

Tofte Town Board Meeting Minutes January 12, 2017

Present: Supervisors Jeanne Larson, Sarah Somnis and Craig Horak, Treasurer Nancy Iverson, Clerk Barb Gervais, Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke, County Commissioner Ginny Storlie, Jerry Gervais and Shelley from the Cook County News Herald.

Chair Jeanne Larson called the board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Clerk Barb Gervais presented the Supervisors with a tentative agenda for tonight's meeting. Supervisor Sarah Somnis approved the agenda as presented. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded.

Clerk's report: Clerk Barb Gervais had sent the Supervisors the minutes for the December 8 monthly meeting prior to tonight's meeting for their review. Supervisor Jeanne Larson had sent the Clerk a couple of minor corrections ahead of this meeting. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais prepared a list of year end forms/reports that need to be filed for the Township by the Clerk (see attached). Clerk Barb Gervais noted the March election filing period ends on Tuesday January 17 at 5 p.m. By State Law, the Clerk needs to have the town hall open for filing on the last day January 17 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Nancy Iverson gave the attached report. Nancy noticed an error on her report when reading it at the meeting. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to approve the report with the correction. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded.

Claims, Payroll, and Transfers: Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with claims totaling \$19,006.12 for approval for payment. The lodging tax revenue check has not been received from the County as yet; expected to arrive next week. Clerk noted when check is received the check to pay out 96% of the funds received to the LTTA would be issued. Supervisor Jeanne Larson asked to review the claim forms and invoices for the payment for semi-annual General Obligation bond payment to Grand Marais State Bank and Cooter's Auto. She reviewed the two claim forms and invoices. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve payment of claims as presented by the Clerk. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with payroll this evening totaling \$1275.00. After review of the payroll, Supervisor Sarah Somnis asked Supervisor Jeanne Larson about charging for an hour as the housing project manager in December. Supervisor Jeanne Larson said she was notifying the project team that she was no longer project manager and wrapping her work as former project manager. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve payment of the payroll as presented. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

The Clerk suggested the following transfers of funds to transact tonight's business: 1. Transfer 96% of the lodging tax revenue when received from the County from the lodging tax account to general checking, 2. Transfer 4% of the lodging tax revenue when received from the County from the lodging tax account to savings account #2, 3. Transfer \$5400.00 from the community center lease account to general checking. With no questions, Supervisor Sarah Somnis motions to approve the transfers as recommended by the Clerk. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

Fire Department report: Chief Rich Nelson was not able to attend this meeting. Kim Jahnke reported one false alarm at Aspenwood. On December 30th 911 went down, Kim was at the hall for back up.

Rescue Squad report: Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke reported 3 calls last month. Kim reported that the new "used" rescue truck got new tires; compliments of Tire & Auto Lodge at cost.

County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Ginny Storlie reported that the January County board meeting was a reorganization meeting. This year brings one new commissioner Myron Bursheim who replaced Gary Gamble. Jan Sivertson was voted chair, Heidi Doo Kirk was voted vice chair. Commissioner Frank Moe resigned; but can't have election to replace him until June. The commissioners will hold ½ day strategizing meeting. DNR will be submitting for \$900,000 (TAP funds) tomorrow for the Gitchi Gami Trail. The trail through Tofte will be done in segments. The first segment will probably be from the Coho to where the trail starts on east end of Tofte. Tofte and Lutsen have seen increased traffic on the Gitchi Gami Trail this past year. Supervisor Jeanne Larson asked about the land exchange on the 60 acres. Commissioner Ginny Storlie hopes that the federal government signed off before the new administration comes in.

Citizen's comments: Jerry Gervais talked about senior lunch. Cook County will be cutting by a large amount west end subsidizes in 2017. Jerry said Commissioner Ginny Storlie talked at the lunch yesterday; said he was surprised she say anything about it at this meeting.

Old/New Business

Housing:

Hiring a project manager – One Roof Housing representatives is coming to Grand Marais for the January 24 County Board meeting. Supervisor Craig Horak will meet with EDA board members Howard Hedstrom, Scott Harrison and Mary Somnis EDA Director on January 23 before the meeting with One Roof Housing. Supervisor Craig Horak and Mary Somnis, EDA Director, will meet with One Roof Housing representatives on January 24. Mary Somnis suggested not hiring a project manager until the meeting with One Roof Housing. There was a discussion on whether to continue to pursue housing authority in this legislative session. The Town Board will wait to make this decision until after the meeting with One Roof Housing.

Birch Grove Community Center:

Billboard Lease offer from Dennis Rysdahl – Dennis Rysdahl offered to pay the present amount through the end of 2017, which I believe is \$7,647 per year. Alternatively, we would be willing to commit to the boards for two years, 2017 and 2018 at the cost of \$5,000 per year. Supervisor Craig Horak did some checking on pricing of billboards in the area and availability. Supervisor Craig Horak recommended the board accept Dennis Rysdahl's offer. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to accept Dennis Rysdahl's offer for the both sides of the billboard from 2017 and 2018 at \$5000 a year for both sides contingent on his payment of July – December 2016 at the former lease rate. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded. Clerk Barbara Gervais had prepared two copies of a lease for both sides of the billboard at \$5000 year for 2017 and 2018. The board asked her to prepare a lease for July through December 2016 at the former lease rate.

Maintenance report – Joel Bonin couldn't attend tonight's meeting to give a maintenance report.

Amend Resolution #15-2016 GMSB – Clerk Barb Gervais forgot to add the Susan Meyer, Deputy Clerk, on the Resolution #15-2016 which was adopted at the December 2016 meeting. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to amend the Resolution #15-2016 by adding Susan Meyer to the names of authorized exercise all powers and all transactions (see attached). Supervisor Craig Horak seconded.

Women in Leadership Conference: Supervisor Sarah Somnis asked the town board if they would share ½ the cost of her attending the conference of \$250; her employer will pay for the other ½. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve reimbursing \$125 to Supervisor Sarah Somnis for attending the Women in Leadership Conference. Supervisor Jeanne Larson seconded. Supervisor Sarah Somnis abstained from voting.

Task Force Meeting report: Bill Hansen facilitated the Task Force Meeting on Monday, January 9, at the Birch Grove Community Center. The meeting had approximately 25 people in attendance. Supervisor Sarah Somnis reported it was a pretty positive meeting and is waiting to hear from Bill Hansen when the next meeting is scheduled. The task force will be made up several people from Lutsen, Supervisor Sarah Somnis Jim King, and a couple of others. Supervisor Sarah Somnis suggested if people had questions, suggestions or concerns contact Bill Hansen.

Request for contributions/donations for 2018: Clerk Barb Gervais sent emails to all the requested contributions/donations in 2017 reminded them their request for funding in 2018 is due by February 1, 2017 so it can be reviewed before the March 14, 2017, annual meeting.

Parliamentary rules of conducting a meeting: Supervisor Jeanne Larson asked Supervisors Sarah Somnis and Craig Horak to review this report. They said they did.

Mail received: 2015 Arrowhead Capital Credit Allocation Credit for Town: 2015 capital credit allocation \$1,158.08, Unretired prior years \$3,489.45, Total Unretired \$4,647.53 and a letter from MPCA regarding proposed amendments to Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7050 and 7052.

Any other business: The Clerk was asked to add WE CONNECT's request for additional \$250 for senior lunch in 2017 to the next agenda.

With no other business, Supervisor Craig Horak motions to adjourn this meeting at 8:23 p.m. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk