

## **Tofte Town Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 2016**

Present: Supervisors Jeanne Larson and Sarah Somnis, Treasurer Nancy Iverson, Clerk Barb Gervais, Fire Chief Rich Nelson, Rescue squad co-captains Kim Jahnke and Phil Bonin, County Commissioner Ginny Storlie, Craig Horak, Tom Krantz, Jim King and Don Fehr.

Vice Chair Jeanne Larson called the board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

Clerk's report: Clerk Barb Gervais had sent the Supervisors the minutes for the October 13 monthly meeting and the October 19 and November 3 special meeting prior to tonight's meeting for their review. Supervisor Jeanne Larson had sent the Clerk a few minor corrections ahead of this meeting. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Jeanne Larson seconded.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Nancy Iverson gave the attached report. With no questions, Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to approve the report. Supervisor Jeanne Larson seconded.

Claims, Payroll, and Transfers: Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with claims totaling \$26,526.49 for approval for payment which included the check for the Lutsen rescue vehicle. 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 Nardini and Superior Fuel. She reviewed the two claim forms and invoices. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to approve payment of claims as presented by the Clerk. Supervisor Jeanne Larson seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with payroll this evening totaling \$2730.00. After review of the payroll, Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to approve payment of the payroll as presented. Supervisor Jeanne Larson 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 \$5500.00 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 Jeanne Larson seconds.

Fire Department report: Chief Rich Nelson reported the Fire Department office is under construction. Sam Crowley is doing the work. Rich thinks the next step is having Dave Rude come in to do the electrical work. The pump is in; several firefighters donated their time installing the pump; waiting for Dave Rude to hook it up. Greg Vetter donated his equipment. Kim Jahnke and Phil Bonin escorted the Cook County Girls' Volleyball team from the Onion River Road to the County line on their way to the State Tournament. The Fire Department responded to a mutual aid call with Schroder for a fire on the Sugar Loaf Road. The department responded also to the semi hitting the trestle.

Rescue Squad report: Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke reported 8 calls last month. Rescue also helped with the fire on the Sugar Loaf Road. Kim said the Tofte Rescue signed an agreement with the Cook County North Shore Hospital in Grand Marais to receive a supply of NARCAN. She said there is no charge for this. She said to administer NARCAN you have to have special training. Several members on the squad went through training. Supervisor Jeanne Larson congratulated the Rescue Squad on receiving the grant from the North Shore Health Care Foundation. Rich Nelson said they don't normally give grants for vehicles but in this case it would be beneficial to Lutsen, Tofte and Grand Marais. Rescue Captain Phil Bonin discussed the Ag Star grant to purchase a pull behind sled. Phil got another quote which was a little cheaper. He'll see if he can get the companies to go lower. Tofte would own the sled but Cook County Search and Rescue would use it. Schroeder voted at the last meeting to donate \$1000 if Tofte and Lutsen would match it. Phil gave the supervisors information on the two types of sleds. Supervisor Sarah Somnis suggested that Phil, Kim and Rich choose the sled as they are the ones that are going to be using the sled.

County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Ginny Storlie said not much to report. The second light was turned on Caribou Trail at Highway 61 this evening. Ginny said she is continuing to meet with the Highway Department discussing priorities. Ginny said the Roads #1 - #23 are state aid roadways; #24-103 are levied roads paid for the taxpayers. Ginny said the County Board is still working on the 2017 budget; they made some cuts but can't seem to get off the \$19.9 million figure. Ginny headed a town hall meeting on November 1 at Birch Grove Community Center. She said approximately 10 people attended. She talked about the Grand Marais Campground having a record summer. Sheriff Pat Eliassen did a presentation at Wednesday senior lunch at Birch Grove Community Center. Ginny suggested that Phil or Kim go to the Lutsen town meeting next week to ask for the matching funds for the sled.

Jim King made the comment the town hall meeting was excellent.

Old/New Business:

Accept resignation of Supervisor: Chair Paul James submitted a resignation letter on November 1, 2016. Supervisor Jeanne Larson motions to accept Paul James' resignation. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded. Appoint a replacement: Supervisor Jeanne Larson asked if anyone was interested in the appointment. Craig Horak said he was. In response to the question why he wanted to be appointed, Craig answered he

grew up here and will stay here and owned a business in Cook County which he recently sold and so he has time now. Craig said he hopes his daughter would be able to attend Birch Grove Community School but he is a number's guy. He thinks the Tofte housing project would benefit the County. Clerk Barb Gervais motioned to appoint Craig Horak to fill the Paul James' supervisor position until the March election. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

Birch Grove Community Center: Jim King asked Clerk Barb Gervais if she had received a notification from an individual that was interested in maintaining the ice rink at Birch Grove this winter. She said she had not. The discussion of who was going to clean the sidewalks, Barb was not at the October meeting but she had heard Susie Meyer said Corey Thoreson would be able to do it. The supervisors asked Barb to confirm this. Rich Nelson wants to make the certain the plugs in the rink before they flooded it. Jim King will contact his friend to see if they are still interested in the ice rink job.

Housing: At the November 3, 2016, meeting with the EDA, one of the requirements for them to go to One Roof Housing was to have Tofte to commit to hiring an independent project manager, not a member of the town board. At the 11/3 meeting EDA Director Mary Somnis offered to help with wording of the ad for the project manager. She didn't have time to draft an ad specific to the Tofte project, so she sent the construction manager ad from the City of Grand Marais. Supervisor Jeanne Larson doesn't want to make a motion to commit to a project manager until she clarifies with the EDA what are the project manager responsibilities. Craig Horak asked about the details of the housing project; Supervisor Jeanne Larson went back to when she was appointed project manager by the board late in 2014. Craig said instead of doing this in the meeting; he will get the information at another time. Jim King offered to give Craig that background on the project and it was suggested that Craig talk to Paul James as well. Supervisor Jeanne Larson motions to approve Clerk Barb Gervais asking for an extension from the IRRRB on the grants. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

Cemetery: Park/cemetery committee met in October 2016. The committee recommended some changes to the cemetery policy. The addition of: 1. #4 the plots in the new cemetery may contain up to one casket and one urn or two urns. The original cemetery is on a case by case basis, please contact the town clerk; 2. The revision of #8 addition of containers and planters must be removed by October 1 or they will be removed by caretaker; 3. #13 increase the cost of each plot to \$500 from \$250 effective 1/1/17. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motions to accept the recommendations of the cemetery committee. Supervisor Jeanne Larson seconded. Clerk Barb Gervais will publish/post the changes before they go into effective on January 1, 2017.

Park—Clerk Barb Gervais is working a STAR grant for \$7500. This is 50% of the estimate for the restoring the rock work in the park. Grant applications are due 1/3/2017.

Mail received: None

Any other business: Supervisor Jeanne Larson commented that Tofte should be receiving their letter from the OSA re: past contributions very soon.

With no other business, Supervisor Sarah Somnis motions to adjourn this meeting at 8:26 p.m. Supervisor Jeanne Larson seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk