

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING–Thursday, September 29, 2022
At - NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL – 10 a.m.
MINUTES

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Present were Chairman Rasmussen, Supervisors Jack McGregor and Jim Krueger, Treasurer Arlene Skultety and Clerk Laura Bjork and 4 others.

Short Term Rentals – Supervisor Krueger explained that Bayfield County is adding a Short-Term Rental Ordinance and had a meeting on the drafted ordinance. His biggest concern is Bayfield County is completely bypassing the town. He wrote a letter to Ruth Hulstrom, Director of Bayfield County Planning and Zoning, on behalf of the Town Board explaining the town procedure which has been done for 15 years. The town would like to continue to have input on the permits. The procedure that is currently done is done well. It was noted that the Town Short-Term Rental Ordinance does not have anything illegal in it. The next step is for the Town Board to stay attuned to the advancements in county zoning.

There was discussion on the current procedure for permits. An application needs to be received from the County Zoning Department. The pink slip from the application is sent to the town for a Town Board recommendation only. For Short Term Rentals the Town Board includes conditions and criteria with their recommendation to the county. The pink slip gets returned to the county and they meet to either approve or deny the application. The Short-Term Rental Permit is given by Bayfield County Zoning. The town ordinance does not include the conditions and criteria. When looking back at Bayfield County Zoning permits, it was noted that the permit only stipulated that the conditions were contingent upon the permit, not the criteria. The criteria is not enforceable as it is not a part of the permit nor the town ordinance. It was noted that the county occupancy is identical to the towns.

The town would like to consider changes in their ordinance; however, the Town Board will wait until the county makes final decisions on how they are going to handle their Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

Supervisor McGregor questioned if Bayfield County takes the town out of the process, is it possible for them to take the room tax from the town as well? He suggested that the town inquire with a WTA Attorney regarding Act 55 on Short-Term Rentals and make them aware of the county changes that are happening. He mentioned that the drafted county ordinance stipulated that police reports will be reviewed upon the renewals.

Supervisor Krueger stated that the county ordinance included a requirement for a certificate of rental insurance. He added that the drafted county ordinance had a \$750 annual fee, which was changed at the last zoning meeting to a one-time \$200 fee. Supervisor McGregor questioned the impact on Fire Departments and EMS for Short-Term Rentals.

The Town Board will start considering revisions to their ordinance, but nothing will be approved until the county finalizes their procedure. The county had mentioned at their last meeting that they would like the changes to be finalized by January. The county may

put many restrictions in their ordinance, and the town would need to consider that information in their ordinance.

John Sill stated that the Town Board might want to consider increasing annual fee amounts to cover the administrative costs of these Short-Term Rentals.

2023 Budget – Kevin Johnson stated that a couple years ago the Town Board lowered his budget. Since that time, there have been increased ATV issues and enforcement issues with town ordinances. Every month he files reports for accountability to his hours. He requested that the budget be adjusted back to \$6,500. He noted that there is a lot of miles to cover within the town.

The Fire Department presented their budget to the Town Board. After adjustments, the final requested budget amount was \$113,600.

The board discussed the following changes to the presented budget:

- Room tax expenses to be changed to the same as room tax income at \$120,000 with a subtraction of \$10,000 for the library room
- Board Salary adjustment to be made for increase that was approved by electors (Chairman from \$8,000 to \$10,000 and Supervisors from \$4,000 to \$6,000 starting in April)
- Fire Department increase from \$100,000 to \$105,000
- Clerk expenses to include a new laptop computer at \$1,800 along with an adjustment to income for the Election Subgrant of \$600 for the purchase
- Garmisch Road improvements (LRIP income of \$320,000 and the same in expenses)
- Library increase from \$63,000 to \$64,115
- Ambulance subsidy changes pending requested budget

The board discussed the enforcement officer budget, and the Town Board agreed that they would consider an increase if there was compliance on completion of training. Also, there was a stipulation that the red lights need to be removed from the vehicle.

Adjustments will be made to the budget.

Next budget work meeting will be Monday, October 10th at 10am.

Town Board meeting, October 11th at 7:30pm

Town Board meeting, November 15th at 7:30pm

Public Budget Hearing with Special Town Board meeting following, Thursday, November 17th at 7pm

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk