

draft

Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023
Lutsen Town Hall

Present: Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Ashley VanDoren, Carl Friesner, Samantha Mcquatters-Spangle, Lollie Cooper(virtual), Chris Homyak, Ginny Storlie, Paul Goettl

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairperson, C Friesner at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda: C Homyak made a motion to approve agenda, C Friesner seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes: C Homyak made a motion to accept October meeting minutes, C Friesner seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: Cook County outreach electronic newsletter

Tracy Benson presented the town board with new electronic newsletter created by Patrick Knight and the city of Grand Marais and Cook County working together to create a communication to our elected leaders and the IRRR. This newsletter that compiles current initiatives from key Cook County stakeholders and is distributed to state and federal level leaders and their aides on a bi-monthly basis. This also includes our local health care partners and schools. Each township has been contacted about interest in joining this monthly newsletter. Supervisors agreed to review the information and contact Tracy about joining through the township clerk before the next monthly meeting.

Commissioner's Report:(Ginny Storlie)

- Public hearing December 13 at 4pm for planning and zoning requesting conditional use permit for 22-unit development residential build behind Birch Grove Elementary School.
- Public and private shooting range development up the Gunflint trail for discussion December 13, 2023
- Recycling in Tofte received a new house with insulation and electric.
- Onion River Road up for discussion, road is worn down and needs upkeep however it is a Forest Service road and not a county road.
- Substance abuse help seminar and open house to discuss abuse of opioids will take place November 27th at 5pm at Cook County Higher Ed.
-

Clerk's Report: S. Mcquatters-Spangle **Deputy Clerk: S. Hexum-Platzer**

- A. Correspondence: Call requesting state law ordinances for short term vacation rentals, request for compost and recycling outreach to be placed on agenda. Link for aging survey; forwarded to supervisors. ARPA fund new expenditure categories; forwarded to supervisors. Request to present at your next board meeting Nov 21. Nearly \$50M in Grants Available to Strengthen Forest Products Economy. E-Updates Notification: Board of Adjustment - 25 Oct 2023. TIF: Review TIF Districts for Decertification Requirements. Sharon responded to requested information on age of birch tree at township. Proposed MAT Bylaw Changes and Available Informational Session; forwarded to supervisors. BWCAW Collaborative Update' Interactive Webinar November 17; forwarded to supervisors. Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging. Broadband expanded near Ash Lake. Registration for the OSA Local Government Training Conference, the conference will be presented online and is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Firefighter Health Solutions; forwarded to Fire chief. Grandview overnight parking questions; verified with Carl and Sharon no overnight parking. Invitation To Table Top Exercise - Severe Winter Storm - Tuesday, Nov 14 @ @2:30PM; forwarded to supervisors. Outreach for new property purchase information; forwarded to land services. Cass County Emerald Ash Borer Virtual Meeting; forwarded to supervisors. New Assisted Migration Plan for the National Forest System. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Obligation IFR and Webinar November 16th; forwarded to supervisors. Nov. 21 Webinar - COBRA Coverage Noncompliance & Employee Benefits

draft

Nondiscrimination. December Planning Commission Public Comment Period; forwarded to supervisors.
2024-2025 Affordable Housing Plan Draft Available for Public Comment; forwarded to supervisors.

- B. *Invitation: 2023 Annual Meeting of the MN Association of Townships December 7-9 in St. Cloud; forwarded to supervisors.*
- C. Hall rentals booked
- D. Cartway resolution; verified recorded
- E. PERA employee survey completed
- F. Sharon conferred with representatives about earned sick time

Treasurer's Report: A VanDoren:

Balances as of October 31st, 2023. NSFCU Business checking account is \$275,459.42. General Building fund is \$35,720.23 At Grand Marais State Bank Operating General Fund Money Market is \$50,286.29; GMSB Checking is \$50,000; Fire/EMS Truck Fund \$218,488.65; Total Funds– \$629,954.59; YTD Receipts \$214,833.38; YTD Disbursements \$265,405.62; General Town Budget \$32,900.00; Fire District Budget \$179,645.00; 2023 General Town Levy: \$25,000 and Fire District Levy \$140,000: Approved 2023 total tax Levy is 165,000.00.

C Friesner made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed

- A VanDoren talked with the Grand Marais State Bank about investing in CD's as per the supervisors request. The only penalty for breaking the CD early is the accrued interest. The two options are 13 and 20 months both with a nine-month penalty period resulting in loss of principle. Discussion about using the truck fund as it would take much longer than nine months to purchase a fire truck. Possible to invest in multiple lower cost CD's at once to lower any chance for penalties. **A VanDoren will check rates at North Shore Federal Credit Union for comparison and report back at next monthly meeting.**
- **C Friesner made a motion to move \$50,000 in the Grand Marais State Bank checking account into the Grand Marais money market account and then also take \$200,000 of the truck fund and distribute into CDs of various amount/ equal amounts through Grand Marais State Bank or North Shore Federal Credit Union depending on who gives us a better rate and penalties. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.**
- A VanDoren individualized the IRRRB grant expenses on the monthly treasurer's report to better define professional services. ARPA funds had two security cameras updated. Cartway account updated. *S Hexum-Platzer commented on the possibilities of using the remaining \$7,000 for a generator or partially for the installation.*

Review and Approval of Claims:

- Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle provided the invoiced October Claims. Details; 14 claims for a total of \$11,637.5650 This included \$2,382.87 for federal quarterly taxes, \$2,985.09 for encapsulate agent and hard SCTN tray for fire truck, \$1,660.00 for SCBA medical exam fit test, \$1,900.00 for mowing services for townhall and Grandview Park.
C Friesner made a motion to approve claims, C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.
- Clerk provided November payroll Claims for a total of \$1,784.76
C Homyak made a motion to approved payroll. C Friesner seconded. Motion passed
- Cash Control Statement for November was reviewed and compared to the Treasurer's information and matched. Supervisors signed a document which is on file.
- Claims approval and Payroll distributions were signed by Supervisors; copies are on file in the town office.

draft

Fire Chief's Report: Paul Goettl:

- Attended Cook County fire chief meeting where county wide purchase of ARMER radios discussed including possible new brand Kenwood instead of Motorola including new radio training
- New Firefighter 1 and 2 courses available in Grand Marais
- New foam F500 integrated; tire truck flushed and stocked
- Grand Marais fire bought a new 75-foot ladder truck from Richfield
- December 2nd is the annual fireman's dinner
- Winterized fire truck
- 3 auto fire alarms calls over the last month

EMS Chief's Report: Matt Kartes (presented by Paul Goettl)

- 7 EMS calls over the last month
- EMT refresher-Hibbing fire chief training
- EMT refreshers will be available from Grand Marais hospital soon

Supervisors Report:

C Friesner:

- Contacted Arrowhead locksmith to upgrade Townhall locks; waiting for response
- Contacted Larry McNeil on quote to fix up Townhall entry way
- Talked with Power Great River about spruce trees on property
- Stored soccer nets for the winter season

L Cooper:

- WTIP reporting on Lutsen Township

C Homyak:

- Fall Gala for visit Cook County
- Gitchi Gami trail meeting; discussion on bike trail bridge build in spring.

Old Business:

- EMS truck insurance claim awaiting assessor and rental truck availabilities; **waiting for rental truck availability.**
- New locks and keys for Township building- **Arrowhead locksmith will be contacted**
- Consideration to make Lutsen township suitable for emergency shelter; generator. **Clerk will email district 10 commissioner to consider another audience with board of commissioners and put supervisor L Cooper in Contact with Ginny Storlie to attend Commissioner meeting.**

New Business:

- Entry way tile; concern over the deteriorating state of Lutsen townhall entryway tile. **C Friesner will contact contractor for quote.**
- Plowing bid from Fred Schmidt and sanding contract with Patrick Reeves. **C Friesner made a motion to accept Fred Schmidt plow with the number presented and Patrick's sanding contract pending on any changing numbers; no more than 10% increase. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.**
- Entry way; C Friesner talked with Larry McNeally and epoxy crew and got an estimate of \$1600 with a general time frame of 3 days. **C Friesner made a motion to start process of fixing tile in townhall entry way, C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.**
- Request for Zoom accessibility for townhall meeting. **C Homyak made a motion to start using zoom links for meetings, C Friesner seconded, motion passed. Clerk will add zoom link and set up to pre meeting setup as a trial run for December meeting.**

draft

Donations: N/A

Citizen Comments: Sharon Hexum-Platzer let the town board know about Bone Builders growth from just a few participants in Tofte to now having over 20 participants in Lutsen and 3 available locations in Cook County and wanted to thank the town board for allowing the use of the town hall.

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by C Homyak. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Samantha Mcquatters-Spangle; Clerk Carl Friesner; Chairperson