

Tofte Town Board Meeting Minutes September 21, 2017

Present: Supervisors Sarah Somnis, Craig Horak and Sam Crowley, Treasurer Nancy Iverson, Clerk Barb Gervais, and Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke.

Chair Sarah Somnis called the board meeting to order at 7:09 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 by the Clerk. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded. Susan Meyer submitted her resignation as the Tofte Deputy Clerk. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to accept Susan Meyer's resignation. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

Clerk's report: Clerk Barb Gervais had sent the Supervisors the minutes for the August 10 monthly meeting and the September 5 special meeting prior to tonight's meeting for their review. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to approve the August 10 as well as the September 5 minutes as presented. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

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

Claims, Payroll, and Transfers: Clerk Barb Gervais presented the board with claims totaling \$55,086.93 for approval for payment. Supervisor Sarah Somnis asked to review the claim forms and invoices from Nelson Machine Products and MN PERA. 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 \$2272.50. 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 \$41,809.52 from the lodging tax account to general checking, 2. Transfer \$1,742.06 from the lodging tax account to savings account #2, 3. Clerk suggested the transfer of the second half of taconite production tax \$4618.45 and the DNR Pilt funds received \$2,475.98 totaling \$7,094.43 from the general checking account to Savings #1 account; 4. Transfer \$11,300.00 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 was unable to attend this meeting. The Tofte Fire Relief Association bi-annual meeting with the representatives of the town board including the Supervisor Sarah Somnis which is the liaison for the Fire/Rescue and Clerk Barb Gervais is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Tofte Town Hall. Clerk Barb Gervais will post their may be a quorum of the supervisors attending this as Supervisors Craig Horak and Sam Crowley are on the Fire Department and members of the Tofte Fire Relief Association.

Rescue Squad report: Rescue Captain Kim Jahnke reported the Rescue Squad had eight (8) calls in August. Kim Jahnke reported the Finland is offering is a refresher course as well the full course for first responders.

County Commissioner Report: County Commissioner Ginny Storlie was unable to attend this meeting. Supervisor Sarah Somnis received an email from her reporting the initial 2018 County budget had been set at 19.9% increase. Commissioner Storlie said they are working to get the down. Their goal is for 2019 to have a single digit increase.

Citizen's comments: None.

Old/New Business

Change of date for the October meeting as Clerk Barb Gervais will be out of town attending a work conference. The October monthly is rescheduled from Thursday October 12 to Thursday, October 26, 2017, at the same time.

Birch Grove Community Center:

Preschool lease - Supervisor Craig Horak had working with the numbers expenses vs. income for the community center building. The school is asking to use the preschool rooms at no charge for cleaning their own rooms. The preschool is supposed to clean the rooms they use according to the past leases. Supervisor Craig Horak doesn't think that the town can make that work at no charge. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to table the preschool lease until the October meeting. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic lease – Clerk Barb Gervais will send the lease for 11/1/17-10/31/18 at a rate of \$9.50 per square foot with the October lease invoice.

Class E Water License – Supervisor Sam Crowley suggested asking Paul Haugen to test the water at the community center. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to for Supervisor Sam Crowley to contact Paul Haugen and ask him to take water samples at the community center. Supervisor Sarah Somnis seconded.

MOU with Birch Grove Community Services – Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to table until June 2018. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

MOU with WECONNECT (see attached) Supervisor Craig Horak motions to accept the MOU with WECONNECT to accept the MOU effective through June 30, 2018. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

General maintenance – Supervisor Craig Horak said he and his Dad would do the tree cutting at the community center which will eliminate the liability to the town if the town uses volunteers.

Resolution #14-2017 to accept donation from Schroeder Township for senior lunch

Supervisor Craig Horak motions to adopt Resolution #14-2017 to accept \$1375 from the Town of Schroeder to be used towards providing senior lunch on the west end. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Tofte Septic System: Clerk Barb Gervais sent an email to Scott Robinson asking him for tentative dates for the Tofte septic system. She didn't get a reply. She will email him again. Supervisor Craig Horak said he heard through the TSSSD, Scott Robinson wouldn't get to the project until spring 2018.

Resolution #15-2017 updating Grand Marais State Bank signatures- Clerk Barb Gervais presented a Resolution #15-2017 to update the signers at the Grand Marais State Bank. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to adopt Resolution #15-2017 updating the signatures at the Grand Marais State Bank because Susan Meyer resigned as the deputy clerk. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Speed signs – The Town received an email from Jeremy Ridelbauer asking if he could continue to work on the radar speed signs. The past town board gave Jeremy permission to work on the signs. Supervisor Craig Horak motioned to give permission to Jeremy Ridelbauer to continue to working on the radar speed signs. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded.

Park Update: A hole in the walking path still needs to be repaired. Supervisor Craig Horak suggested to Supervisor Sam Crowley talked to Red (Gerald) Gervais what he estimates if the cost will be \$2000 or less to fix retaining wall at the park and give the go ahead. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Discussion about using the KGM rock at the airport to fix the hole in the walking path.

Cemetery: No update

Quotes for Snowplow Winter 2017-2018: Supervisor Craig Horak gave Clerk Barb Gervais permission to post/publish for winter season 2017-2018 snowplow quotes for fire/town hall, cemetery, park and the Birch Grove Community Center as well as the Gitchi Gami bike trail. Supervisor Sam Crowley seconded. Opening of bids received and may award the contracts at the October monthly meeting.

Mail received: Kathy Sullivan sent a letter to the Town asking if the board would officially declare September 21 as A Day of Peace. Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to officially declare today, September 21, 2017, as A Day of Peace in the Town of Tofte. Supervisor Craig Horak seconded. An anonymous letter re: cutting down live trees at the park, etc. Discussion only dead trees were taken out of the park. The board acknowledge the letter but didn't any action on it.

Any other Business: None

Supervisor Sarah Somnis motioned to adjourn this meeting at 8:27 p.m. Supervisor Craig Horak seconds.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Gervais, Tofte Town Clerk