

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING--Wednesday, December 10, 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 9 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 work meeting were 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 #5750 through #5811. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Comprehensive Planning Report – No report.

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

Great Divide Ambulance Report – Laura Bjork reported that the problems with the billing company have been rectified. Health Insurance has been implemented for employees as of January 1, 2025. The service was also able to tap into Income Insurance Benefits for the employees starting as of January 1, 2025, through the state. The hired Compliance Officer will start on December 15th. Hopefully the change will go smoothly. The current financials are on target for the estimated 2024 budget.

Cell Tower Estoppel Agreement – Guy Folsom, Norvado representative, explained that an agreement and MOL needed to be signed for the sale of the cell tower to K2 Towers III, LLC. The sale will increase the capability of other carriers to attach to the tower. This will increase the odds for Verizon to look at the site. If Verizon gets onto the tower, K2 Towers III, LLC would work directly with the town. In the original agreement if carriers are added onto the tower, the town would get 25% of the proceeds. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve the presented agreement and MOL (Memorandum of Lease). MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Cable Natural History Museum's vision regarding the future use of the Log Building – Emily Stone stated the museum would like to use the library building jointly for conference rooms, mainly when they have programs scheduled and there is bad weather. Janet Ziegler explained that she was caught off guard with the museum letter. The museum was involved from the beginning of the library expansion project, and it was agreed that the building would be primarily a library space. Recently the library board met with the museum board, and there was a commitment to work collaboratively for joint usage of the library. The library will have a written response to the museum explaining the vision of the library, but the intent of the last meeting was to work together. They are both looking to work collaboratively to meet the needs of the community. Supervisor Krueger stated that this situation is a bit confusing. The library has been working on the expansion project for years, and the museum never mentioned this previously. Emily Stone explained previous management would not allow for the conversations to happen,

but things have changed, and it now can be considered. A lawyer was involved, and the letter appears harsh, but the intent was to be professional. The museum would like to have open discussions with the library to discuss the situation. The museum gave their vision and now the library will counter with their vision, and then they will work together to make it a combined effort. The room sponsored by the Town of Namakagon was the reading room in the log cabin, so if things change, that might change as well. Emily Stone noted that the museum was told by the library if there are circulations in the building, the rooms couldn't be used for the requested purpose, therefore the museum asked them not to have book stacks in the building. Janet Zeigler explained that the library board meets tomorrow and will respond officially to the museum, and there will be meetings to follow, with the intent to work together. Emily Stone noted that the museum has no intent to jeopardize the grant funds for the expansion project.

Innovation Grant – The four towns discussed applying for an Innovation Grant at their last meeting. It was noted the grant is due by February. There was discussion on the process, and the first step is to apply for the consulting/engineering part of the project. Chairman Rasmussen will contact Dave Popelka to get updates.

Fuel contract – LP prices were presented from Bear Gas, Northern Lake Propane, Superior Fuel, Rusk County and Como, however the prices would not lower the cost to the town as Midland offers a rebate with their contract. The town will continue to contract with Midland.

Resolution to Abandon Mill Road – MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to approve Resolution 2024-05 to abandon Mill Road. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Resolution to Abandon Garmisch Landing – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve Resolution 2024-06 to abandon Garmisch Landing. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried.

Bayfield County Zoning – Sue Rosa stated the meet & greet session with the Zoning Code Rewrite team has been rescheduled to January 29th at 9am at the Cable Community Centre. There is a survey available online that she encouraged people to complete. Supervisor Krueger explained the re-write is a separate issue than the issues the towns are having with zoning. He stated that the county has not responded to the letter that was sent regarding the potential opt-out intentions. He suggests calling a Four Towns meeting to move forward. There was discussion on the need for an attorney to proceed. The town will research attorneys and attain costs for separation from county zoning.

Future Development of Transfer Site – The Transfer Site was cleaned up from the construction debris. Chairman Rasmussen will call the DNR to meet and discuss the area for future development.

Walking/Biking/Recreation Trail – Supervisor Krueger stated that there was a public input meeting that had been scheduled for yesterday but was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The meeting has been rescheduled to January 6th. There have been multiple meetings with the DNR, Forest Service and County Highway Dept. The Northwest Planning Commission was contacted as well. All of these entities are supportive of the trail. There is no set trail yet, only a proposal. The process is a five-year process to accomplish the project. The main goal is to get people off County Hwy M. The trail that is being considered is a crushed rock trail. There was discussion on the estimate for the engineering that has been done. The proposal that was approved will be paid

for this year, but there are additional meetings that are necessary, and that will be considered in 2025.

Chairman Rasmussen appointed Jim Krueger as Room Tax Commissioner for the term January through December 2025.

Chairman Rasmussen appointed Julia Campbell as Library Board Member for the Forest Lodge Library for a three-year term January 2025 through December 2027.

Review Correspondence –

Supervisor Krueger stated Clay Burditt was concerned with people parking on dead end roads (Bay Dr., Dodd Dr. and Chicago Ave.) as it causes problems while plowing. The town does not have an ordinance to address the issue.

Public Comment

John Sill requested copies of the lease amendments and agreements.

Mary D'Andrea voiced concerns about the contention with the log building that the library is currently using.

Set date for the next Board meeting, January 14, 2025 @ 7:30pm

Plan Commission meeting, January 6, 2025 @ 7pm

Community Dinner Thursday, January 2, 2025 @ 6pm

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk