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

Present: Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Scott Platzer, Ben Belland, Bob Mayo, L McMaly, Ashely VanDoren, Paul Goettl, Steve Bragg, Teresa Bragg, Dale Sandstrom, Carl Friesner, L. Abolone, Chris Homyak, Steve Duclos, Samantha Mcquatters-Spangle, Lolli Cooper (via zoom)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairperson, C Friesner at 7:02 pm.

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 February Meeting Minutes: C. Homyak made a motion to accept January meeting minutes, C Friesner seconded. Motion passed.

Lutsen Trailbreakers: Sharon Hexum-Platzer presented a request of donation to the Lutsen supervisors to help replace the Lutsen access bridge that was washed out by the spring flooding currently estimated at \$440,000 by first stating the Minnesota statute 365.10 subdivision 4 under roads, bridges and other expenses. (this statute is on file in the clerks office) stating that “electors may vote money to repair and build roads and bridges.” Also referencing Minnesota Association of Townships detailed “Contributions and donations by townships” guidelines. The bridge originally estimated at \$110,000 by reusing salvaged parts from other currently damaged bridges was disallowed by the state. An entirely new bridge is now estimated at \$440,000; Lutsen trailbreakers is currently seeking donations from multiple entities to raise the funds including FRTP grant and support grants. Personal testimony on the importance of the Lutsen access trail and bridge are an integral part to both local life and tourism that support businesses in the Lutsen community.

Mr. Boland submitted a letter of support to fix the Lutsen access trail bridge as it establishes a safe route to food, refueling and shelter for snowmobilers both local and visiting.

Tofte ranger Mr. Mandell wrote a letter of support of a grant to help build a bridge for the Lutsen access.

Larry Mcnelly spoke to the town supervisors on the importance of the Lutsen access bridge and funding stating grooming the trails alone costs over \$10,000. Clearing trails, maintenance and grooming all benefit Lutsen township every year in creating a safe travel and riding experience for all snowmobilers.

Mr. Duclos spoke in support of approving donation to the Lutsen Trailbreakers bridge project.

C Friesner Made a motion to approve the \$10,000 donation to Lutsen trailbreakers for the purpose of securing a new snowmobile bridge. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed. C Friesner made a motion to add a line item to the continuation of the 2023 annual meeting in August of 2023. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed

Commissioner’s Report:(Ginny Storlie) Not in attendance

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

- A. **Correspondence:** 6 phone calls in regards to fire questions delegated to Paul; 1 phone calls about rental and transient rental laws; 2 town hall rentals including next set of ECFE classes in April; CORRECTED VERSION: The clerk's office must be open for absentee voting on March

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11, 2023 from 10 AM to 12 noon instead of March 10. Corresponded with township attorney, cartway attorney, appraiser and treasurer to request increase in security deposit. Notice of Public Comment Period: HOME American Rescue Plan Draft Allocation Plan by March 31. This is an E-Update for the meeting: Planning Commission - 08 Mar 2023 forwarded to supervisors. Deadline: County TIF Forms Due March 31st. Notice of Public Hearings: 2023 Housing and Community Development Action Plan March 20th and 24th. State Auditor's "State of Main Street" 2023 Listening Tour forwarded to supervisors. Cook County April Variance Hearings Notice forwarded to supervisors. Spring Short Courses - dates, times, locations forwarded to supervisors.

- B. Annual meeting review with treasurer
- C. Ordered office supplies
- D. Sharon was in office for Absentee voting March 11, 2023
- E. Sharon received and assembled picnic tables
- F. Sharon completed MATIT WC Payroll Audit Report
- G. Annual meeting prep, review and minutes
- H. March 14th election
- I. Clerk and Deputy clerk attended Board of Canvass
- J. Contact MAT office in regards to telecommunication
- K. Phone services switch to Arrowhead
- L. Lutsen Fire State Aid Certification completed

Treasurer's Report: A VanDoren:

Balances as of February 28, 2023. NSFCU Business checking account is \$309,509.01. General Building fund is \$35,696.28. At Grand Marais State Bank Operating General Fund Money Market is \$50,269.42; GMSB Checking is \$50,000; Fire/EMS Truck Fund \$193,417.01; Total Funds— \$638,891.72; YTD Receipts \$16,602.27; YTD Disbursements \$61,282.61; General Town Budget \$32,900.00; Fire District Budget \$179,645.00; 2022 General Town Levy: \$20,500 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

Review and Approval of Claims:

- Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle provided the invoiced March Claims. Details; 19 claims for a total of \$37,406.29 This included EFT of \$25,000 from checking into fire truck fund. \$3000 donations split between Tofté fireworks and Lutsen Alpine ski club. \$4,984.61 for offices supplies and items to be partially reimbursed by Culture and tourism grand such as picnic tables, gazebo and historical marker.
C. Friesner made a motion to approve claims, C. Homyak seconded. Motion passed.
- Clerk provided March payroll Claims for a total of \$8,910. C Homyak made a motion to approved payroll. C Friesner seconded. Motion passed
- Cash Control Statement for March 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.

Fire Chief's Report: Paul Geottl:

- 2 fire calls for the month of January
- Training consisted of how to handle blood borne pathogens

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- SCBA training
- Planning for state instructor training on April 10th and 15th
- Submission of Fire state aid certification

EMS Chief's Report: Ben Belland (assistant EMS chief):

- 9 total EMS calls for the month of January
- EMS conferences scheduled for the end of April
- **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 Goettl or EMS Chief Matt Kartes**

Supervisors Report:

C Friesner:

- Attended and voted for moderator at annual meeting
- Spoke to concern citizen about "Jacob Breaks" with in Lutsen township

L Cooper:

- WTIP reporting on Lutsen Township

C Homyak:

- Attended and voted for moderator at annual meeting

Old Business:

- **Storage shed to continue build: storage shed doors have arrived and will be installed. Electrical will wait until spring.**
- EMS truck insurance claim awaiting assessor and rental truck availabilities; **waiting for contact from MATIT insurance on updates.**
- Skinner, Larson cartway; **Currently waiting for hear back from petitioner on appraisal deposit**
- New locks and keys for Township building- **S Hexum-Platzer will meet with C Friesner to discuss now lock types**
- MN DOT bike trail walk October 27, 2022 update; awaiting summery of walk.
- Culture and tourism grant: Historical marker ordered; new items to be ordered in congruence with the accepted grant.
- Consideration to make Lutsen township suitable for emergency shelter; generator. **EMS and Fire chief will research different types and possibilities that could work for Lutsen Townhall**

New Business:

- Possibilities of Charging insurance for fire calls; Fire Chief Goettl checked with other multiple townships on how they go about charging for services and compiled a possible structure to be reviewed by the supervisors. The main goal of charging for services is the charge insurance and create enough revenue to lower the township levy and reduce the amount paid by locals. **Fire chief will reach out to MAT lawyers to discuss legality of charging for services.**

Donations: Donations: Barbara Grace & James Pecore, Townhomes at Lutsen Mountain Association, Poplar Ridge Townhomes Association, Village at Lutsen Mountain Condominium. **Thank you for your donations, it is greatly appreciated!**

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Citizen Comments: S Hexum-Platzer informed the town board of discussion at a state held event of not buying ARMOR radios for volunteer rescue teams throughout the state. She herself informed the group of the possibility of using ARPA funds of which the state received a substantial amount for ARMOR radios as it is a needed telecommunication purchase for rescue teams working rural areas.

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by C. Homyak. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm

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