

Tofte Town Meeting Minutes  
June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

Attendance: Supervisor Sam Crowley, Supervisor Sarah Somnis, Supervisor Craig Horak, Nancy Iverson, Susie Meyer, Jim King, Kim Jahnke, Nancy Koloski, Steve Michaud, Brenda Melin, Tim Norman, Trevor Huggins, Bill Huggins, Ginny Storlie, Diane Blanchette

Sam called the meeting to order at 7pm.

I. Approval of agenda

Craig motioned for approval, Sam seconded

II. Reports

a. Clerk

i. Approval/correction of minutes for May 11 and May 31 meetings. Craig motioned, Sam seconded

b. Treasurer's Report

i. Craig motioned to approve, Sam seconded

c. Claims

i. Review & Approval of claims-issue a check to LTTA when funds received. Craig motioned Sam seconded.

ii. Transfers-Craig motioned to approve, Sam seconded

d. Fire Department Report

i. False alarms were for Temperance Landing; signs are ordered for the firehall office. Suggestions made to talk about quantity of false fire alarms from BF properties; possibly charging for fire alarm calls. Talk to Rich regarding this to see if it's through the town or FD. May Days training, 9-10 finished line burn and are all certified now

e. Rescue Squad Report

i. 2 calls this month; Wondering about tires and hitch for snow machine. The check was cashed almost a month ago. Want to be able to pull something for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

f. County Commissioner-moved to III, D.

g. Citizens Comments-none

III. Old and New Business

a. Birch Grove Community Center

i. Lease agreements-Sarah proposed moving lease draw up to special meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss with all parties. Craig explained Birch Grove Community Ed is going to manage the building. Questions about a BGCE board-Craig said there wouldn't be one. They would answer to the Town Supervisors. Discussion about who is going to manage the building; discussion of time frame of WE Connect. WE Connect is worried about leases and programs being canceled or taken over by the Task Force, discussion of target date for Community Ed to take over. Leases are tabled until the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Craig motioned, Sam seconded.

ii. Outdoor brick oven use-Trevor Huggins

1. Read and provided email from Barb last year regarding the agreement for HOBBIT use. Wants to continue usage for family/friends gathering on Tuesday nights. Craig motioned to approve, Sam seconded.
- b. Birch Grove Task Force Agreement meeting
    - i. Sarah said they went over the agreement, wrote down questions from the first meeting to clarify for the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. There are 2 separate issues. She talked to the town attorney regarding the appropriation of \$20,000 for Birch Grove Charter School. Questions about the history of the appropriation, what it was, exactly. Sarah recapped what the appropriation was. Question about the budget, if the budget balances-why would we appropriate. Diane from BGCS said the budget was different every year; the appropriation would be used to replenish with what the school pays for community education usage, transportation was a big shared expense.
  - c. Housing Update
    - i. One Roof is busy with the Lutsen and Grand Marais projects. Craig has not gotten together with them to discuss other building options. Craig and Dennis Rysdahl looking at turn-key bids. Craig is going to talk to Dennis's contractors to see if bids can be cost down. Exploring other options using the original design. By next town meeting will have quotes back. State of MN contacted IRRRB. IRRRB is closing the housing grant. Tofte does not need to pay back, however we can reapply with another housing project. Discussion about what exact role Tofte would play with the housing, Craig explained Tofte would just be a funnel, One Roof would manage everything. To summarize housing, basically in the same spot we were a month ago.
  - d. Table from last meeting; Birch Grove Community Ed request for \$20,000 Appropriation
    - i. Sarah proposed to table this until the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting because she is waiting to hear from the attorney and the state. Discussion about what exactly, if there is a community education department. Craig motioned to talk about community ed at the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Sam seconded.
    - ii. County Commissioner
      1. Went to Superior Cycling Association at Lutsen Resort; attended lots of business/organization meetings; The Cook County Lake Association meeting-they're very concerned about invasive species; very aware of things they need to do. The DNR has 7 people at boat landings to check boats as a backup w/law enforcement. We are "right on to keep our lakes clean". Chloride is not currently being used for the gravel roads-that will hopefully help prevent zebra mussels. Listening session from Northland Foundation, went to talk about poverty and childcare in Cook County. Northland will continue to support Kids Plus. Discussion about childcare in Cook County. Summary of county board meetings are now available.
  - e. TSSSD
    - i. Vote to dissolution. 1 board member wants to keep it; 1 supervisor doesn't care; contributes to misinformation for residents of WE. Craig doesn't see any reason to dissolve. Discussion w/Jim King about wanting to dissolve; questions about financing. Next TSSSD meeting in July 14<sup>th</sup>. Letter of unanimous vote needed, with a framework of when dissolution will occur. Concerns about

possible hiccups with Tofte Housing Project if TSSSD dissolves. Tabled until August meeting. Craig motioned. Sam seconded.

- f. July 4<sup>th</sup> Donations
  - i. Adopt resolutions to accept donations from Lutsen and MP&L; Craig motioned to accept both-Sam seconded. Clerk will need to issue receipts.
- g. Cemetery/Park
  - i. Not many people showed up for volunteer day. Discussion sidetracked to July 4<sup>th</sup> parade route-mowing sides of road, firework legal specifications. Not another clean up day needed, just to fill in the hole on the paved trail in the park.
  - ii. IRRRB grant-still under review
  - iii. Park toilet-G&G took over 2 hours to clean because of garbage thrown in latrine. Pam is cleaning the outhouse when she cleans the firehall. Discussion about putting a sign "Please do not throw garbage into the toilet"
  - iv. Repairs-fill in sinkhole; budget to repave over next couple years
- h. Mail-only mail was just a notice for a variance request
- i. Other Business
  - i. Craig was advised that Tofte is the only township in Cook County to keep 4% and send 96% tax to LTTA. The 4% goes directly to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The statute is that the township that collects the tax can keep a collection fee. Tofte does not actually collect the money it goes to Grand Marais, and then comes to Tofte. Discussion regarding this.

IV. Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:40pm by Sarah, Craig seconded.