

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday, January 10, 2023
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 7 others.

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 the December monthly meeting was presented. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to dispense the reading of the Town Board 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 #4820 through #4855. Town Financials are available to the public upon request to the Treasurer.

Comprehensive Planning Report – Supervisor Krueger stated that there was email communication for the Short-Term Rental, which is in compliance with the Comp Plan.

Library Report – None.

Town Board recommendation for Bayfield County Planning and Zoning for a Class A Special Use Permit for Hilltop Hideaway LLC, Agent Travis Walch for a Short Term Rental to the property located at 44600 County Highway D, Town of Namakagon – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the Short-Term Rental contingent upon stipulations and criteria. MOTION second by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Bayfield County Short Term Rental Ordinance – An input/response letter to Bayfield County for their Short-Term Rental Ordinance was reviewed. The Town Board approved the letter as presented.

Town Hall generators – Josh Rowley met with Supervisor McGregor at the Town Hall for installation of the generators. The estimated cost is \$5,000 for installations. The ARPA funds left is \$13,857.37. The Town Board agreed to move forward with installations.

Ordinance #21 Town of Namakagon Duties of the Town Enforcement Officer Ordinance – An updated ordinance was presented. The changes including a change in title to Community Services Officer and uniform and insignia requirements to identify him as such and the usage of yellow lights only. Supervisor Krueger mentioned concerns with the differences in titles and job duties in the multiple townships. Supervisor McGregor will meet with Kevin Johnson to discuss the possible changes.

Redevelopment of Transfer Site landfill well – Chairman Rasmussen stated that well #5 has failed at the Transfer Site, and it needs to be replaced. The town is waiting for a response from the DNR about the suggested new well site.

Review Correspondence

North End Ski Club Sponsorship – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to sponsor North End Ski Club with \$125 from room tax funds. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

It was noted that Joan Forcier had inquired with the Clerk about Sugar Bay Drive being used as an ATV/UTV outlet. The board will consider that if a petition is filed.

A Bayfield County Petition of their proposed zoning amendment was presented.

There are funds available through the county for bridge aid, and Birch Point Bridge is next on their list if it qualifies for the aid.

Public Comment

Andy Janson requested if the snowmobile trail could be cleared up to his driveway on Ehrman Road and then continue as is after his driveway. He asked about DOT regulations for clear roadway. Chairman Rasmussen stated that State Statute has minimum road width at 16'. Andy Janson stated he has had 8 incidents that were head-on with snowmobilers. He stated that there was a conflict with the trail on the road and the Public Nuisance Ordinance in considering the safety of the public. Chairman Rasmussen stated that he drove the road and the trail groomers did a good job with the grooming. Andy Janson stated that it's a route and not a trail, and it should be treated as passible roadway for vehicular driving. Supervisor McGregor stated that the road is passable with 2 vehicles. He measured Lake Five Road by his place and it is anywhere from 14 to 18 feet. There is also a lot of logging going on, and the road is fine. If more snow comes, it's going to get narrower. It is the way it is in the Northwoods. He drove the whole length of Ehrman road, and it's in good shape. Supervisor Krueger explained that there are narrow spots with the accumulation of snow, and drivers have to be careful. Andy Janson stated that the town is including the shoulder as passable roadway, and it is not. Chairman Rasmussen stated that the trail will remain as is.

Dave Hanks thanked the roadcrew for doing a great job moving snow and pushing snow back in this township. He also thanked them for clearing around mailboxes.

Dave Hanks stated that Kevin Johnson provides a vital service to the community including a lot of traffic control during events and emergency situations. Bayfield County Sherriff's Dept. has only three deputies on call for the whole county. Signage will help to identify who he is, and the town should make sure he is provided with what he needs.

Mary D'Andrea inquired about the generators. They are automatic generators. The Road Crew would service them. They automatically turn on for self-checks weekly.

They are also Wi-Fi connected. The batteries should be replaced every 2 years. The Town Hall is a warming center and having generators open up more grant opportunities.

Andy Janson stated that he is concerned that Ehrman Road is not being plowed as widely as it should be. The groomed trail encourages snowmobilers to break a town ordinance and WI snowmobile regulations. He is concerned that the town board is not taking the situation seriously. If the trail was removed, then the snowmobile traffic would go on both sides of the road. Supervisor Krueger noted that the town moved the trail further off the road last year to accommodate his requests. If traffic were to go on both sides of the road, then snowmobilers would be in front of his driveway, and that wouldn't be preferable. He stated that there are similar trails all over the county. Chairman Rasmussen ended the conversation.

Set date for the next Board meeting, Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 7:30pm
Plan Commission meeting, February 6, 2023 @ 7pm
Community Dinner, February 2, 2023 @ 6pm

MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to go into Closed Session at 8:40pm pursuant to S.19.85(1)(c) of the WI Statutes for considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the Governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The board will reconvene in open session to take necessary action as required and resume regular town business. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger at 8:41pm to reconvene in open session to take necessary action as required and resume regular town business. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk