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Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023
Lutsen Town Hall

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

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

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

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

Commissioner's Report:(Ginny Storlie)

- Cook County Child care monthly meeting reported Cooperation station has reopened; new north woods playschool opening at the combo church soon and the Birch Grove Seeding program is soon licensing for child care of infants to three-year-olds. As of November 20th, 2023 there are 100 children being served by licensed childcare providers although more is needed. Marketing currently being planned for new childcare positions.
- A new need for foster care throughout Cook County has arisen, currently guidelines and information can be found through county websites and papers.
- Last Cook County MN commissioners board meeting for 2023 took place. The board approved the conditional use permit for the current planning and building of townhomes and homes build behind Birch Grove School; an understanding was reached that each of these more affordable homes will not be subject to VRBO or any short-term rental.
- Bakery in Grand Marais currently under construction
- A 6-month abatement granted to Lutsen Ski Hill in the amount of \$13,000 for property tax relief due to Papa Charlies fire loss.
- Mr. Keyport came before the commissions board to review the emergency operation plan. Both Lake and Cook County plans were reviewed and submitted to the state; no resolution to will not take place until the final plan is submitted.
- November/December symposium in St. Paul for counties took place. The commissioner of Ramsey County hosted and invited other commissioners from all over the county to understand the theme "How do we as public officials handle situations in county? How do we work with our constituents and how do we use our own life experiences to help other understand what's going on?" Discussion on mental health with the symposium split into three groups of 1. Connecting, 2. Inspiring, 3. Leading.
Cook County will administrator will put together a workshop for commissioners inspired by this symposium.
- December 12th, 2023 the Commissioners discussed the Cook County levy and salaries. Commissions agreed to approve the first increase of wages since 2003 in the amount of \$3600 in due for cost of living with most salaries averaging \$27,000-\$32,000 annually.
Commissioners budget was showed to have increased by \$500,000 due to investments; \$170,00 of said money will be used to help lower the levy to 5.16% and the remainder to be used for capital improvements.
- No new news about Cannabis legalization, currently a state board is being created to manage all aspects of legalizing cannabis including implantation of dispensaries.

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

- A. Correspondence: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Obligation IFR Public Comment Period 11/20 – 12/20/23. Annual Meeting of the MN Association of Townships December 7-9 in St. Cloud. Border-to-Border and Lower Population Density Broadband Grant Application; forwarded to supervisors. Grant Opportunity through CEDA; forwarded to supervisors. Forest Service Chief Announces New Regional

Forester for Eastern Region. PERA communications is switching to GovDelivery; no Contribution Rate Changes for 2024. Request for participation in a Regional Collaborative; forwarded to supervisors. Obligation IFR, Obligation IFR Quick Reference Guide, and Obligation IFR Webinar available for SLFRF; forwarded to supervisors. Majestic Fire Apparel - NFPA 1970 particulate hood mandate; forwarded to fire chief. Cook County Road mileage review. Cook County Voice: Key Initiatives & Events At-A-Glance; forwarded to supervisors. BWCAW quota permits for the 2024 season open on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Recreation Advisory Committee Members Wanted, Help determine fees at campgrounds, trailheads, day-use areas and boat ramps.

- B. Sanding and plowing contracts signed and filed
- C. Eagle Brook rebooking another few months
- D. Zoom subscription and link online
- E. Cook County voice sNewsletter received and sent to supervisors
- F. Composing and outreach to reschedule
- G. Tax filing webinars in preparation for end of year filing
- H. Scouting for election judges for march elections

Treasurer's Report: A VanDoren:

Balances as of November 30th, 2023. NSFCU Business checking account is \$337,712.08. General Building fund is \$35,723.17 At Grand Marais State Bank Operating General Fund Money Market is \$50,288.36; GMSB Checking is \$50,000; Fire/EMS Truck Fund \$218,497.63; Total Funds— \$692,221.24; YTD Receipts \$281,557.73; YTD Disbursements \$268,911.18; 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 and transferred \$50,000 from non-interested checking account and moved into the money market account per last months motion.
- A VanDoren talked with both Grand Marais State Bank and North Shore Federal Credit Union about CD options to determine to best investment opportunity. At Grand Marais State Bank there is a 13 month and 29-month option. The 13 month is at 4.05% interested accrued, 29 month is at 4.5% and the dollar amount proposed of \$200,000 since it would be considered a jumbo CD the penalty instead of 9 months would be 6 months with a partial amount withdrawal available, being penalized for only the withdrawal amount instead of doing multiple smaller CD investments. North Shore Federal Credit Union offers a 7 month at 5% accrued interest and a 13 month at 4.5%; both with a 120-day penalty. Grand Marais State Bank stated they were able to match the rates but not the penalties.

Paul Goettl was asked for advice; 7 months makes the highest interested accrued however being caution with how those interest rates may fall or rise after the new year starts. Maybe put \$100,00 in the 7 month and \$100,000 in the 13 months.

C Homyak calculated the CD interested; suggest using \$100,000 of the truck fund and placing in a 29-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank estimating an earned interested of \$11,223.

Paul Goettl agreed, using \$100,000 of the truck fund at Grand Marais State bank and using \$200,000 split between accounts at North Shore Federal Credit Union for a total of invested funds of \$300,000. If we earn enough, we can put funds to lower the levy.

L Cooper made a motion to move \$100,000 in from the North Shore Federal Credit Union general checking fund into a 7-month CD at North Shore Federal Credit Union. Move \$100,288.36 from the general fund money market checking account into a 13-month CD at North Shore Federal Credit Union. And then take \$100,000 from the truck fund at Grand Marais State bank and place into a 29-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank. C Friesner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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Review and Approval of Claims:

- Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle provided the invoiced November Claims. Details; 11 claims for a total of \$5,881.87 This included \$1,546.00 for MATIT workers compensation. \$1,425.29 for fire truck repair. \$960.00 for town hall building repair of entry way.

C Homyak made a motion to approve claims, C Friesner seconded. Motion passed.

- Clerk provided December payroll Claims for a total of \$8,442.50 this included fire fighter and EMS payroll for fourth quarter.

C Homyak made a motion to approved payroll. C Friesner seconded. Motion passed

- Cash Control Statement for December 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 Goettl:

- Firefighting 1 and 2 classes are starting in January located in Grand Marais for a duration of 3 months; Lutsen fire crew has two new potentials Nic Reineccius and Chris Homyak.
- MBFT or Minnesota State Bored of Fire Training holds grant funds for training; anticipated for EMS training
- Tender fire truck had repair done on one of the valves for holding water
- Fire air packs are being reviewed for possible renew with different vendor; Lutsen currently has 10 packs
- Fire Microsoft account to be bought under township account

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

- 7 EMS calls over the last month
- EMS refresher course

Currently Lutsen Township has two divisions, one Fire and one EMS. Along with those two divisions each has their own set of rules and regulations and their own set of SOG's and chiefs. About 15 years ago they were a combined singe division under one chief with an assistant chief for each division and captains. At the previous Fire and previous EMS meetings a vote was held to combine both divisions and majority agreed. Needing supervisors' approval, the fire chief Paul Goettl presented the majority vote and asked if it could be approved.

C Friesner made a motion to approve the combining of Fire and EMS divisions to have one chief and two assistant chiefs overseeing both the EMS and Fire side. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

Supervisors Report:

C Friesner:

- Contact Larry McNiel to remove fallen tree from ball park fence line
- Contacted Northern Epoxy on quote to fix up Townhall entry way and requested materials deposit
- Talked with Power Great River about spruce trees on property
- Stored soccer nets for the winter season

L Cooper:

- WTIP setting up prerecording for Lutsen Township updates

C Homyak:

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

Old Business:

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- 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.**
- Townhall entry way repair. **C Friesner requested deposit for materials and will set of dates of repair and set up personnel for demo.**

New Business:

- ARPA funds deadline December 2024; **supervisors will review funds and options for use of repair and generator install.**
- Tree fallen on fence line of ball park; **C Homyak will issue insurance claim for fence**
- C Homyak will be training for Fire 1 and 2 class in Grand Marais over the next three months and unable to attend the monthly meetings but will continue to assist in pertinent issue for Lutsen Township.

Donations: Shari and Jeffrey Denniston donated in honor and memory of Jerry Anderson; Dana Grosslein donated to Lutsen fire. Thank you!

Citizen Comments: Friday January 19th will be Paul Goettl's fire chief retirement party. Thank you Paul for all your dedication and hard work!

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by C Homyak. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm

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