

**TOWN OF NAMAKAGON**  
**For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Wednesday, August 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 8 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 monthly meeting and three work meetings (7/16, 7/29, 8/6) were presented. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes and approve them all as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #5602 through #5644. 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.

**Great Divide Ambulance Report** – No report.

**Outdoor Bathrooms at the Town Hall** – Chairman Rasmussen received a price of \$34,200 for an all-concrete building from Huffcut. The cost for materials from Cable Lumber would cost \$12,230.64 plus \$1,134.98 and \$2,750 for the tank, plus labor. There were also other buildings that Chairman Rasmussen looked into. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the purchase of the concrete outdoor bathroom. No second; motion failed. It was noted that there should have been an updated quote from Huffcut. Tabled for the updated quote.

**Local Withdrawal from County Zoning** – The Town Board will wait for a response from Bayfield County after they receive the letter from the 4 towns meeting advising them of researching alternative zoning options. It was noted that the recently approved changes in the Bayfield County STR Ordinance has no mention of the town within the ordinance.

**Firefighter Resolution** – Supervisor McGregor stated that there are 12 active firefighters. Training requirements and the time responding to calls is a big commitment. They get very little in return for the amount of time they put in. Some volunteers serving do not even live in the Town of Namakagon. He is requesting that the active firefighters get the same trash disposal benefits as our residents at the same rates that the residents pay. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve all volunteer firefighters for the Town of Namakagon Volunteer Fire Department receive the benefits of the Namakagon Transfer Site at the same rate as residents. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

**Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP)** – The requirements for this funding was discussed. It was noted that these projects for bridges or culverts must include associated pavement work in order to be eligible, which includes approach work. The grant is up to 90/10. There was discussion on the eligibility of the culvert project on Ghost Creek Road and if it would

be more beneficial than County Aid. There was discussion on possibly doing Dam Road with these funds. Tabled for more information.

**Wildfire Risk Reduction Funding** – The application process is open for this particular funding for 2025. The road crew has quite a bit to accomplish currently. The board will look into and see if a project would work for 2025.

**Town Hall Sign** – An updated sign was presented. The cost will be approximately \$1,980. The board requested the picture be similar to the original and not the newer version, otherwise everything else looked good.

**Future Development of Transfer Site** – Survey has been completed by Nelson Surveying. Tabled.

**Walking/Biking/Recreation Trail** – Supervisor Krueger contacted Mike Martin from the Forest Service and Dan Anderson from the Bayfield County Highway Dept. to advise them of the planning process. This will take at least two years for planning. Bayfield County Highway Dept. is getting pressure from the federal transportation alternative for walking/biking trails. There was some concern about having a trail off County Hwy M and a trail being close to the road as logging trucks haul on the road. A meeting was set for August 19<sup>th</sup> to look at the landscape of the proposed trail and come up with plan.

**Replacement of Tables at the Town Hall** – The board will look into the Birkie tables. Tabled.

**Replacement of a Culvert on Ghost Creek Road** – Bayfield County Bridge Aid was applied for to help with the cost of this project at a 50/50 cost share. The USFS was also doing some of the project. The board questioned if ARIP would be more beneficial as it is a 90/10 grant. Tabled for more information.

**Requested reduced tax rate on Re-assessed Land, tax ID 24016, placed into MFL in 2023** – Bryan Anderson had filed his property (tax ID 24016) into MFL in 2023. He was credited in 2024, but not 2023. It is the town's choice to reimburse the difference. If they reimburse the property owner, some of that would be reimbursed from the county, Drummond School District and Northwood Tech College from their portions of taxes. The amounts of reimbursement were not known at this time. This would need to be filed as a chargeback on the DOR website. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to send a reimbursement check to Bryan Anderson. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

**Fuel Pre-Buy** – Midland Services has a cost of \$1.38 for pre-buy. Chairman Rasmussen signed the agreement with Midland Services.

**Direct Deposit for Payroll** – The town has QuickBooks Accountant Desktop Plus 2023, which charges \$4 per employee direct deposit transaction and \$1.75 per vendor transaction. The cost for the program is \$900 for QuickBooks and \$850 for payroll yearly. If the town would upgrade to Desktop Enterprise, the cost for the program would be \$1,922 yearly and employee payroll direct deposit is included in the cost. They do charge \$1.75 per vendor transaction for direct deposit. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to update to Desktop Enterprise and offer direct deposit as of January 1, 2025. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

**Review Correspondence**

- a. **Bench in memory of Barb Best** – Tomi Backlund explained that a group of friends got together and would like to pool their monies together and put a bench by the Town Hall in memory of Barb Best. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the placement of a bench in memory of Barb Best at the Town Hall. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.
- b. **Cable Area Fall Fest** – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to sponsor Cable Area Fall Fest with \$300 to be taken from room tax funds. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.
- c. **Wake Boat Legislation** – Supervisor Krueger stated there are a lot of ordinances relating to wake boats being put together throughout the state. There are some consistencies with the ordinances, such as the depth of water and the distance from shore. The warden will not enforce the ordinances because there is no state law in place for this. Most of the people have their own patrols, which is costly. It was noted the town has not received any complaints to date.

### **Public Comment**

Tomi Backlund stated that the NLA annual meeting will be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1pm at Forest Lodge.

Mike D'Andrea requested to be placed on the agenda for next month for Walleye stocking in the lake. Currently there are 48,000 Walleye in the restocking ponds and another 3,000 in the recirculating tanks. The lake should get about half of that amount in the lake. The Walleye are being fed with pellets and minnows. People are catching fish with clipped fins which means they are surviving in the lake. Walleye stocking has been happening since 2018. Since then, 48,000 fish have been stocked in the lake.

Tomi Backlund asked about the amount of curly pond weeds in the lake this year. Supervisor Krueger stated that there was no snow covering the ice last winter and the water was low giving way to a longer growing season. The DNR considers curly pond weed not treatable as it is good fishing habitat.

**Set date for the next Board meeting, September 10, 2024 @ 7:30pm**

**Plan Commission meeting, September 9, 2024 @ 7pm**

**Community Dinner Thursday, September 5, 2024 @ 6pm**

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk