTION seconded by Carol McGregor and carried.

**Financial Report** was presented by Treasurer Skultety. Account balances as of January 1, 2018 were \$358,313.67. Total Revenues for 2018 were \$821,264.28. Total Disbursements for 2018 were \$875,179.88. Account balances as of December 31, 2018 were \$304,398.10 with a \$.03 adjustment. MOTION made by Scott Mika to approve the financial report as presented. MOTION seconded by Mary D'Andrea and carried.

**Ambulance Report** was presented by Rob Puls, ALS Coordinator for GDAS. Jack McGregor is the representative for the Town of Namakagon on the GDAS board. GDAS responded to 1,285 calls, of which 865 were transfers. Transfers generate revenues. There was a 7% increase from last year; it was the biggest year ever! GDAS is currently licensed in WI with a Critical Care endorsement for higher level care. GDAS has operated at the highest level of care for 16 years. They were the first in the state to do that and have been a model since then. GDAS is currently operating out of 3 stations; the base station in Cable, the second base in Ashland County in Glidden and the third base in Marengo. GDAS Covers 72% of Ashland and 27% of Bayfield County. This is a lot of service area to cover. GDAS is owned by 4 townships; Cable, Grand View, Namakagon and Drummond. There are 6 other area contracts. The contract with Ashland County is until the end of 2020, and they would like to extend that contract. GDAS purchased a new Ford Ambulance in 2018 with funds generated by GDAS. In July, a seventh ambulance will be received. A new ambulance is approximately \$150,000. GDAS gives back to the community by funding all the ambulances from generated funds from transfers. As GDAS has grown, problems have risen. GDAS has hired an HR Director to re-write job descriptions and a handbook and to help with employment. Our challenges ahead are staffing. Many employees have left and it is hard to find new employees. Reduced staffing has led to reduced revenue. GDAS is recovering from a lawsuit for overtime wages. The board has authorized to settle the suit, but the court has not settled as of yet. GDAS will be able to cover the expense of the lawsuit without incurring any costs to the townships. Medical costs continue to increase. It is hard to budget with increasing costs. GDAS is operating in a region that is statistically very unhealthy and

very poor, and yet the people have continued to receive the highest level of care. Road construction is a problem this year on Hwy 63. That delays time to the hospitals. GDAS is currently spending more money than it is generating for the first time in 16 years. The Legislature approved services for Integrated Health Care, which allows Caregivers to make home visits consistently to help alleviate crises situations. This will be very positive. GDAS continues to be recognized for their superior level of care. GDAS will continue to provide the highest level of care to the area, and we are here for you! GDAS is here to make your worst day the best it can be!

**Fire Department report** was presented by Henry Rieckhoff. He thanked everyone for their support. Currently there are 15 members. All the members have Entry Level Fire Training, which is the basic level of training to become a Fire Fighter. Six members have obtained the level of Fire Fighter 1 and 2. Training details were discussed. There are 4 members who are EMTs, and all have been trained in CPR. Henry Rieckhoff is an emergency Fire Warden for the DNR and can issue burning permits. Dave Haan is a Fire Training Instructor and Specialist for WITC, and he is also the President of the Bayfield County Fire Association. Fire Department meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 7 to 9:30pm. There was discussion on other attended training. Fire inspections are done every 6 months in all commercial buildings in the township. There are two stations; one at the Town Hall and one at Pioneer Station. Both have equipment and are able to respond. The 2<sup>nd</sup> station was able to keep a building from burning down this past year. There is better radio communications due to a radio repeater installed on the cell phone tower. In the year 2021, engine 1 will need to be replaced. The cost to replace that engine is over \$300,000. The Fire Department has replaced some rescue equipment from fundraising efforts, at no cost to the town. This year the Fire Department assisted with setting up a helicopter landing zone, responded to a wild land fire by Four Seasons Resort, 4 mutual aid requests from Cable Fire for structure fires, 1 carbon monoxide alarm, 1 power line down, 1 smoke alarm, 1 off road rescue for a down biker, 3 vehicle accidents, 2 lift assists for GDAS, 3 snowmobile accidents, assisted in rescuing a child trapped under the snow, 1 snowmobile fire, 2 mutual aid requests from Grand View for chimney fires and a search for lost skiers on the Rock Lake Ski Trail. The Fire Department has 7 trucks; 3 engines of which one is a combination Pumper Tender, 1 tanker, a suburban command vehicle, an equipment truck and a brush truck. The Fire Department volunteers multiple times throughout the year. An Open House is held every year. This year it will be in June with Jay Wilson attending to do annual Fire Extinguisher inspections and service. A live Fire Extinguisher Trainer is used to teach the proper use of a fire extinguisher and is available for anyone wanting training. There were three fundraisers during the year, which helped to purchase a lot of equipment. The Fire Department offers a scholarship every year to a graduating high school student going into emergency services. There is a concern with addressing numbers for residents, not to be confused with the fire numbers. Residents please take a look at your addressing number and make sure it is visible and make sure a fire truck or ambulance can get in your driveway.

**Airport Commission Report** was presented by Chairman Rasmussen. There are currently a total of 6 hangars at the airport. This past fall, concrete was poured in front of

the new hangar. This year the taxiways will be blacktopped. Tree clearing will be done as well. The airport is now qualified for grant money from the state, because of the amount of hangars. The CNHM will be holding a fundraiser at the airport in July. About 34 airplanes flew in for the Fly-In pancake breakfast. Free airplane rides were given to about 40 children in 2018. There will be an Open House during the Cable Fall Fest with a Hamburger feed and airplane rides.

**Comprehensive planning report** was presented by Mary D'Andrea. The board recommended Laurie Lyons as a member of the Plan Commission. Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Namakagon Town Hall and all are invited. The board approved Goals and Objectives for the revised Comp. Plan. The Goals and Objectives resulted in planning schedules for: Housing, Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources and Land Use Implementation and Appendix. This past year, there were 3 Short Term Rental requests, which was forwarded to the Town Board. The commission began revising the text of the 2009 Comp. Plan. A draft of the revised plan will shortly be sent to the town board. Goals for 2019-2020 are to complete revisions of the Comp. Plan, publish the completed Comp. Plan on the town's website, review and revise the Future Land Use Map and create an Emergency Management Plan.

**Law enforcement report** was presented by Kevin Johnson. He shared that he has enjoyed the job by helping people and working through issues. Incidences this year included 23 motorist assists, 11 ambulance calls, 1 fire call, 69 ATV/UTV contacts, 3 motor vehicle accidents, no ATV/UTV accidents, 2 snowmobile accidents, 5 snowmobile contacts, 16 deputy contacts/assists, 8 turned over to the Sheriff's Department, 5 problems/concerns turned over the Road Foreman, hundreds of boat landing checks and public contacts, 3 golf cart contacts, 9 fireworks complaints, 7 weather warnings, 2 search and rescues, 2 ATV/UTV complaints, 6 Kravicks Bridge contacts for swimming/diving and 3 littering complaints. There were 5 Special Events that were worked.

**Road Report** was presented by Chairman Rasmussen. The biggest road project of 2018 was Chicago Ave. A Geo-grid was placed and roadbeds were raised. A new culvert was placed on Buffalo Lake Road. Patch work was done on Viking Bay Road. There was work done on Buffalo Lake Road. The town assisted Mark Rasmussen with a driveway on Buffalo Lake Road. The Road Crew did some work at the Cable Union Airport. The main project for 2019 will be milling and black-topping Namakagon Sunset Road. The town will be entering into an agreement with the Forest Service in 2020 for Old Grade Road. Dam Road will be lifted. A Road Inspection is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. After the project is done on Namakagon Sunset, there will be another project for this road with the US Forest Service for 1 ½" of overlay to be able to remove the Class B designation on that road.

**Lake Association Report** was presented by Jim Krueger. There were a total of 7 meetings last year. Two newsletters were sent out. The Lake Association operates with a 7 member board. The biggest accomplishment this year was the Lake Management Grant.

A plan needed to be put together, including a weed evaluation by the DNR. In January a report was received that indicated a few situations needed to be addressed. There was high mil-foil in the bay between Bear Point and Birch Lane Bridge, which included the whole area out to the mouth of the bay with the heaviest at the bottom of bay. There were two meetings with the DNR to figure out what should be done. Treatment will begin in early June with no restrictions during that time. There are some smaller patches of milfoil located in Mums bay, Four Season's Boat Landing, north of Mogasheen Resort, and a small amount in Lakewoods Marina. There will be three hand pulls; one in June, July and August. We want people to come and help! The milfoil is not going away, but it needs to be kept under control. Lakewoods Marina was done last year, and it was very successful. The Lake Association monitors three boat landings; Funnys Bay, Hwy D and Lakewoods. They are monitored by cameras and also AIS Monitors who are trained. The monitors are there on Fridays and Saturdays. There is also a camera monitoring Garden Lake. We would love to do more, but do not have the personnel. The cameras are reviewed, and last year one person was sited and a couple of pictures were sent to the Sherriff's Department. President Jim DeRoma will be putting together training in the next couple of weeks. His contact information is on the website. The next meeting will be Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Two members will be leaving the board. Anyone interested in serving on the board is welcome!

Mike D'Andrea reported on the Walleye Project. A Fishery Initiative has been written. There are three elements; Reduce Harvest, Improve Habitat, and Stock Walleyes. 2500 extended length Walleyes were stocked in 2018. Currently \$25,000 has been donated for the Stocking effort in 2019. The Township has donated \$5,000 from the room tax collected. Thank you. Stocking in 2019 is planned for 30,000 extended length Walleyes. \$45,000 will be required. More fund raising is required. We will have a Fishing Contest, and Banquet on June 22nd 2019 for fund raising. The Walleye Project is a collaborative effort of the NLA, WDNR, GLIFWC, UWSP-NADF, and the Red Cliff Band in Lake Superior. The Bad River Band is in full support.

**Library Report** given by Kristine Lendved, director of the Forest Lodge Library. We are your local source of information, education and entertainments for residents. Over the last decade, we've averaged 13,020 library visits annually and an average annual circulation of 16,551 library items. We have nearly 2,000 more print titles than we did a decade ago, and nearly 70% more DVD titles. The library also offers patrons access to a vast e-book, e-audio and e-video collection. In 2018, patrons checked out almost 2,000 e-books and over 1,000 e-audio books. The FLL continues to expand technology services to patrons. Since we began public wireless service use in 2015, it has increased nearly five-fold. We maintain three public access computers and in 2018 they were used 1,300 times by residents and visitors. One added feature is a subscription to Gale Courses through NWLS. You can take classes in just about anything and it is no cost to participate! This can be done from home with a library card. There is a brand new website, [forestlodgelibrary.org](http://forestlodgelibrary.org)! We've been very pleased to host the Wiz Kidz Tech Help program. They are offered the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month and more frequently in the summer. Over the last 10 years, the number of programs for adults and children offered by the library has doubled and attendance has increased by 460%. We served nearly 750 attendees in 2018. The FLL offered film screening, local author events,

Community Conversations, Makerspace events and a day long summer reading Carnival for kids. Bill Jamerson went to Drummond School and offered a program about lumberjacking and then offered his program "Up" at the U.P. library. The highlights from programming this year included filmmaker John Mitchell screening his documentary Cheeseheads at the Cable Community Centre. It was followed by a tail-gate event in the parking lot. Mark Moran, an antique appraiser, took a road trip to the Namakagon Town Hall. The FLL hosted a Candidate's Forum for the November 2018 election, and also for the Cable Primary Election. The fireplace was renovated to include a propane burning insert. Thanks goes out to the departing Board Trustees and staff members, and welcome to new members and staff. There was a presentation on the library expansion project. We offer thanks to our communities for their continued support!

**Town update** was presented by Chairman Rasmussen. The Forest Lodge Library will have a meeting/picnic at the Namakagon Town Hall on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> to show the residents what is happening at the library and give opportunity for public comment. The Sculpture outside of the Town Hall is not finished yet. There is a possibility of holding a dedication on June 6<sup>th</sup> for the Centennial Sculpture. Road clean-up picnic will be held Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with a fish boil. Almost 50 people have volunteered to help out with the fish boil! A dumpster will be put out by the Town Hall for roadside cleanup. Chairman Rasmussen thanked Mike D'Andrea for serving as Town Clerk.

**Old Business** – JoAnn Schultz questioned the process of opening and closing roads to ATVs. The board has held to a policy that in order to open a road, two-thirds of the property owners need to be in favor to open. It was noted that opening town roads to ATVs is not within the electors' authority. Only the Town Board has the authority to open town roads to ATVs/UTVs, according to State Statute. The votes are advisory only, meaning the Town Board can consider them, but the board is not bound by the outcome of the vote. MOTION made by JoAnn Schultz to open all roads for ATV use in the Town of Namakagon on a trial basis for one year pending the amount of complaints. MOTION seconded by Marilyn Hemsey. VOTE – Aye – 13. Naye -1. MOTION carried. This will go to the Town Board for consideration.

**New Business** – None.

**Appointment of Town of Namakagon Clerk** –MOTION made by Jim Krueger to appointed Laura Bjork as the Town Clerk. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

MOTION made by Arlene Skultety to use the Local Government Investment Pool to borrow or invest money to operate the Town of Namakagon. MOTION seconded by JoAnn Schultz and carried.

MOTION made by Mary D'Andrea to allow the Board to use any FDIC approved bank for town funds. MOTION seconded by Barbara Mika and carried.

**Public Comment** – There was discussion on the sculpture to be finished at the Town Hall. It was noted that the web could use updated pictures.

MOTION made by Marilyn Hemsey to ratify all actions taken by Town Board from 4/18/2018 to 4/17/2019. MOTION seconded by Janice Prybil and carried.

Date set for next Annual Meeting: Tuesday April 21, 2020.

MOTION made by JoAnn Schultz to adjourn the Annual Town Board meeting at 8:48pm. MOTION seconded by Arlene Skultety and carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Deputy Clerk

UNAPPROVED