

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Wednesday, May 14, 2024
At - NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL – 7:30pm
MINUTES

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Chairman Robert Rasmussen, Supervisors Jack McGregor and Jim Krueger, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and 6 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 March 20th work meeting and April monthly meeting were presented. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes from March 20th and the monthly April board meeting and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #5474 through #5516. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Comprehensive Planning Report – Supervisor Krueger stated that the commission went through about a quarter of the Comp Plan and will be continuing to get through the rest.

Library Report –The report will be posted on the website. In addition to the report submitted, Joann Schultz stated that Dave Popelka bought the small house that was up for bid. She requested that the board hold a town meeting of electors to approve a resolution to construct the expansion of the library facility. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to call a meeting of electors on June 11th at 7pm to approve the construction of the new library building. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Ambulance 2024 First Quarter Report – A first quarter report was presented by Laura Bjork and will be posted on the website.

Cell Tower – Chairman Rasmussen stated that Norvado is working with Verizon to connect to their tower and increase the height of the tower. The tower is owned by Norvado and they pay rent for the property to the Town of Namakagon. If Verizon hooks onto the tower, there will be more revenue for the town. The tower would be raised from 192’ to 300’ and would need to have a red light on the tower. The town board supported the improvements to the tower. Kathy Sill asked if the town is concerned with the transfer site being close to the tower and the radiation that comes from the tower. She stated that the red light would be a nuisance. She mentioned the quality of service not getting better because of the topography. Supervisor Krueger stated that a test of the area was done by a company out of Georgia on behalf of cell companies, and the result was that very few places had decent coverage. Kathy Sill stated that there are places that don’t have service, like the drive to Ashland. Chairman Rasmussen stated that the concern was the service in

our area, and it is needed. Kathy Sill stated that the town should consider putting several towers in the area due to the topography. Chairman Rasmussen stated that the town will wait on Norvado for more information.

Class “B”/”Class B” picnic license for Teal Lost Land Ghost Lakes Improvement Association Inc. for July 28, 2024 at Lakewoods Resort, 21540 County Hwy M, Town of Namakagon – Clerk Bjork reported that the state liquor license agent was contacted, and he advised that according to s. 125.06(10) of Wis. Statutes a raffle license covers this request; no picnic license is needed.

Town Hall Sign – tabled.

Bike Path – Supervisor Krueger stated that Jon Schubbe, Principle, Senior Planner & Ecologist from Schubbe Consulting, put together a plan for the town. The cost for the plan is \$11, 951. He suggested getting this part done this summer so that grants could be applied for and awarded for possibly 2025 or 2026. He would also help with the grant writing process. The expenditure for the plan would come from room tax funds. Supervisor Krueger will contact Grand View and inquire if they would be interested in participating. Birkie has already supported the project in hopes that there would be a connecting trail from Namakagon to Cable utilizing their trail system. The clerk and treasurer will search the budget to see if there are enough funds available for this project. The path would get people off County highway M. It would go down Namakagon Sunset to the town line and go down County Hwy M to Frels Road to the town line. Then it would go down the east side of Frels Road and down Dam Rd to Crystal Lake Road with the possibility of building a walking/biking bridge over the dam. If Grand View participates, the path could go all the way around the lake.

Update to Well Installation and Survey at Transfer Site – Chairman Rasmussen reported that another well was installed at the transfer site to meet DNR requirements. The town is in the process of completing a survey that covers all boundary lines. Nelson Surveying put together a proposal that includes 3 phases. The first phase is for preliminary field work and mapping. The second phase is for exterior staking, and the third phase would include ribboning the entire exterior boundary. The total project cost is \$6,300 to \$7,000. This was not in the budget, however, there was \$20,000 budgeted for the well installation, which is not used up entirely. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to proceed with Phase one and two as proposed by Nelson Surveying. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Future Development of Transfer Site – tabled.

Bid for Garmisch Road – The Town Board agreed to bid the project out and have the opening of the bids on the agenda at the June monthly meeting.

Fitness Path mosquito control – Blakeman Exterminating would charge \$350 to spray for mosquitos along the fitness path per application. The Town Board agreed to wait to see if it was necessary after the mosquitos show up.

Review Correspondence

Chequamegon Children's Theater – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to support the Chequamegon Children's Theatre with \$100 from room tax funds. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

The town was awarded the Bayfield County Community Wellness Grant of \$4,500 to install outdoor bathrooms near the fitness path.

The town was awarded the Recycle Grant of \$1,922.51.

The Short-Term rental that was not in compliance has cancelled all reservations and is selling the property.

A sign was put up on County Hwy D recently that is not in compliance with the Town of Namakagon Sign Ordinance. Bayfield County approved an off-premise sign for it. Supervisor Krueger will talk with the Bayfield County Zoning Representative McKenzie Slack.

Some residents were complaining about some properties that have a buildup of messes. Chairman Rasmussen has talked to both property owners, and they both have said that they will be working on cleaning up their property. The Town Board agreed to send letters to both owners in accordance with the town nuisance ordinance.

Supervisor Krueger stated that there was a complaint filed with Northland College about the flashing lights on the inspection buoys. The light was wrapped in red tape and is no longer flashing.

Public Comment

Kathy Sill gave information to the board for a contact for one of the residents that had the mess on their property.

Kathy Sill asked how much land is by the dump? Chairman Rasmussen stated that there is a lot of acreage out there. It was noted that there are a lot of requirements for the DNR to establish a new transfer site. Kathy Sill asked if it is a danger to have the transfer site in such proximity. She also mentioned the flashing light being a nuisance.

Set date for the next Board meeting, June 11, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Special Town Meeting, June 11, 2024 @ 7pm

Plan Commission meeting, June 3, 2024 @ 7pm

Board of Review, May 22, 2024 5pm to 7pm

Road Inspection – May 28th @ 8am

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk