

Tofte Town Board Meeting Minutes March 9, 2017

Present: Supervisors Jeanne Larson, Sarah Somnis and Craig Horak, Treasurer Nancy Iverson, Clerk Barb Gervais, Rescue Captain Phil Bonin, Gary Hansen, Jerry Gervais, Carroll Peterson, Sarena Nelson, Cullen Hall, Sam and Finley Jo Crowley, Jan Horak, Randy Voeks, Jim King, and Mark Reed from the Cook County News Herald.

Chair Jeanne Larson called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Clerk's report: Clerk Barb Gervais had sent the Supervisors the minutes for the February 16 monthly meeting and the March 1 special meeting prior to tonight's meeting for their review. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais recommended all board members attend the MAT spring courses. Tofte General Election and Annual Meeting is coming up next Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Clerk Barb Gervais held an election training on Monday March 6, 2017. Those in attendance were Diane Norman, Mary Jane Huggins and Tammy Rude. Clerk presented a tentative agenda for the annual meeting. Supervisor Jeanne Larson asked to add a Town Board report.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Nancy Iverson gave the attached report. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the treasurers report. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

Claims, Payroll, and Transfers: Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with claims totaling \$8,520.15 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 to Terra Firma (Scott Robinson) and Paul James. She reviewed the two claim forms and invoices. Supervisor Craig Horak asked about Tim Schliep's monthly charge. 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 \$1430.00. 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 \$4900.00 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 Sarah Somnis seconds.

Fire Department report: Chief Rich Nelson was not able to attend this meeting. Phil Bonin reported two (2) calls last month; one for a vehicle in the ditch and residential alarm and a couple of false alarms. The Fire Department office is framed and painted; almost done.

Rescue Squad report: Rescue Captain Phil Bonin reported they responded with the Fire Department on their 2 calls and 1 medical call.

County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Ginny Storlie was unable to this meeting.

Citizen's comments: Randy Voeks asked to speak at this meeting. He prepared a speech which he read regarding the meaning of community and civility to one another (see attached). He prepared this because of what took place at the March 1 special meeting when Supervisor Craig Horak questioned Supervisor Jeanne Larson on the information she gave on the housing project. Supervisor Craig Horak apologized to Supervisor Jeanne Larson for making assumptions. Supervisor Jeanne Larson said she accepted Supervisor Craig Horak's apology.

Sam Crowley introduced himself and said he was running as write in for the one year term as supervisor.

Old/New Business

Housing:

Supervisor Craig Horak talked to One Roof Housing on Monday. They crunched our numbers for the project. They will have to re-engineer the project. One Roof Housing has been in contact with Dynamic Homes. They can't make the project work with the budget the town had. Supervisor Craig Horak said we won't have an answer from by the March annual meeting; but they promised an answer by June 1 or sooner. Supervisor Sarah Somnis asked about the housing authority not being pulled from the tax bill and to the legislature. Supervisor Craig Horak said he was notified on Monday that the proposal for Tofte to gain housing authority in was still in the bill and it was to going to floor today. Supervisor Craig Horak contacted the township attorney to inform them that at the March 1 meeting the Tofte Town Board voted not moving ahead with the housing authority. Supervisor Craig Horak sent the March 1 minutes showing the vote against moving ahead with the housing authority. The provision for Tofte to gain housing authority was pulled from the bill.

Birch Grove Community Center:

Clerk Barb Gervais reported all is good at the community center.

Task Force Meeting report: Supervisor Sarah Somnis said they are meeting every Monday. They are making progress but doesn't think they have it ready for the March annual meeting.

Letter from the TSSSD: In response to Town of Tofte's request to fund the entire project for installing a sewer for the fire/town hall, received a letter from the Tofte Schroeder Sanitary Sewer District stating that the TSSSD requested Tofte to write a grant for 50/50 match. The letter went on to read "since last fall, the board has not a full board when the discussion has been made on the issue. There has not been consensus to proceed with funding. No motion has been made by any member for any part of the system. Jerry Gervais, TSSSD board member, was in the audience said he thought if Tofte wrote a matching grant, the TSSSD would be more likely to give the Township funding. Jim King, who is new to the TSSSD board and on the Minnesota Coastal Council board; he suggested asking the Minnesota Coastal Council for the entire amount in the annual grant program. He said he would get together with the Clerk to help her with grant after her workload subsided.

Mail received: Certified mail received from SBA notification of merger/transfer of assets previously under SBA subsidiary SBA Central Acquisition 2015, LLC to SBA Towers XI, LLC. A postcard from Max Starin regarding how his father loved the Tofte area. Supervisor Jeanne Larson read excerpts from the post card aloud at the meeting.

Any other business: None

With no other business, Supervisor Craig Horak motions to adjourn this meeting at 8:01p.m. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk