

**TOWN OF NAMAKAGON**  
**For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Wednesday, October 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 4 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 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 #5678 through #5707. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

**Comprehensive Planning Report** – No meeting.

**Library Report** – The library report will be posted on the website.

**Great Divide Ambulance Report** – The ambulance service submitted their subsidy request to the townships, which will not change from last year at \$190/parcel. The ambulance board will be offering a competitive wage and benefit package to employees to help the service become sustainable with more needed staff. The service needed to add \$370,000 from carryover funds and reserve funds in order to balance the budget. This was made possible by ending the 2023 year financially better than expected. The service will monitor these changes in 2025 and hopefully see a positive outcome from these changes.

**Approval for a Short-Term Rental for Randy Rouhoff located at 45020 Sugar Bay Drive, Town of Namakagon** – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve a Short-Term Rental permit for Randy Rouhoff located at 45020 Sugar Bay Drive, contingent upon compliance with the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

**Walleye Stocking** – Mary D’Andrea reported on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> 13 community members headed to Red Cliff and clipped about 5,000 extended length Walleye fingerlings. In 3 weeks, approximately 4,500 indoor raised fish will be clipped. All of these fish will be stocked, a total of \$9,500 this year. Thanks went out to the town and the Namakagon Lakes Association for their support. The Walleye project has stocked 49,500 extended length walleyes since 2018.

**Bayfield County Zoning** – Supervisor Krueger stated the letter from the township explaining the intent to research their own zoning was received by the county board. They read the letter at the County Board meeting. There was no response from zoning regarding the letter. Chairman Rasmussen stated Iron River called and had expressed interest in joining the exit from county zoning. The board suggested Iron River send a letter to the county to express their concerns. There was further discussion on the lack of communication between the county and the townships that continues and the frustrations of residents working with zoning on permits.

**Wildfire Risk Reduction Funding** – Supervisor McGregor reported that currently the road crew has been out addressing the funding that was approved for this year. He noted that there is work to do, but the road crew is not interested in pursuing the grant for next year. There was discussion on what roads to apply for clean-up. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to pursue the grant for 2025. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

**Future Development of Transfer Site** – The road crew needs to get into the transfer site and dig out the site with a rented excavator. The board agreed to meet with the DNR and work through some suggestions for a future site and go from there.

**Walking/Biking/Recreation Trail** – Supervisor Krueger stated that Jon Schubbe met with the Forest Service and gave them an overview of a trail. The next step is to get a grant for the planning portion of the project. The board will look into grants that are available.

**Replacement of Tables at the Town Hall** – Tabled.

**Norvado Land Lease** – Norvado is requesting an extended term to the current lease for Verizon to be interested in hooking into the tower. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the Lease Amendment as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

**Great Divide Ambulance Service Donation Letters** – The service was requesting the four townships to send out a donation letter with the taxes. The board agreed to send them out with taxes this year. They asked the ambulance service to consider doing a separate mailing next year.

MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to suspend the agenda and move to Review Correspondence. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

### **Review Correspondence**

**CAMBA Sponsorship** – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve a \$250 sponsorship to CAMBA with Room Tax funds. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Dianne and Glenn Grage will be resigning from flower planting in 2025. The board will work on getting replacements for the job.

Supervisor Krueger stated that the turn-around on Mill Road was eliminated by property owners. The options the town has is to have the road crew make a new turn-around or abandon the road. Supervisor McGregor stated statute mandates removal of snow and ice within 30 days on a town road, otherwise it becomes a liability. The board agreed to put together a letter to the property owners that informed them the town would have to consider abandoning the road due to the fact of no turnaround.

### **Public Comment**

JoAnn Schultz stated that the Quilting group would be willing to help stuff letters for the Fire Department donation letter on Wednesday.

**Set date for the next Board meeting, November 12, 2024 @ 7:30pm**

**Plan Commission meeting, November 4, 2024 @ 7pm**

**Community Dinner Thursday, November 7, 2024 @ 6pm**

**Election Day Tuesday, November 5, 2024 Polls Open 7am to 8pm**

**Public Budget Hearing, Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**Bayfield County Flu Clinic Thursday, October 17, 2024 10am to Noon**

**Budget 2025** – An updated budget was presented. The board made a few changes. There was discussion on raises and health benefits for the clerk. Tabled for more information. The board will get together on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to further discuss.

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk