

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday August 12, 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 11 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 Krueger to dispense the reading of the Town Board minutes (7/7) and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #6418 through #6448. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Road Report – Supervisor Krueger stated gravel is laid on Bear Point Road and will sit until September before blacktopping. Bayfield Electric is almost done with their part on Bear Point Road. Crushing is complete. There was discussion on the charge from Norvado regarding a line that was hit on Bear Point Road. Superior Concrete has been contacted for work needed on the Garden Lake Landing and putting a concrete table at the Dam.

Comprehensive Planning Report – Supervisor Krueger stated the Plan Commission recommended approval to the board for the re-zone as it is compliant with the Comp Plan. They also continued their discussion on the county zoning issues.

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

Great Divide Ambulance Report – Supervisor Hanks reported in July there were 179 runs; 132 transfers and 26 911 calls. There continues to be 3 full-time crews on staff 24/7. An update on vehicles was given. Mayo Hospital donated 22 infusion pumps for the service. Last week, the county voted down the county wide ambulance service. There might be discussions for collaboration in the future.

Town Board recommendation to Bayfield County Planning and Zoning for a Re-zone for Larry & Judith Hinz for a Re-zone from Residential-2 (R-2) to Residential-1 (R-1) located at 25245 Little Bass Road, Tax ID 23931, Town of Namakagon – Larry Hinz stated that he requested this re-zone so he can build on the property. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to recommend the rezone from R2 to R1 for Judy and Larry Hinz, because it is compliant with the Comp Plan. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

Fire Department Station – Dave Haan presented a floor plan of the Drummond Station as an example. He would like to add drive-through bays to the new station. The existing station would be demolished. The new building would be a bit longer and wider. The Road Crew could take care of the demolition and help prep. Equipment during the building phase could be temporarily put in the town garage and Pioneer Station. Clerk Bjork stated that there are two grants available for a Fire Station, the DEHCR CDBG – Public Facilities Program and the Non-State Grant Application through the Dept of Admin. It was noted that donations for a new station would be tax deductible. There was discussion on the possible need for an engineer. Fire Chief Dave Haan will look into a grant writer and building cost.

Dave Haan stated that the department is over the number of calls already compared to last year. There has been discussion with Grand View to make Namakagon first response to south Grand View; they only have one person responding. The Board agreed that would be appropriate.

Garden Lake Landing – Supervisor Hanks stated that there were 6 loads of aggregate already put in to repair the landing. There is a drop on the left side, and the water is extremely low. More rock will be put out there since we now have it from crushing.

Update on the Data Center meeting – Supervisor Krueger stated that a professor from UW led the meeting and gave good information. The presentation is available online. There is nothing in this area to allow for Data Centers. Kathy Sill stated Bayfield County Zoning is allowing online comments for 60 days to their zoning ordinance. She noted town ordinances could be created to include stipulations for Data Centers.

Speed Limit Signs on County Highway D – Bayfield County Highway Dept. sent prices for signs (permanent approx. \$4,000; towable \$7,000 to \$10,000). The cost of the signs would be up to the town. There is a resident willing to donate \$1,000 towards a sign, and there may be possibly more willing to donate. The board agreed to research grant money for signs.

Mobile I-LID Systems; Cameras for Landings (County D, Lakewoods and Funny's Bay) – The camera at Funny's Bay is not working due to wiring issues. The camera is outdated and rather than repairing, it was suggested to be replaced by Lake Shield. They also suggested changing all the cameras to get them all updated at a cost of \$33,000, including service fees. There was discussion on possible different types of cameras that are not so costly and ones that would be more appropriate for the landings. There was discussion on possible grant funds being available. Supervisor Krueger noted the cameras were purchased only 5 years ago. It was noted that the camera needs to be returned to the town if not operational. Jerome Malmquist stated that the recordings are not listened to at the landings, and the town would be wasting money. Sanitation stations will be more effective. Tabled for more information.

Un-abandon Mill Road – Mill Road was abandoned last year. It was too difficult to maintain with no turnaround at the end of the road and the residents did not want a turn around. Supervisor Krueger explained the property was sold, and the new owner wants it to be a town road. There are 3 owners on the road, and they would need a right-of-way easement if the town did not make it a road. The town needs a turnaround to maintain the road, and many trees would need to be cut. This is at the residents' request and hence would be at the cost of the resident. The town will look into the process.

Discontinue of Town Road 48 and part of Michigan Bay Road – Town Road 48 is over-grown, and Michigan Bay Road no longer goes in a loop according to existing maps. Changes need to be made. The board will meet to look at the roads and determine the next steps. Tabled.

Propane Fuel Contract – Various vendors were contacted for pricing information. The board agreed to continue with Midland as they were the cheapest considering their rebate and the cost to change.

Future Development of New Transfer Site – Clerk Bjork explained that Nelson Surveying completed their survey. The DNR had a list of requirements that was forwarded to Cedar Corp. An estimate was received for the work to be done of \$6,800. This work will enable the DNR to let the town know if the proposed site is feasible. There was discussion on talking with the landowner first before moving ahead. There was discussion on putting the cost in next year's budget.

Office Remodel – Supervisor Hanks presented pricing of materials at \$7,400 and labor estimated at \$3,500. There was discussion on the specifics of the remodel. Supervisor Hanks stated that he met with the Chamber who talked about making the Town Hall a satellite site for information for visitors. She offered fixtures for inside and outside the Town Hall. Funds for the remodel can come from the clerk expenses and room tax. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the re-model at a total cost of up to \$11,000. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

Four Towns Meeting – Tabled for a date.

Updated FYI Letter – A new format for the FYI letter was presented. It was noted that the Lake Association would like to include their courtesy code and the Fire Dept. would also like to include their letter.

Review Correspondence

Cable Fall Fest Sponsorship – MOTION made by Supervisor Hanks to approve support for the Cable Fall Fest at \$350. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Supervisor Krueger stated that there was a complaint about a log when entering into Garden Lake. The log was found with many prop marks on it and removed. It was noted with the low water levels, there might be other issues that arise.

Supervisor Krueger stated that there was a complaint about UTV's tearing up Lake Five area. This was from a Short-Term Rental. The town will send a letter to the owner of the Short-Term Rental to make them aware of the situation.

Public Comment

Mary D'Andrea inquired about winter parking ordinance. Signs will be installed that communicate additional parking at the Town Hall.

Mary D'Andrea inquired about the Community Center storage cabinets. They will be moved as part of the office remodel and accessible.

Tony Litwinchuk inquired about the Lake Assoc. Courtesy Code. There are plenty available at the Town Hall for Lake Monitors to hand out at the landings.

Tony Litwinchuk stated that wake boats are an issue, especially with the low water levels. Markers are no longer accurate as the levels are lower. If other lakes regulate them and refuse them on their lakes, they'll be coming here more often.

Tony Litwinchuk stated that the town has responsibility to the residents on County Hwy D as they pay taxes to the town. There is a lot of speeding even though 3 signs to slow down are already posted. The town needs to do something.

Kathy Sill stated there are similar issues on Garden Lake Road with speeding from ATVs.

Jerome Malmquist noted that if the town invests in more signs, will it make people slow down?

Supervisor Hanks stated that he and Laura met with the Chamber about Forest Lodge and discussed how the town can be involved. Expenditures were being channeled through Northland but currently is going through the Forest Service. There is a 5-member permanent board and Northland was one of them, creating an opening on the board. This will be forwarded to the next board meeting.

Set date for the next Board meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2026 @ 7pm

Plan Commission meeting, TBD

Namakagon Community Club, Thursday, September 3 @ 6pm

MOTION made by Supervisor Hanks to go into Closed Session at 9:04pm pursuant to S.19.85(1)(c) of the WI Statutes for considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the Governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The board will reconvene in open session to take necessary action as required and resume regular town business. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried. Brian Pierce was invited into closed session.

MOTION made by Supervisor Hanks at 9:13pm to reconvene in open session to take necessary action as required and resume regular town business. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 9:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk