

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday September 9, 2025
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 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.

MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes from July 15th and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes from July 29th and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor McGregor and carried. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes from Aug 11th and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #6076 through #6104. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Comprehensive Planning Report – Dave Hanks stated that the request to the county for reduced speeds on County Hwy M was denied because of lack of traffic.

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

Great Divide Ambulance Report – Jack McGregor reported that the remounted ambulance just arrived. Financials are on budget. For next year, the subsidies will stay the same at \$190/parcel. The service is still struggling with hiring a sufficient number of employees. When we get full staff, we take losses, so it's a constant challenge. Billing rates have been approved to increase as we are behind what other area services are charging.

Replacement of Fire Department Tender Truck – Dave Haan reported that adjustments were made to the truck specs and currently cost \$381,646. They have requested a downpayment of the Chassis, which is \$104,712, which can be taken from Fire Dept. savings. Using the amount of \$80,000 remaining in savings, the amount left to pay would be approximately \$196,000. MOTION made by Supervisor McGregor to purchase the tender truck, payment of Chassis this year and then the rest in following years. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger. There was discussion that if a loan is taken, payment wouldn't be made until 2027. It was noted there is \$165,000 in savings for the Fire Dept. currently with another \$20,000 to be added at the end of this year. MOTION carried. The board needs to consider an alarm system in the Fire Station to protect the contents. There were changes made to the compressor at the station.

Short Term Rental alarm system requirements – Dave Haan discussed responding to an emergency with no keyholder at the location. He asked about the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. The Fire Dept. has been given a list of rentals and contact information. Dave will check with dispatch to have them upload contact information to the property. The policy needs to be enacted. There is also the option of Knox Boxes. There was discussion on the penalty charges for false alarms.

Town Website – Supervisor McGregor stated that the website needs ADA compliance. The clerk will be looking into options. Tabled for more information.

Hiking/Biking Trail System – Supervisor Krueger stated that the town continues to work with the Forest Service. He suggested setting up a separate account for donations for the trail system starting the first of the year.

Transfer Site, new site for the future – Chairman Rasmussen stated that the town was working to raise the floor for compliance at the site with the DNR. This is finished and now the DNR needs to be contacted to move forward with prepping a new site.

Bayfield County Zoning – The county is improving communication. There haven't been any complaints recently. Supervisor McGregor mentioned this past month there was information about a town redistricting to a neighboring county, which would put the town under a different jurisdiction in zoning. This will be talked about at the upcoming four town's meeting.

Review Correspondence

Kathy Sill requested an aircraft detection lighting system for the cell tower. When an aircraft gets within 1,000' of the tower, it goes off. It wouldn't need to be lit 24/7. This will be pursued.

Dave Hanks stated that he needed to travel to County M for cell service when there was a fire at his place in the past. It is a safety issue for the tower to be raised for service. The detection lighting issue would be good. Kathy Sill stated that she was told that service would always be spotty because of the topography of the service area. Chairman Rasmussen noted that it will be an improvement for the town for the tower to be raised.

Public Comment

Tony Litwinchuk discussed the chip seal that was done by the county on County Hwy D. There is a buildup of gravel on the sides of the road and although the middle of the road was raised, the ruts are still there. There was a miscalculation of materials so County Hwy M will not be done. The white striping will not be done until next year so that the gravel will have time to set up. It was noted that the tar strips are now not noticeable.

2026 Budget –The town needs to consider raising money for the new Fire Truck and the new grader. Tabled for more information.

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

Plan Commission meeting, October 13, 2025 @ 7pm

Community Dinner, Thursday, October 2, 2025 @ 6pm

Four Towns Meeting, Wednesday, September 24th at the Grand View Town Hall @ 6pm

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk