

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Wednesday, December 15, 2021
At - NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL – 7:30pm
MINUTES

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Chairman Rasmussen, Supervisor Jack McGregor, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and six others. It was noted that Supervisor Krueger could not be in attendance, however he did submit his thoughts through a letter and they are noted in the items below.

The agenda was posted at the Town Hall and on the website and the Daily Press was informed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes from November 9th and 18th meeting were presented. MOTION made by Chairman Rasmussen to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes from November 9th and 13th and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #4219 through #4280. Town Financials are available to the public upon request to the Treasurer.

Comprehensive Planning Report – The Plan Commission addressed the zoning request later in the agenda.

Library Report - The Library report will be posted on the website.

Room Tax Rate – Supervisor Krueger submitted support to rescind the recommendation from the November meeting as the board was premature in their action. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to rescind the motion made last month on November 9th to raise the Room Tax rate to 8%, contingent that there is consistency within the four townships. MOTION seconded by Chairman Rasmussen. Discussion: The Chamber of Commerce sent a letter stating that the Chamber felt that this type of an increase puts an undue burden on our members in the lodging industry, however, they would be willing to meet with the towns, commission, and members of the lodging industry in regard to the room tax increase. Kathy Rasmussen stated that doubling the room tax would be an imposition on many of the businesses. There was discussion on the purpose of room tax collection and where the money is spent. Dennis Howard questioned where this conversation came from. Chairman Rasmussen stated that the discussion came from the Town of Cable at the four towns meeting and the four towns were looking at gaining consistency. Chairman Rasmussen stated that the room tax commission should be heading the discussions at their meetings. Kathy Rasmussen noted that the Chamber has been admired for what it has accomplished. MOTION carried.

Healthy Lakes Grant 2021 2022 – Ted Piechel was recruited to help with the initiative. Mike D’Andrea has been applying for the Healthy Lakes Grant (max \$25,000 with 25% match). The request has been approved for \$2,500 of support from the town for the last

grant. The grant was awarded in April 2020 for \$24,283.50. The town has supported this endeavor with \$900 so far. Nine projects were completed with the support of the grant, town and NLA. The grant has been extended through December 31, 2022, for a total of sixteen projects for the winter of 2022 to complete the grant. There is a remainder of \$1,600 in support from the town for this part of the project. A grant has been applied for 2022/2023, and they are asking for support of \$2,700 for this grant, however the actual payment will not be needed until the grant is approved. The project will start in 2023. The town will budget \$2,700 in 2023.

Walleye Project update –Mike D’Andrea reported this year they put in 34,000 EXL Walleyes. Sixteen fishsticks and one shoreline restoration has been completed in the last two winters. The goal is to put in forty-three more fishsticks in 2022 and 2023. He would like to collect walleyes and strip them of eggs and milt for raising fish again next year. The fishery survey has been completed on September 15th and hopefully the results will be out this winter. The lake was at 2.3 walleyes per acre when we started, and 57% of the walleyes have been taken out of the lake during the fishing season. There is another survey going on and will be finishing in March.

Town Board recommendation for Bayfield County Planning and Zoning for a Class A Special Use Permit for Myron and Barbara Brose to construct a driveway to the new building site located at 45520 Marsh Lane, Town of Namakagon – The Plan Commission approved the recommendation to the Town Board. Supervisor Krueger submitted support for the recommendation. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to recommend to Bayfield County Planning and Zoning the Class A Special Use permit for Myron and Barbara Brose to construct a driveway to the new dwelling site located at 45520 Marsh Lane, Town of Namakagon, because it was compliant with the Comp Plan. MOTION seconded by Chairman Rasmussen and carried.

Town Board recommendation for Bayfield County Planning and Zoning for a Class A Special Use Permit for the Estate of Michael Woods for a Short-Term Rental located at 24235 Garden Lake Road, Town of Namakagon – Supervisor Krueger submitted no concerns, only that the regular stipulations be met. MOTION made by Chairman Rasmussen to approve the recommendation along with regular stipulations. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Request from Dennis Howard for a Short-Term Rental Permit for Cable Nature Lodge located at 20100 County Hwy M, Town of Namakagon – This will be operated under Garmisch, so a short-term rental permit is not needed. Dennis Howard will be reimbursed for the application.

Forest Lodge Library Joint Library Agreement – Kristine Lendved explained that this agreement is just a continuation, which is done every 10 years. If the agreement changes in any way after the expansion project, it will be revisited. MOTION made by Chairman Rasmussen to approve the Forest Lodge Library Agreement from Jan 1,2022 until Dec 31, 2031. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Lease By and Between Cable Natural History Museum, Forest Lodge Library Board of Trustees, Town of Cable and Town of Namakagon – Kristine Lendved explained that this is a continuation of the same previous lease, which needs to be renewed yearly. If the lease changes in any way after the expansion project, it will be revisited. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the lease by and between Cable Natural History Museum, Forest Lodge Library Board of Trustees, Town of Cable and Town of Namakagon. MOTION seconded by Chairman Rasmussen and carried.

Short Term Rental Fee – There was mention of the Town of Cable raising their permit fee to \$750 annually. There was discussion on the determination of who would pay the annual fee of \$100, which was approved at last month’s meeting, specifically in relation to property owners, resorts, and property managers. Kathy Rasmussen explained how Lakewoods Resort was operating their rentals. Supervisor McGregor stated that the only item to change was the fee, not the process of determining who pays a fee. Kathy Rasmussen asked how room tax is monitored. Treasurer Skultety explained that quarterlies are filed, and checks are done online to find any non-compliance. Short-term rentals are now defined as “a residential dwelling that is offered for rent for a fee and for fewer than 29 consecutive days”. A motion was made last month to make the \$100 fee an annual fee, but clarification is needed. This will be addressed next month.

Ordinance #25 Public Nuisance Ordinance – Tabled.

Chairman Rasmussen appointed Janis Pribyl to the Library Board for a three-year term from January 2022 through January 2025.

Chairman Rasmussen appointed JoAnne Schultz, Mary D'Andrea, Carol McGregor, Kerri Nelson, Karen Pliska, Tom Anderson, and Ruth Goetz as Election Workers for 2022-2023.

Review Correspondence

Support for new signs for the Namakagon stick trail – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to support the new signs for the Namakagon stick trail with \$1,500. MOTION seconded by Chairman Rasmussen and carried.

Public Comment – None.

Set date for the next Board meeting January 12, 2022 @ 7:30pm.
Plan Commission meeting, January 5, 2021 @ 7pm

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk