

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING—Tuesday, July 9, 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 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 meetings were presented. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #5553 through #5601. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Comprehensive Planning Report – No Report.

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

MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to suspend the agenda and move to Bid Opening for a Mower Tractor. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Bid Opening for a Mower Tractor – Three bids were received as follows:

Northland Lawn & Sport, LLC: (John Deere); Tractor price \$197,574.11; attachments include 25' Boom Mower \$91,570.75, Mulching Head \$34,258.40, and Rear Flail \$24,795.74 for a total of \$348,199. Trade in would be \$41,500 for a total of \$306,699.

Lulich Implement, Inc.: (New Holland); two bids were given as follows:

1. Tractor price \$199,966; attachments include 25' Boom Mower \$112,166, Mulcher \$27,500, Rear Flail \$24,000 for a total of \$363,632. There are misc. costs of \$8,100, a trade in of \$55,000, a municipal discount of \$92,275 and a discount of \$5,500 for a total of \$218,957.
2. Tractor price: \$199,966; attachments include 23' Boom Mower \$103,106, Mulcher \$27,500, Rear Flail \$24,000 for a total of \$354,572. There are misc. costs of \$8,100, a trade in of \$55,000, a municipal discount of \$89,736 and a discount of \$5,500 for a total of \$212,436.

Baribeau Implement Co. Inc.: (Case); two bids were given as follows:

1. Tractor price \$135,000; attachments include Alamo Boom Mower \$163,500 for a total of \$298,500. Trade in would be \$35,000 for a total of \$263,500.
2. Tractor price \$135,000; attachments include Diamond Boom Mower \$115,000 for a total of \$250,000. Trade in would be \$35,000 for a total of \$215,000.

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16th @ 1pm to review bids with the Road Crew.

Great Divide Ambulance Report – Clerk Bjork explained that Great Divide Service has a total of 7 Full-Time employees. The service is running 24/7, first out of Hayward ER for transfers while still covering the service area. The employees are paid approximately \$15 per hr. and putting in extreme hours that is very taxing on each employee. The offered benefits include PTO;

however, the employees are having a struggle being able to justify taking their PTO because there is no one to cover them while they are gone. There is a huge amount of stress for the service, especially when trying to plan for long-term service to the communities. The service cannot continue to function in this capacity. The towns need to consider how to retain our ALS service, which would include offering competitive rates. Supervisor McGregor stated that there is an ad-hoc committee from Bayfield County that has been meeting and discussing ambulance service for the county. Supervisor Krueger stated that the service needs to present to the town a plan on how to make the service competitive. There was discussion on the importance of transfers and having ALS service in this area.

Chequamegon 100 Event by Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association, on August 3, 2024 – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the Chequamegon 100 Event by CAMBA on August 3rd. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Outdoor Bathrooms at the Town Hall – A floor plan was presented and discussed. The permits for the county were discussed and the board decided to apply for up to a 2,000-gallon tank. A prefab concrete building will cost approximately \$30,000. That cost is over budget, so the board will research stick building.

Local Withdrawal from County Zoning – At the last four towns meeting there was an interest from all four towns to withdraw from Bayfield County Zoning. There was confusion about a town drafting a letter to zoning informing them of the multiple town's intentions. Chairman Rasmussen stated that Ruth Hulstrom contacted him about the issue, and she stated that permits are being held due to surveys being completed; however, Chairman Rasmussen talked with Peter Nelson, and he informed him that the surveys were complete, and the wait was on the county. A resolution may be necessary to withdraw from the county. The board agreed to have this on the next agenda. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to proceed with the process of withdrawing from Bayfield County Zoning. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Town Hall Sign – An updated sign was presented, and changes were made.

Future Development of Transfer Site – Chairman Rasmussen stated that a survey is in the process. There is a distance requirement for the new transfer site from the old one. The survey is needed to proceed.

Survey at Transfer Site – Included in discussion of future development of transfer site.

Walking/Biking/Recreation Trail – Supervisor Krueger reported that he will be doing a walk through for a plan later this month with Jon Schubbe. He will also contact the Forest Service at that time. Grand View will be discussing the trail at their meetings.

Replacement of Tables at the Town Hall – Banquesttablespro.com has tables for \$423.50 with a weight of 62lbs. There is a minimum order of 5 tables. The board will inquire what tables Birkie is using.

Requested reduced tax rate on Re-assessed Land, tax ID 24016, placed into MFL in 2023 – Treasurer Skultety explained that Bryan Anderson placed 20 acres of property in MFL. He was able to get the change done via the assessor for 2024. The DNR had to be contacted for the change correction for 2023. There may be a refund on taxes paid, but not sure of that. The Town Board was not in favor of giving a refund. Tabled for more information.

Letter of support for the redesignation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to a National Park – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to support Congressman Tiffany with a letter of support for the re-designation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to a National Park. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Local Government Investment Pool Resolution – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the LGIP Resolution and have the local officials authorized to transfer funds to or from LGIP as Arlene Skultety, Town Treasurer, Laura Bjork, Town Clerk, Robert Rasmussen, Town Chairman and Jack McGregor, Town Supervisor. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Review Correspondence

- a. **Cable Natural History Museum if hosting a benefit.**
- b. **Cable Community Farm** – A letter of support was read. The Town Board agreed that the support was beyond the scope of the town.
- c. **Support for Rhythm & Books: Cable Area Music & Book Festival** – The Town Board agreed the library is sufficiently supported by the town currently.
- d. **Ashland/Bayfield Couty Unit Meeting Monday, July 22, 2024 @ 7pm at Pilsen Town Hall.**
- e. **WTA Annual Town Meeting will be held in Steven’s Point Oct 6th–8th.**
- f. **WTA Fall Workshop will be held at Lakewoods on Sept 11th.**

Public Comment

Sumner Madison, property owner on Burgandy Point, complimented the board for their community concern and mentioned that he would be contacting NPR news for a possible interview with Great Divide Ambulance Service.

Set date for the next Board meeting, Wednesday, August 14, 2024 @ 7:30pm – changed because of elections.

**Plan Commission meeting, August 5, 2024 @ 7pm
Elections August 13, 2024**

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk