

Tofte Town Board Meeting Minutes July 13, 2017

Present: Supervisors Sarah Somnis, Craig Horak and Sam Crowley, Treasurer Nancy Iverson, Clerk Barb Gervais, Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke, County Commissioner Ginny Storlie, Judy Motenschbacher, Lutsen Supervisor Rae Piepho, Gary and Marsha Hansen, Jim King, Steve Michaud, Lynda Schauland, Jerry Gervais and Diane Blanchette, Birch Grove Community School Director.

Chair Sarah Somnis 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 Craig Horak approved the agenda as presented by the Clerk. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Clerk's report: Clerk Barb Gervais had sent the Supervisors the minutes for the June 8 monthly meeting and the June 28 special meeting prior to tonight's meeting for their review. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the June 8 as well as the June 28 minutes as presented. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Nancy Iverson gave the attached report.

Claims, Payroll, and Transfers: Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with claims totaling \$100,946.30 for approval for payment. The lodging tax check has not been received; when it is received a claim, and check payable to the LTTA will be issued for 96% of the amount of the check. Supervisor Sarah Somnis asked to review the claim forms and invoices from Minnesota Department of Revenue payroll taxes and ESC Systems. She reviewed the two claim forms and invoices. Payoff of the abatement bond was on tonight's claims; Clerk Barb Gervais contacted the Grand Marais State Bank for the payoff figure. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the payoff of the abatement bond with Grand Marais State Bank. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais presented to the board an updated Resolution #6-2017 to change the Birch Grove Community Education to Birch Grove Community Services. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to adopt the updated Resolution#6-2017. The revised check was in tonight's claims. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais also presented Resolution #7-2017 to the board for the donation to Junior Lutsen Alpine Ski Team. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to adopt Resolution #7-2017. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Chair Supervisor Sarah Somnis signed the contract for services for \$1000 donation to the Junior Lutsen Alpine Ski Team. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve payment of claims as presented by the Clerk including the issuance of the LTTA check when the lodging tax is received from the County. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with payroll this evening totaling \$2450.00. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve payment of the payroll as presented. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais asked the board to give authorization for her to set up for auto pay on the TrueNorth Broadband invoice each month of \$69.99. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the set up of auto pay for TrueNorth Broadband monthly payment. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

The Clerk suggested the following transfers of funds to transact tonight's business: 1. Transfer 96% from the lodging tax account to general checking when the lodging tax check is received, 2. Transfer 4% from the lodging tax account to savings account #2 when the lodging tax check is received, 3. Transfer \$2000.00 from the community center lease account to general checking. With no questions, Supervisor Craig Horak motions to approve the transfers as recommended by the Clerk. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconds.

Jim King asked the question about who was on the Birch Grove Community Services board. Supervisor Craig Horak said each township is appointing one representative to on the board. Currently Sara Silence and Jessica Klemmer are on the board. Steve Michaud asked Chair Supervisor Sarah Somnis did the attorney give the township okay to donate the \$20,000 to Birch Grove Community Services. Steve said he cares about the oversight of his tax dollars. The supervisors said to wait until citizen's comments to have this discussion. Supervisor Craig Horak told Steve Michaud he has had several conversations with the Minnesota Board of Education regarding the change from Community Education to Community Services and he feels comfortable approving the appropriation.

Fire Department report: Chief Rich Nelson was unable to attend this meeting.

Rescue Squad report: Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke reported the Rescue Squad had five (5) calls in June. Kim Jahnke presented a check from Janet Nelson for donation for general use of the Tofte rescue squad. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to adopt #10-2017 to accept the \$100 donation from Janet Nelson for general use of the Tofte Rescue Squad. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais will type up the Resolution form and have the supervisors sign.

County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Ginny Storlie reported the Board of Commissioners accepted David Betts, Cook County Highway Engineer, resignation. The County has formed a committee to search for David's replacement. Diane Booth came before the County Board, with a request to make the 25 year old Cook County Community Center building more efficient. Study was approved at a cost of \$14,000. LEC is also looking at changing their building; bottom line is changing the building going to save money. County Attorney Molly Hicken is working on the courthouse security as the County received grant money for this. Cook County has now e-permits for Highway Dept and Land Services Dept.

Citizen's comments: Lutsen Supervisor Rae Piepho asked the about community services having their own board. Rae Piepho, Lutsen Supervisor, said Colleen Brennan who is active in the community volunteered to be on the board. When asked the question when and how often will the board meet, the answer was every month/every other month depending on whether the board needs to meet.

Old/New Business

Housing: Clerk Barb Gervais closed out the two (2) IRRRB grants for the housing project. Supervisor Craig Horak talked to the IRRRB, if the housing project re-starts in the future the IRRRB will support it with grants. Cliff from One Roof Housing is getting some numbers for apartments to be built in Tofte. Dynamic Homes is still looking for a buyer for Tofte's patio homes.

Birch Grove Community Center: Supervisor Craig Horak had working with the numbers expenses vs. income for the community center building. Birch Grove Community School is asking to go back to \$8.50 per sq. foot. Last year was \$10.50/sq ft. The leases for the Birch Grove Community School and Birch Grove preschool expired on 06/30/17. Supervisor Craig Horak asked Diane Blanchette if he wanted to see if he could make \$8.50 work; she said yes. Supervisor Craig Horak motions to table the leases for the Birch Grove Community School and Birch Grove preschool until the August 2017 meeting. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Barb Merritt is now a town employee. Senior Lunch will be continuing under the Township. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned for Clerk Barb Gervais to open a separate account at the Grand Marais State Bank for senior lunch funds. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Marsha Hansen asked about what was Community Services; Diane explained that they needed to change the name from Community Education to Community Services. Jim King asked if the Community Services has a separate bank account; Diane Blanchette said they have a separate fund. Jim King also asked about the promotion and development of programs at Birch Grove Community Center. Diane Blanchette said the Community Services will cover the CSA effective on 8/1/17. WECONNECT offered to sell their assets including the 10 newer picnic tables and the internet stations including tables, chairs and routers for \$1500; they will throw in the upright freezer in the kitchen. Supervisor Craig Horak motions to purchase the 10 newer picnic tables and the internet stations for \$1500 from WECONNECT. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. WECONNECT will keep the exercise equipment for one year to let the program continue. Clerk Barb Gervais was asked to check on the town's liability for the exercise program. General building update: Supervisor Sam Crowley replaced the sewer pump on the east mound. Three birch trees that we dead by pavilion were taken down.

TSSSD: Supervisor Craig Horak is going to attend the July 18 meeting of the TSSSD. Clerk Barb Gervais was asked to put on the August agenda.

July 4th celebration: Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to adopt Resolution #8-2017 to accept funding of \$1500 from Schroeder Township towards the cost of the July 4th fireworks. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Supervisor Sam Crowley motioned to adopt Resolution #9-2017 to accept the \$1600 donation from Tofte Management to be used for the cost of the Fire Relief Association liquor liability policy, lodging for the fireworks crew and the remaining funds for general use of the July 4th celebration costs. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais put a thank you ad in this week's Cook County News Herald for July 4th. Clerk Barb Gervais will send thank you letters to the American Legion, Cook County Sheriff Department, Dennis & Jolita Rysdahl, Grand Marais State Bank, Minnesota Power, Lutsen Township and Schroeder Township.

Update on bill allowing donations to local historical societies: Update from Steve Fenske, MAT attorney: The bill did not get passed. I believe it moved along the process early in the session, but it was not included after the conference committees met. It was not that the members voted it down – it just wasn't important enough to them to include in the omnibus bills. While that is unfortunate for your area right now, it's really good that they have not voted it down. It stays alive for next session.

Park Update: A hole in the walking path needs to be repaired. Clerk Barb Gervais about the rock restoration in the park this year or next year. The Town Board suggested next year as we didn't get any grant money this year. Jerry Gervais said a couple of cables broke by the dock. He suggested the town board look at it. Supervisor Craig Horak asked the clerk to issue a not cost receipt to Jerry Gervais for his work in the park. The Clerk asked the board since she is married to Jerry Gervais to put in a motion. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned for the Clerk to issue a no cost receipt for Jerry Gervais work in the park for 3 hours working with the backhoe. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Cemetery: Supervisor Craig Horak said the town received complaints of the long grass in the cemetery. Craig said that is because of the on/off rains.

Tofte Homestead Road: Clerk asked the board if she should get a quote on calcium chloride for the Tofte Homestead Road again this year. Cook County is not going to use calcium chloride this year; so the board thinks not. Dennis Rysdahl paid for the grading of Tofte Homestead Road.

Mail received: None

Any other Business: Supervisor Sarah Somnis said she wanted to discuss when she asked a Lutsen firefighter to move his truck which was parked in the middle of the celebration. He said he would move his truck if it was in the way. Supervisor Craig Horak will talk to Fire Chief Rich Nelson to address this. It was suggested the Permit for the road closure have extended hours next year.

Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to transfer the funds in the IRRRB account to the Now Business General checking account and the close the account as well as the Abatement Funds account. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Supervisor Sam Crowley motioned to adjourn this meeting at 8:49 p.m. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk