

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
FOR – TOWN BOARD MEETING – May 14, 2019
At – NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL – 7:30pm
MINUTES

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Chairman Rasmussen, Supervisors Jack McGregor and Jim Krueger, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and 17 others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board recognized Police Officers and their service.

MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to dispense the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #2764 through #2807. Town Financials are available to the public upon request to the Treasurer.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING REPORT – Jim Krueger reported that the commission discussed a Short Term Rental and a Class A Grading Permit that were approved because they were in compliance with the Comp. Plan. There was discussion with communication between the county and the town in regards to Short Term Occupancy.

LIBRARY REPORT – The library report was read and will be posted on the website.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF TOWN BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR BAYFIELD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING FOR A CLASS A SPECIAL USE REQUEST FOR SCOTT AND BARBARA MIKA FOR PERMISSION TO BUILD A NEW HOME LOCATED AT 44030 DODD DRIVE IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 43N, RANGE 6W, TOWN OF NAMAKAGON – The Plan Commission has recommended approval because it is in compliance with the Comp. Plan. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the Class A Special Use request for Scott and Barbara Mika. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF TOWN BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR BAYFIELD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING FOR A CLASS A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR BARBARA BEST FOR PERMISSION TO HAVE A SHORT TERM RENTAL LOCATED AT 23255 MISSIONARY POINT ROAD, TOWN OF NAMAKAGON – The Plan Commission recommended approval because it is in compliance with the Comp Plan. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the Class A Special Use Permit for Barbara Best contingent upon normal stipulations, which are attached. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW ATV ORDINANCE – Chairman Rasmussen stated that at the annual town meeting an elector made a motion to open all town roads to ATVs. Many years ago, the Town Board set an ATV policy, which states that a road will be opened to ATVs only if a petition is presented to the board with 2/3rds support from the landowners on that road. As for White Bass Lake Road, a petition was re-sent, and there were 11 opposed and 6 not opposed. The state has confirmed that there are a lot of townships that have opened all their roads to ATVs. The issue is that landowners want to get to the routes and without opening the roads, they are not able to get to them. Supervisor Krueger stated that he would like to have consistency in these decisions, which has been the policy that was set years ago. The Board is not saying no, but there needs to be a petition to be presented for the request. The Board should represent the majority opinions of landowners. Supervisor McGregor stated that the Town Board opened all the roads to golf carts without going through this process. There are only 2 houses close to the White Bass Lake Road, and it wouldn't be that disruptive. There have not been any ATV complaints on that road. Elmer Griffaw stated that the sound goes clear across the lake, and most of the people are here for the peace and quiet. Supervisor McGregor reiterated that the desire of landowners with ATVs is to be able to access the routes and that cannot happen without opening the roads. The people that live here are not going to cause the problems. 5-10% of the users will cause 90% of the problems, and that most likely will come from visitors. The Town of Cable opened all their roads for a trial period of one year and afterwards there were hardly any issues or complaints. ATVers don't want to drive down a dead end road. Andy Runice stated there have not been many issues. 90% of his job is focused on the 10% problem makers. There have been speeding complaints on county D, but law enforcement has not seen any of it. Supervisor McGregor noted that some motorcycles are much louder than ATVs. He would like to see all roads open for a trial period. Elmer Griffaw stated that if all roads were open on a trial basis, maps would be re-done, and if it didn't continue, then the map information would not be accurate. Motorcycles are noisy, but they are not an everyday occurrence. Supervisor McGregor responded that the statement is making an assumption. Elmer Griffaw stated there are other options for a through traffic route. Supervisor McGregor responded that the US Forest Service is very difficult to work with. They have made promises and not followed through with them. Elmer Griffaw suggested taking a petition to the DNR. Marilyn Hemsey stated that ATVs are becoming a big sport and the towns need to deal with that. Fear is coming from things that are unsure of. It was noted that there is not anything else with the policy for a 2/3rds majority for change, although there aren't any other controversial issues. Jim Schaffer stated that the ATV Club's requests seem to be a way to get all roads open. The residents on White Bass Lake Road do not want to take a chance on that 5 to 10% of people utilizing the road causing the issues. Noise is a real issue. There is a concern that ATVs are not required to have insurance. ATVs aren't allowed in certain areas because of safety, nuisance and liability. The majority of the people do not want the road opened. There was discussion on ATVs using snowmobile trails, but the Snowmobile Club does not want ATVs using the trails, because they tear up the trails. Bill Ton stated

the board has a reasonable policy to allow for discussion and allow a position for change, if the people decide, rather than anyone doing whatever they want. He applauds the town for the policy and hope they continue with it. Jeff Raether stated this has been on the agenda 10 times for the past 15 meetings. It was unanimously approved to open all town roads at the annual meeting. The town could choose to place the issue on a ballot. The people that are in opposition are in opposition for their portion of the road. The board allows public input; they don't have to per State Statute. Chairman Rasmussen stated that there were various road requests on the agenda. It is placed on the agenda when there is a 2/3rds petition. It was noted that if the issue went on a ballot, it would not include seasonal residents. Chairman Rasmussen stated that approval/disapproval will be forwarded to the next town board agenda for White Bass Lake and possibly all town roads. Andy Runice stated that tickets are written to people who are riding on closed roads, but leniency is shown.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADVERTISING BIDS FOR NAMAKAGON SUNSET PROJECT, PART 2 – This part of the project for Namakagon Sunset Road will be adding 1½" of blacktop to the 1st part of the project and will be funded in part by a Forest Service Grant. This will allow Class B restrictions to be removed from the road. Two road projects will be done this year, including this one and also adding 1" of blacktop to Dam Road at no cost to the town. A bid notice will be published for the project.

MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the request from Chequamegon 100 Mountain Bike Race to use the Namakagon Cluster of CAMBA Trails and Rock Lake Road (FR 207) from County Hwy M south approximately 4 miles on June 15, 2019. **MOTION** seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to allow the Namakagon Lakes Association to hire AIS monitors for the season. **MOTION** seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve Resolution 2-2019 Signers on Checks, for both the checking and savings account. **MOTION** seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

DISCUSSION ON COORDINATING WITH BAYFIELD COUNTY ZONING TO RECEIVE PERMIT REQUESTS TIMELY – The Plan Commission has had several communication issues with Bayfield County. Supervisor Krueger explained that the requests from the county are not being received in time for the meetings. There has been discussion with Bayfield County on the issue. The Town of Namakagon will send a letter addressing the issue to Bayfield County.

REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE – A letter from Abett Icks opposing the opening of roads to ATVs was received and read. A Rumble on the Lake sponsorship letter was received and read. **MOTION** made by Supervisor Krueger to sponsor Rumble on the Lake for \$250.

MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried. See My Art, Inc. sponsorship letter was received and read. The letter will be forwarded to the Community Club.

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Fire Department will host their Open House on June 8, 2019 from 9am to 12pm. Fire Extinguishers can be recharged or inspected. There will also be Fire Extinguisher training. The Fire Department will host their Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 26, 2019 from 8am to 11am. The Hunter’s Dinner raised over \$7,000 in funds for the Fire Department.

Set date for the next Board meeting - June 11, 2019 @ 7:30pm.

MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to adjourn at 8:46pm. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Deputy Clerk