

Town of Tofte 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

NOT APPROVED UNTIL THE MARCH 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yeas.

Clerk Barb Gervais called the 2018 Tofte annual meeting to order on 8:03 p.m. on March 13, 2018, at the Birch Grove Community Center. All attendees were asked to sign in.

Clerk Barb Gervais called for nominations for the meeting moderator. Craig Horak nominated Greg Fangel. Sam Crowley seconds. Clerk called for any other nominations, with no response, called for a vote to appoint Greg Fangel as the meeting moderator.

Moderator Greg Fangel asked those in attendance to stand for Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2017 Annual Meeting minutes – Craig Horak motioned to dispense the reading of the 2017 annual meeting minutes. Liz Wagner seconds. Diane Blanchette motioned to approve the 2017 annual meeting as presented by the Clerk. Rich Nelson seconds.

Clerk's Financial/Board of Audit Report: Clerk Barb Gervais made a copy of the 2018 Board of Audit for the 2017 financials for everyone in attendance. Liz Wagner asked a question on CD's value on 1/1/17 vs. 12/31/17. Craig Horak explained each year in the budget funds designated to specific CDS. Craig Horak motioned to dispense reading the Board of Audit report. Diane Blanchette seconds. Diane Blanchette motioned to approve the 2018 Board of Audit Report. Sarah Somnis seconds. The approved Board of Audit report for 2017 Financials for the Town of Tofte showed the following balances on 01/01/2017; General Checking \$102,444.49, Savings #1 \$30,020.86, Savings #2 \$47,111.14, Lodging Tax Acct \$0, Town Road Acct \$7,236.72, Community Center Lease Account \$10,071.75, Senior Dining Account \$0, IRRRB Funds Acct \$46,711.97, CD's investments total \$177,287.37 which totaled for all funds \$420,884.30. The Board of Audit report showing the following balances on 12/31/17 General checking \$144,747.82, Savings #1 \$45,338.53, Savings #2 \$70,690.97, Lodging Tax Acct \$0, Town Road Account \$8,123.65, Community Center Lease Account \$944.04, Senior Dining Account \$3,948.43, IRRRB Funds Account \$0, CDs Cemetery fund \$18,477.61, Land Use Plan \$1,047.04, Connect Water and Sewer \$30,762.11, Park fund \$31,552.62, Fire Truck Fund \$100,050.70, Rescue Truck Fund \$18,330.89, and Community Center Building Fund \$60,693.73 which totals \$260,914.70 for all CDS. The total funds balance on 12/31/2017 was \$534,708.14. Outstanding debt 01/01/2017 was bond on the purchase of 29 acres \$64,397.04, Cook County 0% Loan \$5225 Temporary Abatement bond \$60,000.00 for a total debt on 01/01/17 \$129,622.04. Only outstanding debt on 12/31/2017 is bond for the purchase of 29 acres bond \$49,553.07.

Community Center: Craig Horak gave report on the community center ice rink; warm weather has melting most of the ice. Trevor Huggins and the Town of Tofte worked a deal for his using the kitchen to bake his bread and Trevor will bring back Wednesday Pizza night. Pete Knudsen started on this Monday to as PT janitor. Craig said he is working out well. Jeanne Larson mentioned the shortfall in the budget. There was a discussion on lease rates. Craig Horak said the town requested \$7000 from each Lutsen and Schroeder Townships to cover the shortfall. Randy Voeks mentioned more programming at the community center.

Housing Report – Craig Horak said the article in the Cook County News Herald was confusing. He said that the township was not going to be a landlord or manager of the housing. The town would either lease or sell the land. Craig Horak said there a lot of resources available to build. Randy Voeks asked about the EDA. Craig Horak explained the Cook County EDA would match \$5000 to the Towns' \$5000 do another two conceptual plans to see if housing project is feasible. IRRRB would be willing to work with Tofte in future.

Fire: Chief Rich Nelson said was a fairly quiet year; 22 calls; 3 mutual aid calls with Lutsen/Schroeder. Two new members joined the Fire Department, Jana Sanders and AJ Soderholm. Last summer had training on the burn trailer. Continue to look for new people.

Rescue: Chief Kim Jahnke reported Lester Smith retired in 2017. Jana Sanders joined the rescue squad in 2017. Rescue responded to 41 calls in 2017. Looking to purchase a new life pad. Looking at grants because they are expensive. Life Flight doing training on the May Days training; classroom and mock scene. May Day will be May 5. Liz Wagner how many car accidents; Kim said 5. Kim said they responded to 10 calls in Schroeder.

Tofte Town Board – Sarah Somnis said things seem to be going well. The following are needed: TSSSD board member to replace Jim King, deputy clerk, treasurer, and event coordinator for July 4th.

MaryJane Huggins, Lead Election Judge, brought the election results and handed to Clerk Barb Gervais who handed to the moderator Greg Fangel to read. Here are the results:

Supervisor for 3-year term – Sam Crowley 20 votes Bill Huggins – 1 vote

Clerk for 2-year term – Barb Gervais 20 votes

Treasurer for 1-year term remainder of a 2-year term- Greg Vetter 1 vote, Felicia Nelson – 2 votes, Jessa Frost – 1 vote, Michele Blanck – 1 vote, Nancy Iverson -2 votes, Lisa Nelson – 1 vote.

WECONNECT report – Randy Voeks asked to be put the agenda. Randy Voeks said WECONNECT is going to reinvent its purpose. Listening meeting moved to April which will be a discussion on identify what needs that Lutsen, Schroeder, and Tofte Townships have.

Ginny Storlie, County Commissioner, gave update including she attended the meeting in Washington DC. There are 3069 counties in the United States. She did attend the meeting in St. Paul which had representatives from the 87 Minnesota counties. Ginny Storlie she is going to file another term as county commissioner. Ginny gave updates on what is going on at Cook County, i.e. updates on highway department, law enforcement, and budget.

Clerk Barb Gervais projected a spreadsheet showing the 2018 levy, actual 2017 expenses, proposed 2019 budget which was worked on at the February 22 budget workshop meeting. General Admin recommended budget was \$75,650. Liz Wagner asked why \$0 for the connect/water sewer line. Craig Horak explained the water was hooked up; TSSSD voted to pay for the sewer for the fire/town halls. Sarah Somnis motioned to approve the general admin budget at \$75,650. Sam Crowley seconds the motion. Fire Department recommended budget was \$32,000. Sam Crowley motions to approve the Fire Dept. budget at \$32,000. Diane Blanchette seconds the motion. Rescue budget was recommended to be set at \$10,000. Sarah Somnis motioned to approve the Rescue budget at \$10,000. Craig Horak seconds the motion. Cemetery/Park/Rec budget was recommended to be set at \$11,000. Sam Crowley motioned to set the Cemetery/Park/Rec at \$11,000. Rich Nelson seconds the motion. Donations; Sugarbush Trail requested \$1500 and Lutsen Junior Alpine Ski Team requested \$1,000 for a total of \$2500 in donations. Donations of approve to Sugarbush Trail of \$1500.00 to Lutsen Junior Alpine Ski Team of \$1,000 for a total \$2500.00 by a motion by Diane Blanchette. Kim Jahnke seconds the motion. Road & Bridge budget was recommended to be set at \$8500. Kim Jahnke motioned to set the Road & Bridge budget at \$8500. Sarah Somnis seconds the motion. Birch Grove Community Center budget was recommended to be set at \$80,000. Sarah Somnis motioned to set the Birch Grove Community Center budget at \$80,000. Diane Blanchette seconds the motion. Capital outlays which include the Rescue capital fund \$10,000, Township capital projects (park pavilion) at \$20,000, housing at \$5,000, and payment of the GO bond \$16,972 totaling \$51,972. Diane Blanchette motioned to approve the Capital outlays budget at \$51,972. Kim Jahnke seconds. Recommended 2019 budget expenses \$271,662. Less the revenue \$87,500 (community center income of \$54,600, cell tower land lease income of \$6400, town aid \$7000, Fed PILT \$10,000, Taconite Production tax \$7500, and State PILT \$2000) equals recommended 2019 budget of \$184,122.

Rich Nelson motioned to 2019 Annual meeting set on second Tuesday of March 2019 at the Birch Grove Community Center. Diane Blanchette seconds the motion.

Diane Blanchette motions to convene this annual meeting at 9:06 p.m. until second Thursday of August 2019 at 7 p.m. Kim Jahnke seconds the motion.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk