

TOWN OF NAMAKAGON
For - TOWN BOARD MEETING–Tuesday September 8, 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 7 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 (8/12) and approve them as presented. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Skultety; checks approved and signed #6449 through #6467. Town Financials are available to the public upon request from the Treasurer.

Road Report – Blacktop is laid on Bear Point Road and Bay Drive. Early October, Northwoods Paving will be doing the shouldering. Signs have been ordered. Upcoming projects include Garden Lake Landing, clearing the pickleball courts and clearing roads on the Wildfire Grant.

Comprehensive Planning Report – Meeting will be 9/14 @ 7pm to discuss county zoning and variance.

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

Great Divide Ambulance Report – Supervisor Hanks reported they hosted a pancake breakfast on Monday which was well attended. They are averaging 6 runs per day with a total of 179 in July. Two-thirds are transfers, others are 911 calls. The board is looking at a budget increase for next year. Bayfield County voted down the county-wide service; they are now considering support going directly to the services within the county.

Town Board recommendation to Bayfield County Planning and Zoning for a Variance for Christopher and Karna Ruemmele, to request a lessor shoreland setback than required by Bayfield County Ordinance Sec. 13-1-22(a)(1), St. of WI Statutes 59.692(1n)(am) and NR115.05(1)(b)1, a lessor private road setback than required by Sec. 13-1-22(b)(2), and lessor wetland setback than required by Sec. 13-1-22(f) located at 44255 Eagle Point Dr., Tax ID 24574, Town of Namakagon – Christopher Ruemmele explained they are wanting to build a garage on the property, however there is a private road that goes through the property as well as wetlands. The garage will have a loft, used only for storage. A delineation report has been done. There are other garages on properties adjacent to them. MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to approve the variance with letter to zoning, because it is in compliance with the Land Use Plan and there are other similar garages on adjacent properties. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

Garden Lake Landing – Garden Lake Landing is now closed due to low water levels and problems with the landing. The cost for repairs will be \$17,700. MOTION made by Supervisor Hanks to approve the repairs to be done this year. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Krueger and carried.

Town Hall Office Remodel and Tables/Racks – The need for tables was discussed. Some different types of tables/racks were presented. Both the remodel and tables/racks will be added into the 2027 budget.

Raising the Height of the Dam – Chris Ann Best requested the board to consider the fact due to the low water levels on Lake Namakagon. Supervisor Krueger mentioned that the request would go to the DNR, however, the Park Service and Core of Engineers will also need to be involved. It was noted the domino effect that will occur due to a change. Chris Ann will pursue a petition and then will discuss moving forward.

Fire Department Station – Tabled.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Program – The proposal was to apply for Circle Drive N & S and McCloud Lake Road (a total of 5.21 miles) with a max of \$11,000 for reimbursement. The board agreed to pursue the application.

Speed Limit Signs on County Highway D – A traffic counter was put up by the county and currently are waiting to hear back from them. The board thanked Bayfield County Sheriff's Dept for their effective presence on County Hwy D as of late. Tony Litwinchuk noted that he hadn't seen a camera. There will be follow-up with the county.

Mobile I-LID Systems; Cameras for Landings (County D, Lakewoods and Funny's Bay) – The Lake Assoc has applied for a grant for the Funny's Bay landing camera that is currently broken. The other cameras are currently working, so they will continue to be used. Tabled for more info on the grant.

Un-abandon Mill Road – Supervisor Krueger stated that both owners have agreed to create a turn-around for town trucks to allow the road to be established. It was noted that the town would be responsible for the cost of the turn-around, but funding for the establishment of the road would be on the requestor. The town will work on the process to allow for this to be addressed at the April public elector meeting.

Discontinue of Town Road 48 and part of Michigan Bay Road – The board will continue to pursue this to be addressed at the April public elector meeting.

Future Development of New Transfer Site – Chairman Rasmussen stated that the landowners adjacent to the transfer site would be interested in a land exchange so the town could continue pursuing another site for the future. The next step would be to have a surveyor mark possible areas for the exchange.

Town Involvement in Forest Lodge – Supervisor Hanks stated that he had a tour of the property and the property has lots of opportunity. It's a unique and historical property. There is a need for maintenance. This is a huge part of the heritage and history of the Town of Namakagon. The board of Forest Lodge has five positions, and one is open. It would be in the town's best interest to have representation on that board. It's a huge resource that could be utilized. There is a budget that is designated for property maintenance within Forest Lodge. There could be a host out there. The board agreed to pursue being a part of the Forest Lodge board. It was noted that there is a need for property management, which the Chamber has mentioned the possibility of creating a "Friends of the Forest Lodge" group for management purposes.

Review Correspondence

CAMBA Support – MOTION made by Supervisor Krueger to support CAMBA with \$250. MOTION seconded by Supervisor Hanks and carried.

Public Comment

None.

2027 Budget – A drafted 2027 budget was presented. The board made some updates and will reconsider at a meeting on September 17th @ 9am.

Set date for the next Board meeting, Tuesday, October 13, 2026 @ 7pm

Plan Commission meeting, Monday, September 14, 2026 @ 7pm

Plan Commission meeting, Monday, October 5, 2026 @ 7pm

Community Dinner, Thursday, October 1, 2026 @ 6pm

Four Town's Meeting, Tuesday, September 15, 2026 in Drummond

Chairman Rasmussen adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura Bjork, Town of Namakagon Clerk