

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday July 7, 2026
At – NAMAKAGON TOWN HALL– 7:00pm
MINUTES

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Chairman Robert Rasmussen, Supervisors James Krueger and David Hanks, Treasurer Arlene Skultety, Clerk Laura Bjork and 10 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 Hanks to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes (6/9, 6/15, 6/17) and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #6391 through #6417. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Road Report – Clay Burditt, Road Foreman, reported that the crusher will be here next week. The road work on Bear Point Road is progressing. Bayfield Electric will be here next week to work on Bear Point Road. The grinder will be here towards the end of the month and the paver after that.

Comprehensive Planning Report – Supervisor Krueger reported there was a joint meeting with the town in June for discussion on the Bayfield County Zoning Re-Write on Wetlands and Non-Metallic Mining. Input on the topics was submitted to the county.

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

Great Divide Ambulance Report – Supervisor Hanks reported that the service has been busy with 167 runs, of which 138 were transfers, in June. The service is split between Ashland and Hayward for their transfers. The service is working on getting the station a generator.

Ordinance 59-26 Winter Parking Ordinance –

SECTION I: TITLE AND PURPOSE

The title of this ordinance is the Town of Namakagon Winter Parking Ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to impose restrictions on town road right-of-way parking during the winter season for safety and the welfare of the residents of the Town of Namakagon.

SECTION II: AUTHORITY

The Town Board of the Town of Namakagon, Bayfield County, has the specific authority under s. 349.13, Wis. Stats., to adopt this ordinance.

SECTION III: ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

This ordinance, adopted by a majority of the Town Board on a roll call vote with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, imposes parking restrictions on any town road right-of-ways during the period of December 1st through April 15th.

SECTION IV: WINTER PARKING

During the period of December 1st through April 15th, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any town road right-of-way. Any vehicle found parked upon any town road right-of-way may be towed at the owner's expense if the Town Road Patrolman and/or Town Board Member shall deem necessary for the health and safety of the residents of the Town of Namakagon.

SECTION V: PENALTY PROVISIONS

The Town hereby elects to use the Citation Method for enforcement of this ordinance as described in detail in the Town of Namakagon Ordinance #44A Citation Ordinance.

Any person that fails to comply with any provision of this ordinance shall be warned one time. Any noncompliance going forward shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than one dollar (\$1.00) or more than two hundred dollars (\$200). The Town Board may also seek injunctive relief, when appropriate.

MOTION made to approve the presented Ordinance 59-26 by Supervisor Krueger. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

Future Development of New Transfer Site – The preliminary survey is done for the new site from Nelson Surveying. The DNR will be contacted to continue pursuing.

Office Remodel – Supervisor Hanks discussed the renovations for the office at the Town Hall for safety, more room and better efficiency. A cost estimate will be brought to the board next month.

Four Towns Meeting – Possible dates for a meeting could be Tuesday, September 15th or Thursday, September 17th.

Review Correspondence

Data Centers – Community information sessions for Data Center Impacts and Rural Communities will be held on Monday, July 27, 2026, from 6 to 8pm and Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 1:30 to 3:30pm at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, WI.

TAC Learning Sessions – The Town Advocacy Council is hosting listening sessions with town and village leaders to gather ideas for pursuing legislation. Supervisor Hanks and Krueger will attend a session.

The Children's Theatre sent a thank you for the town support.

Correspondence was received from Jerry Shea with a concern of speeding on County Highway D. There was discussion on county traffic counter/radar being deployed and possibly adding solar powered radar speed limit signs. The county will be contacted for their radar to be utilized, and traffic signs will be looked into.

Public Comment –

Tomi Backlund noted that flashing signs are irritating and distracting for the roads.

Kathy Sill asked if the town has to purchase land for a new transfer site and mentioned that the property with the cell tower could have been considered if it were not for the tower being on the property. Chairman Rasmussen responded that the town would need to purchase land, and the property with the cell tower does not meet the requirements for a new transfer site.

Kathy Sill asked if the town would ever consider allowing Data Centers in the town. She mentioned that the town might consider approving an ordinance that would not allow them. The Town Board agreed that the town is not preferable for Data Centers considering the rural setting.

Kathy Sill stated that if a flashing radar sign were purchased for County Highway D it would need to be in someone's yard. It doesn't prevent anyone from speeding.

Mary D'Andrea inquired about the status of the town researching Forest Lodge. Supervisor Hanks reported that there will be a meeting with the Cable Chamber to discuss opportunities for the town. Then we can discuss town involvement with the Forest Service to see the needs of the Forest Lodge. Mary D'Andrea stated that Hillary Markin (legislative affairs of the Forest Service) might be a helpful contact.

Jerome Malmquist mentioned a concern for Data Centers.

Tony Litwinchuk mentioned the courtesy codes are available from the Lake Association. It would be helpful if the Lake Monitors would hand them out.

Tony Litwinchuk stated he would be willing to help with the speed limit signs for County Highway D.

Cris Liebhauser, Secretary of the Snowmobile Club, stated that the Bayfield Snowmobile Alliance asked the Namakagon Trail Groomers to leave the Alliance. They are now working towards going out on their own. The contract for the county ends December 1, 2027, and things need to be lined up by then. There was discussion on insurance for equipment. It was noted that the club grooms over 120 miles. The Town Board was willing to help in the matter.

Dave Haan stated that he is working on updating the mutual aid agreement with Sawyer County and the mutual agreement with the four towns. These will need appropriate signatures when ready.

Dave Haan stated that he is looking into costs for a new fire station. The board encouraged him to continue pursuing an estimate. This will be on the agenda next month.

Set date for the next Board meeting, Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @ 7pm

Plan Commission meeting, August 3, 2026 @ 7pm

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk