

Tofte Town Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2017

Present: Supervisors Sarah Somnis, Craig Horak and Sam Crowley, Treasurer Nancy Iverson, Clerk Barb Gervais, Fire Chief Rich Nelson, Rescue Captains Kim Jahnke and Phil Bonin, County Commissioner Ginny Storlie, Mary Somnis, Jan Horak, Jerry Gervais and Diane Blanchette.

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

Clerk's report: Clerk Barb Gervais had sent the Supervisors the minutes for the April 13 monthly meeting and the April 20 LBAE meeting prior to tonight's meeting for their review. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the April 13 as well as the April 20 minutes as presented. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais informed the board that Susie Meyer, Deputy Clerk, would filling in for her at the June 8 meeting.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Nancy Iverson gave the attached report. Supervisor Sam Crowley motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded.

Claims, Payroll, and Transfers: Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with claims totaling \$14,470.11 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 CenturyLink. She reviewed the two claim forms and invoices. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve payment of claims as presented by the Clerk. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with payroll this evening totaling \$2050.00. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve payment of the payroll as presented. 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 \$5000.00 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.

Fire Department report: Chief Rich Nelson reported the clock needs a new motor and it has been ordered. The photo eye on the light installed on the Fire/Rescue Hall is defective and is under warranty; a replacement has been sent. Chief Rich Nelson reported that May Day training was well attended and was great training.

Rescue Squad report: Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke reported the Rescue Squad had two (2) calls in April. Rescue Captain Phil Bonin asked for a price on the wheel kit for the snow ambulance. Rich asked if the Clerk could issue a check when they are given cost. Supervisor Sam Crowley motions to approve the Clerk to issue a check when they know they exact dollar amount. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Ginny Storlie reported the unorganized territory on west side of Deeryard petition that allowing annexation by Lutsen Township. The public meeting will be held on June 20, 2017. May is mental health month.

Citizen's comments: None

Old/New Business

SBA Proposal: SBA Communications Corporation sent a buyout offer for the land in the amount of \$92,000 that cell tower is located on dated March 21, 2017. The board tabled the decision at the April meeting. The discussion was held the majority thought it would be it short sighted to sell the land now. Supervisor Craig Horak declines to accept the buyout offer from SBA Communications at this time. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconds.

Housing: Supervisor Craig Horak met several times with Cliff from One Roof Housing. One Roof Housing said there is no way we can get the project on budget as planned. The foundation, septic and utility install cost is just too great of obstacle even with the IRRRB grant. With the cost of the rentals being \$1000/month plus utilities, there is not any room to raise the price of the rents without effecting the "affordability" of the units. Because of the construction hard costs, One Roof suggest that there are two good options one is family apartments like Lutsen and another is individual ownership of the units which each family owns their duplex. If the family owns their duplex; the land would be in put in land trust like townhomes. One Roof figure that cost per unit to purchase would be \$200,000. There would be a straight road in, no parking lot. It would cheaper to build up like apartments in Lutsen. Rich Nelson asked about the units at Dynamic Homes. One Roof Housing is looking at using those units in another project; don't know for certain right now. At the June meeting, Craig hopes to have options and prices. EDA and Dennis Rysdahl is working with Craig. See attached pro forma.

TSSSD: Supervisor Sam Crowley talked to several people. He said people that he talks to thinks there will no positive/negative if Schroeder is allowed to detach from the TSSSD. Bruce Martinson, Chair of the TSSSD, was attendance at this meeting. He said Schroeder wants to get out of the TSSSD for a couple of reasons: 1. TSSSD covers only a small portion of Town of Schroeder area; 2. Duplication of efforts; County/TSSSD. County has taken over the grant program to make home septic systems compliant. Supervisor Craig Horak asked Bruce what it would cost to dissolve the organization; Bruce said up to \$5000. The board asked if it was okay to table it until the June meeting. Bruce said that would okay; invite the board to attend next Tuesday's meeting 5/16/17 at 5 p.m. The clerk will post that may be a quorum of Tofte supervisors attending the meeting. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to table the decision to support Schroeder's detachment from the TSSSD. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconds. The clerk was asked put this on the June agenda.

The Clerk presented a contract that she has taken off the Minnesota Townships website to use for Scott Robinson once the town hears back from him on the project dates to install the septic system for the Fire/Town Hall.

Birch Grove Community Center: In the claims this evening, the last payment on pellet boiler was approved. The Clerk gave a maintenance report including the quote on Hydrostatic Testing Proposal from Nardini Fire Equipment \$537.98 (does not include painting, patching, material and labor additional if needed). Nardini Fire Equipment does an inspection twice a year. Discussion on the final agreement of the Birch Grove Task Force. If the agreement was put into effect, the Birch Grove Community Education would take over managing the building from the WECONNECT. Bruce Martinson said the Jim King, the chair of WECONNECT said they would like to get out of the managing the building. Questions included would the Township continue to pay the community education \$1500 month or would the Town take over paying Barb Merritt. Diane Blanchette Director of Birch Grove Community School handed out a potential scenario if Birch Grove Community Education took over the management of the building. The Community Education would take over senior lunch. Supervisor Craig Horak motions to accept the final agreement of the Birch Grove Task Force. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconds. The Town set a special meeting on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at 6 p.m. to discuss what this acceptance of the agreement entails including building management and required changes, potential lease rate for next fiscal year (July 1,2017 to June 30, 2018), and name change of the Birch Grove Community Center. The Clerk was asked to invite the west end township boards, WECONNECT, Birch Grove Community School and the Birch Grove Community Education. Tim Schliep email Clerk Barb Gervais saying we have only have 1625 gallons of fuel oil left. The town bought in October 2015 7500 gallons @ 1.7885. Jerry Gervais presented two quotes from NSOP for 7000 gallons at \$1.639 or 4000 gallons \$1.669 and Como Oil quoted 7000 gallons at \$1.67. Supervisor Sam Crowley motions to accept the quote from NSOP for 7000 gallons of fuel oil at a price of \$1.639/gallon. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

Appropriations: The Tofte Town board defines appropriations to designate town funds to organizations as defined by MN Statute 471.93 and 471.941 to support the progress of the organization which will benefit the public good. Tofte Supervisors agreed to set accountability and responsibility of the organizations requesting funding from the Township to follow the

instructions for funding and support requests which is on the website which includes filling out the funding request form, submitting a budget, organization's mission statement, purpose of request should be clear where the funds will be used and that will benefit the community and added making a presentation at the annual budget meeting. If the organization received funding from the Township they are required to give reports on a quarterly basis and annual basis.

Birch Grove Community Education request: Town of Tofte received a letter from Birch Grove Community Education requesting \$20,000.00 appropriations before the end of June 2017. Supervisor Sarah Somnis checked with Kent Sulem, MAT attorney, to see if the request was legal for Town of Tofte to donate the funds to Birch Grove Community Education. Kent Sulem replied he cannot act as the direct attorney for any of the towns. Discussion on whether Supervisor Sarah Somnis should contact Chris Virta, the town's attorney, at Fryberger. Supervisor Craig Horak motions to approve Supervisor Sarah Somnis contacting Chris Virta at Fryberger to get a legal opinion if it is legal for the Township to give an appropriation to the Birch Grove Community Education. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconds.

Grand Marais State Bank Resolution: Supervisor Sarah Somnis motions to adopt Resolution #3-2017 to update the signers at Grand Marais State Bank after the April re-organizational meeting. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

Update on bill allowing donations to local historical societies: Bill HF1689 passed in the Minnesota House authorizing townships to give local historical societies. Bill SF1284 has not been introduced in the Minnesota Senate.

Park/Cemetery update: Park/Cemetery Committee met yesterday afternoon. They recommend to the board to have the fence painted. Joe James offered to do the work in the park. Supervisor Sam Crowley will talk to Joe James and have him paint the fence in the park. Supervisor Sam Crowley asked Clerk Barb Gervais if the pavilion needs painting, is there money in the budget? Barb said yes there is money in the budget. Clerk Barb Gervais informed the board the IRRRB grant request still shows is being reviewed to the rock restoration in the park. Park/Cemetery Committee suggested a volunteer clean-up day in the cemetery and park and requested permission to put annual reminder in the paper and posted in spring and fall on Boreal that the contact for the Cemetery/Park is Clerk Barb Gervais. Clerk Barb Gervais needs to be contacted before anyone is buried even though they own the plot, there is a \$50 charge for David Monson to mark the grave and the Township requires a death certification or cremation certificate. Supervisor Sam Crowley approved the Clerk putting an annual ad in the newspaper to give contact information for the Tofte Cemetery/Tofte Park. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds. Clerk Barb Gervais left a message for G & G Septic on Tuesday asking them to pump the vault toilet in the Tofte Park before Memorial Day weekend. The date set for Tofte Cemetery/Park Volunteer Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 20, 2017. The Clerk will post notices of the Clean Up Day in several places and placed on Boreal calendar/classified ads. Clerk Barb Gervais will be at the town hall for the forms for volunteers to sign.

July 4th celebration: Brooke Youngdahl sent a quote from Doucettes for inflatable obstacle course, speed pitching game, and dunk tank. Clerk Barb Gervais will get a quote on event insurance with the inflatable. Supervisor Craig Horak suggested if we have these games this

year located in the Post Office parking lot so there are visible from Highway 61. Dennis Rysdahl will cover the cost of the lodging for the fireworks crew and in addition to his \$1000 donation.

Mail received: None

With no other business, Supervisor Sarah Somnis motions to adjourn this meeting at 9:40 p.m. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconds.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk