

Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes
Septemeber 20, 2022
Lutsen Town Hall

Present: Chris Homyak, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Ginny Storlie, Ashley VanDoren, Car Friesner, Samantha Mcquatters-Spangle, Paul Geottl, Lollie Cooper, Oliver Liu, Tyson Smith, Matt Kartes, Ben Belland, Bruce Martinson, Robb Fortin

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Flag was presented for the pledge of allegiance.

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

Approval of August Meeting Minutes: L. Cooper made a motion to accept August meeting minutes, C. Homyak seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Cartway Minutes: C. Homyak made a motion to accept the Cartway minutes, L. Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

Gitchi Gami trail coordinator (Oliver Liu):

- Gitchi Gami state trail coordinator Mr. Liu along with DNR engineer Jon Hendrickson joining via zoom presented an update on the Gitchi Gami state trail anticipate progress through Lutsen. This next section of construction of the Gitchi Gami bike trail will continue from the existing Ski Hill rd. bike trail through Lutsen and stop at Arrowhead Electric.
- Presenting a map of the anticipated Gitchi Gami bike trail route; it closely follows highway 61 with a clearance of 8-10 feet on the upper hand side. Working closely with the Nelson family to acquire the trail rights the route will follow the edge of right of way from Ski hill rd. to Arrowhead electric. This project is funded by &600K of federal highway transportation alternative funding as well as internal DNR funding. Recognizing that leaving the trail to end at Arrowhead electric at this phase is not ideal but comes down to available funding as directly past Arrowhead there is a stream that a bridge will need to be designed and constructed to continue the next phase of the Gitchi Gami bike trail.
- September 2022 until mid-October DNR is accepting bids for the first part of Lutsen construction contractor awarding by October. Tree clearing is anticipated to begin Nov/Dec of 2022. A majority of trail construction will not begin until next season. On a related note, DNR did complete the acquisition of the lower lot of Ski Hill rd. with the plans to develop this lot into the formal trail head into the Gitchi Gami trail as well as the trail head for snowmobile trail as well; currently no plans are funded. Mr. Hendrickson voiced a concern on the tree clearing as an educated effort with the restriction of the endangered long eared bats currently living in the area that is a wildlife restriction on construction projects.
- Citizen raised concern over the anticipated ending of the bike trail at Arrowhead due to the lack of shoulder and blind corner just past arrowhead and the possibility of increased bikes and pedestrian's traffic. Concerns previously raised over this issue are raised as pedestrian/bike users are placed at an increased risk of serious accidents or death if a collision occurs. Mr. Liu's response: Injury or death are always serious concerns for us. We are however limited by the current funds available to us. I would also like to mention that we currently have a

number of Gitchi Gami state trail board members currently in attendance including Bruce Martinson our president; Bill our board member and Ginny Storlie that can help advise and answer questions. After this phase of construction is completed Lutsen bike trail will become a priority segment for DNR. It is not ideal to leave construction at a private business, we would like to bring it to a place with available parking and a place that is natural to jump on a bike and start the trail. DNR has started thinking about plans to continue east from Arrowhead electric but right after Lockport there is a stream that needs to be considered. That is going to necessitate additional bridge designs and studies; that will require additional MNDOT coordination to what they find acceptable to construct there. This situation is currently limited by the funding and available planning that is available to the DNR.

Mr. Martinson expressed his disappointment in the lack of funding available to continue the trail all the way to Clearview. More legislative funding is being looked at but currently limited by a recent bond not passing. With more community and businesses becoming involved in the Gitchi Gami board and planning organizations he hopes the concerns of construction of future segments can continue to be planned and completed.

- Citizen question: How far of a clearance will the trail take such as going passed Arrowhead parking lot area? Mr. Lui responded; Currently the plans stop at the west end of Arrowhead but options are being discussed. Mr. Hendrickson advised that the path after the initial contact at Arrowhead is still to be determined. Depending on what is needed to cross the stream and arrowhead property itself. The bike trail should be a reflection of what the community desires. If there is little to no support with how to trail is developed, we will go back to the community to figure out the steps going forward. This bike trail is statutorily authorized to go from Two Harbors MN up to Grand Marais MN about 90 miles; this is part of US bike route 41 that will someday go from the twin cities to Grand Portage MN.
- Supervisor C. Friesner: Years ago, the township hired an architect to design the downtown area; is that part of this discussion at all? The DNR is using concepts in that design as they are considering bike trail construction. Once the bike trail reaches downtown Lutsen the idea is to follow the frontage trail all the way to Caribou. Although further down the line it will require an assessment on how to Frontage Road is viewed. The design had different alternative with a possible shared used of vehicles and bikes or possible separated. To reiterate DNR loves those concepts but what we typically run into funding those as constructing an 8-10 paved trail that is compliant with ADA standards. Any additional kinds of amenities like vegetation or anything else will be a discussion to work with Lutsen Township on, to work with Cook County EDA and figure out as we cannot necessarily fund; essentially DNR is just construction of the trail.
- Supervisor C. Homyak questions the possibilities of using the infostructure plan or the inflation reduction act; funds available to the DNR so we are not waiting on bonding or other sources available? The is a real danger issue stopping this construction at Arrowhead. Mr. Lui's response; we have replied to a couple other highway funds but we have not yet looked into the infunstrure plan as of yet. DNR is always seeking funding to continue the Gitchi Gami bike trail and traditionally this trail has been built with bonding dollars with federal transportation highway alternatives as this is a non-motorized trail. This is typical of non-motor trail developments that are within highway right of ways. Mr. Martinson let it be known that the DNR will often apply to receive LCCMR (Legislative citizen council on Minnesota resources) funding from taxes paid and RAISE grant; these different fundings are how to previous section of the bike trail have been paid for. If anyone is able to find additional resources DNR would be interested in hearing it. Supervisor C. Homyak let it be known that the are in front of Clearview is in fact a school bus stop and funding may be available for safe routes to school; additional bus

stops are in front of Lutsen firehall and Cook County Plumbing that will interest future bike trail segments.

- Deputy Clerk S. Hexum-Platzer informed Mr. Lui of a letter to MNDOT requesting the Frontage Road used as multiuse from Clearview to Grandview Park for both bikes; snowmobiles ect.
- Questions raised over maintenance of frontage road and park and ride area bordering highway 61 in front of Lutsen Townhall. Mr. Lui offered to relay that question to his counterparts at MNDOT as it is not clear who is maintaining these areas.
- When we get close to the next segment that will run from downtown Lutsen until caribou we will from a DNR standpoint need to remain a non-motorized pedestrian trail; the DNR does not build out future trail that is shared with snowmobile or ATV. The instances where you have seen that are because the snowmobile trail proceeded the Gitchi Gami trail. I have received input that people will want to use ATV and snowmobiles on trail; however, the funding for this trail is for non-motorized. If in the future talks of motorized trail happens it will more than likely have to be its own trail that is off of this paved trail. Something to consider once funds become secured. DNR would not be able to make that decision, MNDOT would have to approve and decided what would be the most realistic option.
- Supervisor L. Cooper questions if an electric bike is considered motorized? Mr. Lui responded; DNR adopted the consumer protection standard on electric bikes and considers them non-motorized. There are 3 classes of electric bike; class 1 is anything electrically assisted to pedaling up to 22 miles per hour; class 2 is not pedal assisted that propel itself up to 20 miles an hour; class 3 is pedal assisted up to 28 miles per hour. DNR states is accepts anything up to class 3 on the bike trail. Electric bikes are a new growing trend that are in discussion by the DNR on how to coordinate these bikes. Both Duluth MN just passed a local ordinance on the lake walk to not a lot bikes or bike's greater than 10 miles per hour and Grand Marais MN are considering some as well. DNR has yet to be able to enforce anything electronic bikes.
- Mr. Martinson asked that DNR representee and any Lutsen town board member to walk the proposed Gitchi Gami trail with the Gitchi Gami board and assess any issues to address and discuss possibilities; All 3 Lutsen Town board member expressed interest.

Commissioner's Report (Ginny Storlie):

- Meeting of the BROB committee anticipates 1 more meeting to complete ordinance and put together review for board review recommendations and guide ordinance in the future
- Concerns about child care availability have been brought the public health and human service meeting and a decided to appoint a commissioner to be a representee for public health. Ginny Storlie was elected as that representee; job description and funding with public health and human services will be discussed.
- Attended 2 major meeting of all the districts; this past week in Alexandria MN representing public health with association of MN counties; next district meeting to be held in Grand portage.
- Levy has passed at 5.5

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

Correspondence: Verified employment of active-duty firefighter to Nation Bank of Commerce per fire chief request. Verified liquor license renewal contact for Lockport. Emailed Mr. Gilchrist to confirm cartway meeting date between parties-correction email sent to all parties. Cartway opposition party emailed documentation for supervisors. FEMA Releases New Top Disaster Opportunities List. District 10 meeting to be held August 25 at 6pm. Arrowhead Electric will be controlling ETS Water Heaters this weekend, August 20th and 21st. Storage Water Heating will follow the weekday control schedule on Saturday and Sunday. Emerald Ash Borer Found in Sherburne County Emergency quarantine on wood

movement put in place for entire county. 10 documents emailed from cartway lawyers to present to supervisors. Zoom Capabilities requested from cartway petitioner via lawyer day of meeting. S. Hexum-Platzer sent a thank you email to Sundew technical on repairing speed signs. Northspan Seeks Board of Directors Applicants. Communicated townhall rental/tours/access/payment with Deer Yard Association; Caribou Lake Association; Yurt sewing rental; Trail breakers. Contacted the new Deputy Auditor Bev Wolke in anticipation for liquor license renewal requests. Verified town hall use for True Earth Yoga-no longer requires. Arrowhead Cooperative begins the Cold Weather Rule begins October 1st for anyone having trouble paying their bill, member Appreciation Week Lutsen event to be held October 14th. Confirmation of matching grant funds available for culture and tourism-available. State Auditor Julie Blaha webinar Thursday, September 29 at 4:00pm on climate change impacts on state investments. Voice message left with treasurer from citizen-clerk responded (transcribed letter of support to move speed signs). Bank statement sent to treasurer. Flag to be set at half-staff in respect for the late queen-notice sent to fire chief.

- A. Deputy clerk S. Hexum-Platzer completed culture and tourism Grant
- B. Deputy clerk S. Hexum-Platzer contacted MAT and MN State Auditor CTAS cartway payroll procedure
- C. Clerk enrolled in 4 corners trailing class-class was cancelled
- D. Century link contacted for service repair; on call all day 9.14.22-phone lines fixed
- E. Receipt correction from previous month from 1118001-1118010 to 155001-155010; new receipt binder used

Treasurer's Report: A VanDoren:

Balances as of August 31, 2022. NSFCU Business checking account is \$363,534.43. General Building fund is \$35,678.59. At Grand Marais State Bank Operating General Fund Money \$50,265.49 Market . GMSB Checking is \$50,000; Fire/EMS Truck Fund 193,401.91; Total Funds– \$692,880.42; YTD Receipts \$200,000.45; YTD Disbursements \$146,968.78 ; General Town Budget \$25,700.00; Fire District Budget 166,745.00 ; 2022 General Town Levy:\$20,500 and Fire District Levy \$136,000 : Approved 2022 total tax Levy is 156,500.

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

Review and Approval of Claims:

- Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle provided the invoiced August Claims. Details; 15 claims for a total of \$18,384.79 This included 6 ARMOR radios for \$14,286.00, materials for townhall shed 1,677.71 and townhall attorney fees for \$510.00
C. Homyak made a motion to approve claims, L. Cooper seconded. Motion passed.
- Clerk provided August payroll Claims for a total of \$7,897.50 with 3rd quarter payment made to EMS/Fire personnel. C Friesner made a motion to approved payroll. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed
- Cash Control Statement for August was reviewed and compared to the Treasurer's information. 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.

Fire Chief's Report: Paul Geottl:

- Hazmat training
- DNR wildland turnout gear currently awaiting response
- Skid unit for new rescue truck on order in transit

- 5 Fire calls including a structure fire and a loss of power where a fire fighter stays on property and on call for duration of power outage. Currently at 26 fire calls compared to the 26 calls total for 2021.
- Pancake breakfast Sunday September 18th was a success with more attendees then could be counted
- New coffee pot donated the Lutsen Township use
Thank you, Fire Fighter Relief Association, for the high-end coffee pot; it is greatly appreciated

EMS Chief's Report: (Matt Kartes)

- 7 EMS calls
- **Currently the Lutsen EMS is short of staff and seeking any individual interested in training; if interested please contact lutsentownship@gmail.com ; Fire Chief Paul Geotl or EMS Chief Matt Kartes**

Supervisors Report:

C Friesner:

- Received training on new coffee pot equipment donated to Lutsen Townhall
- Attended Fire Fighter pancake breakfast
- Attended Cartway public hearing
- Contacted citizen on request of sign removal

L Cooper:

- WTIP radio report on behalf of the Lutsen Township
- Attended Fire Fighter pancake breakfast
- Attended Cartway public hearing

C Homyak:

- Attended Cartway public hearing
- Attended Fire Fighter pancake breakfast
- Set up Audio/Visual communication devices

Old Business:

- Storage shed to continue build in September 2022
- EMS truck insurance claim awaiting assessor and rental truck availabilities
- Skinner, Larson cartway resolution 2022/09 was signed; L. Cooper will contact Township attorney to hire an appraiser in cartway process; C. Friesner motioned to approve the survey of cartway completed in March 2021, L. Cooper seconded. Motion passed.
- New locks and keys for Township building- C Friesner will call Mr. Bonin to discuss possibilities.
- Relocation of 40MPH speed signs; Lutsen Township added a transcribed letter from a concerned citizen in favor of moving the speed signs. C. Friesner will contact Mr. Miles to receive an update.

New Business:

- Odyssey Resort requesting letter of liquor license renewal support for Moguls Grille & Tap Room, Lutsen Liquor Store, North Shore Resort Company dba Lutsen Resort, and Northern Lights Entertainment dba Pap Charlie's, Rosie's Café and summit, Superior National Golf Course and Clearview Store requesting letters of license renewal support; all have been motioned for approval by L. Cooper, seconded by C. Friesner (C. Homyak abstained from voting)

- Proposal for use of Lutsen Township power line easement for driveway by Mr. Rob Foltin. L. Cooper motioned to pen a letter of support for use of power line clearance as driveway easement. C. Homyak seconded. Motion passed. (C. Friesner abstained from voting)
- Removal of sign by Grandview Park on request of neighboring property owner; M. Kartes offered to take the sign down on Lutsen Township behalf; Supervisors agreed.
- **Fall celebration will take place on October 15, 2022 from 1-3 at Grandview Park in Lutsen with pinatas, candy, hot apple cider and hot dogs-come dressed in costume. Announcements will be posted as the date gets closer.**

Donations: N/A

Citizen Comments: N/A

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by L Cooper. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm

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