

Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2023

Lutsen Town Hall

Present: Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Ashely VanDoren, Carl Friesner, Samantha Mcquatters-Spangle, Lolli Cooper, Chris Homyak, Matt Kartes, Steve Duclos, Ginny Storlie, Paul Geottl

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

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

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

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

Commissioner's Report:(Ginny Storlie)

- New HR director elected; congratulations Alison Plummer
- Alfred creed bridge to be replaced in Lutsen
- Hospital road in Grand Marais that runs along side the Cook County court house construction to finish within the week.
- Concern over Gitchi Gami trail parking lot at the end of Ski hill not being available for cardboard semi-truck. C Homyak mentioned that due to KMT being under contract for supplies and materials to finish the Lutsen bike trail they are opting to have the parking lot remain closed.
- Next Thursday an opportunity to meet with senator Hauschild near coast guard station
- Taconite harbor update from MN power stated that starting next year dismantling will begin with plans to finish by 2025. Hopea to create a small community where the land site sits.
- 40 acres up Cramer Road up for bid by HRA director for contractor or builders for affordable housing
- Tofte recycling received new shed
- Age friendly MN community meeting hosting survey by ARP asking for input on what would make Cook County a more age friendly community. The top subjects talked about were on how great the emergency services are; being able to rely on EMTs and paramedics 24/7 make it possible to live in Cook County; appreciation living in nature. However, concern over the uptake in VRBO's and lack of neighborly community make it difficult to rely on and find a sense of community.
- Grand Marais pharmacy set a record for prescriptions filled
- Alzheimer's walk hosted by care partners
- Hospital, clinic, care partners reported concern about nursing home closures in Cloquet in 2023 and the impact of those turned out and the surrounding areas.

- Commissioner Storlie questioned Lutsen township about opening meeting for zoom on a continuous basis to make it easier for citizens to attend. Lutsen supervisors to discuss options.
- Emergency Shelter- Commissioner Storlie read the response from Emergency director Keyport stating that no funds were currently available under the title of emergency shelter and red cross and currently no funds were available for a Lutsen warming shelter. **Lutsen supervisor will present our bid for a short-term emergency shelter again to commissioner’s board for financial assistance as west end is the only Cook County area without an emergency shelter.**

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

- Correspondence: Call requesting pathways to receive permit for land and zoning; TIF Division has launched two new videos about the Six-Year Rule; MAT’s 2023 Fall Legislative & Research Committee Meeting-forwarded to supervisors; work based on Age Friendly community incitive hall rental booked for Oct 17th 5-presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Mille Lacs and Benton County for the first time. Entire United States - Half-Staff Alert-forwarded to fire chief; Gov. Walz highlights workforce, public safety investments on the Iron Range; Mike Keyport response to emergency shelter funds-forwarded to supervisors. 2023 Changes to the TIF Act Webinar Recording. DEED announces \$50 million round of broadband expansion funding. Update to State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance-no action required; Clerk contacted Cook County education director about youth soccer on west end-forwarded to supervisors; Effective January 1, 2024, Minnesota has a new law requiring employers to provide paid Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) to employees;
- Sharon helped instate online GMSB access
- Hall rentals booked
- Cartway resolution mailed to recorder’s office
- Helped fall celebration prep and donations
- Plowing, sanding bid posted
- Fed and State tax claims
- Voided claim 101398 due to clerical error

Treasurer’s Report: A VanDoren:

Balances as of September 30th, 2023. NSFCU Business checking account is \$284,360.16. General Building fund is \$35,717.20 At Grand Marais State Bank Operating General Fund Money Market is \$50,284.15; GMSB Checking is \$50,000; Fire/EMS Truck Fund \$218,470.37; Total Funds– \$637,840.88; YTD Receipts \$208,785.54; YTD Disbursements \$252,337.50; 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. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed

Discussion of inventing in a CD account with Grand Marais State Bank to be researched by treasurer A VanDoren for review at next month's meeting

Review and Approval of Claims:

- Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle provided the invoiced August 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, L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

- Clerk provided October payroll Claims for a total of \$1,430.56

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

- Cash Control Statement for October 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:(Steve Duclos presented in his stead)

- 3 fire calls and 2 false alarms calls for the month of October
- Training included testing of
- SCVA test
- Winter prep with hose lays and nozzles
- Small engine review and truck checks
- Brush fire extinguished
- Purchase of F500 foam; improved use against oil and electric fires
- All 14 fire fighters passed FIT test
- Inspected Lutsen Resort for renovation and expansion
- **Halloween Carnival at Caribou Highlands; Lutsen fire tender truck will be there handing out candy on October 21, 2023**
- Thursday and Friday MN state fire chief conference

EMS Chief's Report: Matt Kartes

- 4 EMS calls; 7 calls total including fire calls
- Monday meeting reviewed summer supplies and evacuation supplies for winter

- Requesting review of EMT per call incentive; currently no change has been made since 2004 for Lutsen EMT/Fire

Supervisors Report:

C Friesner:

- Attended Fall celebration event
- Helped to organized and host Fall celebration

L Cooper:

- WTIP reporting on Lutsen Township

C Homyak:

- Attended Fall celebration event
- Helped to supply and host fall celebration

Old Business:

- 1.EMS truck insurance claim awaiting assessor and rental truck availabilities; **waiting for rental truck availability.**
- 2.Skinner, Larson cartway; **Resolution submitted to Recorder's office with no appeals made**
- 3.New locks and keys for Township building- **Arrowhead locksmith will be contacted**
- 4.Consideration to make Lutsen township suitable for emergency shelter; generator. **Clerk will email district 10 commissioner to consider another audience with board of commissioners.**
- 5.Youth Soccer; **Cook County community education contacted; working with to complete application to become a west end extension soccer youth program in Lutsen.**
- 6.Community Celebration planning; **150 people in attendance, thank you Danielle for organizing! A big thank you to the businesses that donated**

Clearview General store The North Country-Gallery and Gifts

Lutsen Mountain Corp Lutsen Mountain Gift Shop

Bluefin Bay Cascade restaurant

The Big Lake Gunflint Mercantile

Terra Bella Floral Arrowhead Electric Co-op

Issak Hansen's Arlene Shultz

Lockport Marketplace Putt n Pets

Cook County Co-op

New Business:

- Entry way tile; concern over the deteriorating state of Lutsen townhall entryway tile. **C Friesner will contact contractor for quote.**

Donations: Putt n' pets donation of check for fall celebration cashed by townhall and put towards raffles prizes

Citizen Comments:

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by C Homyak. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm

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