

Approved

**Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2021**  
**Lutsen Town Hall**

**Present:** Chris Homyak, Paul Goettl, Lollie Cooper, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Ginny Storlie, Carl Friesner, Ashley VanDoren, Matt Kartes

**Action items underlined**

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

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

**Approval of Agenda:** C Friesner made the motion to approve the agenda and L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes:** L Cooper made the motion to approve April regular board minutes. C Friesner seconded. Motion passed..

**Commissioner's Report (Ginny Storlie):**

- Storlie reported Tim Nelson of Land Use dept will be changing recycle bins to aluminum which is the only/best option available.
- Hwy Engineer Hass has authorized 175 thousand gallons of sodium chloride for use on all gravel roads. This product helps gravel adhere and reduces dust.
- Schroeder will host J & J vaccination site on May 26 from 3-6 p.m. Other sites in Grand Marais will be available on weekends to help getting vaccinated at different times of the week possible.
- Joint Powers – a group of various entities – had reports from Housing and Racial Equity. For housing: Rob Deitter owner of property across from Tofte Holdiay Gas is developing a building with 6 units above a restaurant. Owners of Blue Fin plan to develop property across from BlueFin with housing of 7-8 units. They have approached the County with a request for tax abatement relief for a period of time. County has to update their protocol for tax abatement and will address this request in the near future.
- At Schroeder Town Board meeting, a representative from MN Power shared update on plans for Taconite Harbor facility. It will be decommissioned. Useable parts will be removed and the coal pile will be moved to the Iron Range. The coal removal may take 2 years. The hope is that the buildings at Taconite Harbor can be repurposed.
- Storlie gave an update on the American Rescue Plan. Cook County will receive 1.3 million dollars this year and the same amount again next summer. Discussion with the Auditor and Commissioner will involve plans for these monies best uses: E.G. public health, revenue losses, essential workers, expansions.

**Clerk's Report: S Hexum-Platzer**

- Correspondence: R Piepho sent email regarding use of Park for Garden Club Flower Show—this will be virtual so no use of Park needed; Phone call re options for visitors – suggested using Visit Cook County website; County Assessor copies of those property owners filing in tax court; WIX [our website provider] calendar renews in May and pd by Visa notice came to review accuracy – done; Planning Commission update – shared with supervisors [meeting before regular board meeting]; Covid 19 response aid for local governments American Rescue plan – does not apply to Lutsen – filed in Communications folder; Century Link questions, emails and virtual call regarding change to Govt status to avoid late fees also FCC notice re same – filed in Communications folder; Age Friendly Group meeting – forwarded to supervisors since it is virtual & before reg meeting and if interested; Early Childhood Coalition – forwarded since it is virtual and if supervisors interested; EDA Director application info received -- posted; Covid 19 vaccination dates May 12 & June 9 1pm to 5pm. Hall key use shared; website improvement ads, e updates from County for Bd of Adjustment or Variance requests – forwarded to Supervisors as fyi providing website for review of those impacting township; Microsoft agreement notice – filed; FirstNet notice –forwarded to Lutsen Fire; Cook County Land Use Application approval notice with link – shared with Supervisor C Friesner; Notices for residents filing in Tax Court received- as per supervisor direction these are filed in Communications folder.

## Approved

- Notification: Cook County Land Use Application [storage building construction site approval] has been approved
- Sent & posted ad for Mowing bid/quote – see Old Business
- Received MATIT insurance check for overpayment - gave Lutsen a \$50 deduction – void check # 16572 and re processed new check for this month
- Posted LBAE meeting info, and contact information for Town Board
- Virtual meeting with Century Link to clarify our acct to be a government account to alleviate late fee payments since our payment is processed late in the month and does not reach Arizona site in timely manner
- tested updated CTAS 2021 – current version has some payroll options inoperable

### **Treasurer's Report:** A VanDoren.

- Balances as of April 30, 2021. Business checking account is \$227,557.77, Building fund is \$35,630.90. Operating General Fund Money Market \$75,257.30, Fire/EMS Truck Fund, \$168,378.51. **Total funds--** \$506,824.48. YTD Receipts \$64,151.86, YTD Disbursements \$56,966.78. 2021 General Town Budget \$32,350; 2021 Fire District Budget \$190,000. Approved **2021 total Tax Levy** is \$222,350.00.  
Treasurer VanDoren noted that the receipts and disbursements included the transfer of the levied truck fund amount of \$25,000 is included and a receipt of a 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 tax levy. Also included three large donations to the fire/ems departments.
- C Friesner made motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed
- Treasurer VanDoren also provided specific data on monies received and expenditures for April which shows specific expenditure amounts compared to the budget. She explained that the amount for the Legal professional services which now shows over budgeted amount is for the additional expenditures for the land use permit required for the new storage building.
- Cash Control Statement was signed by Supervisors. All treasurer report copies are available in town office for review.

### **Review and Approval of Claims:**

- Clerk Hexum-Platzer provided the invoiced claims. Current Details: 16 claims for total of \$12,849.41. This includes a reissued check for \$7005 to MATIT insurances--property, equipment, etc. Clerk noted that check number 16572 was voided due to a deduction error. Fire training for \$1200 and inspection of tanks for bldg. permit of \$705.58 were also in these claims.
- C Friesner made a motion to approve the claims as presented. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.
- Clerk provided 4 regular payroll claims for total \$1005. L Cooper made a motion to accept payroll claims as presented. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.
- Claims approval and Payroll distribution signed by Supervisors; copies are on file in the town office.

### **Fire Chief's Report:** Chief Paul Goettl

- CPR training was provided by Steve Duclos a certified trainer. That invoice will be submitted for reimbursement to the State.
- Fire department also received training from Virginia MN representative on cardiac health. Fire fighters are prone to heart issues. Wellness, fitness, nutrition were topics of the 2 ½ hour training. Goettl noted that this was a worthy topic and good to have various presenters.
- 2 fire calls occurred this month.
- Lake County wildfire payment from DNR of \$500 was received. Also received was a donation of about \$1200 dollars from Crooked Spoon Café. A fund raising event provided funds that were split with the three attending fire departments. [See donation document.]
- The cost of a \$1200 training is also being sent for reimbursement. Goettl noted the department is being fiscally responsible.

### **EMS Chief's Report:** Chief Matt Kartes

- Kartes noted the completed CPR training for his dept as well.
- He noted appreciation that there have been no calls and very quiet.

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- The EMS crew will be on hand for the Superior Hiking Trail 100, 50 and 25 mile race which is a 4 day event starting Thursday and ending Saturday. There are aid stations. However with incidents occurring on the trail the reason for our LUCAS device is truly needed for such events.
- Reflector jackets need replacement and Kartes will share costs for the order of those soon.

### Supervisor Reports:

C Friesner:

- Contacted the contractors on the storage building and work should start in 2 weeks since this is a very busy time.
- Parking lot use by Lutsen 99 – see New Business
- A deputy clerk candidate has been found. Clerk will seek her out for interest and future candidacy.
- Paving the parking lot – no specific time has been given by KTM. Friesner will continue to try to get a specific date.

L Cooper:

- Did WTIP report last month.
- Attended Joint Powers virtual meeting Racial Equity subcommittee.

C Homyak:

- Reported update on Lutsen town sign. [Border Signs]Woerheide said it should be done by May 15. Installation to occur soon. Deadline for grant work is June.
- Contacted Schroeder and Tofte townships for costs and policies regarding park use and rental and shared the documents with the board. Since these are Parks and not our ball park, further discussion will continue at the next board meeting.
- Spoke with Tofte Supervisor Somnis to get link for Housing subcommittee attendance.

### Old Business:

- **Town Park volleyball court:** Supervisor Friesner said this work will be done this Saturday, May 22.
- **Lutsen town sign current steps/update:** Since C Homyak has contact with Woerheide, he will be relay information
- **Park tree removal:** may have been completed by maintenance McCoy – Friesner will check on Saturday.
- **Mowing bid/quote from D Somnis reviewed.** L Cooper made a motion to accept this quote. C Friesner seconded. Motion passed. C Homyak noted that contract draft is good. Clerk will notify Somnis for signature and a copy of required liability insurance. C Friesner will connect with Somnis on brushing needs.
- **Ball Field use policy:** Tabled until next month's meeting – see C Homyak report above
- **Storage building shed removal/disposal:** Old building is now at Birch Grove Community Center
- **Plaque for donated grill:** Finished plaque to be installed by C Friesner.
- **Repaving parking lot:** KTM said any time now that we have warmer weather. Date to be determined and not conflict with other projects or use.

### New Business:

- **Staining Park pump house and pavilion; painting for parts of town hall and EMS bay doors:** Friesner will reach out to those who may be interested in doing the Park work and S Duclos who was interested in painting the EMS bay doors. Hexum-Platzer offered to paint the town hall entry way.
- **Lutsen 99er use of town parking lot for dumpster,etc.** After discussion involving the appropriate use of dumpsters and removal of trailers, the supervisors agreed that Friesner contact the event organizer with approved use of the parking area.
- **Town Hall Protocol for masks, 6 ft distancing, etc.** Supervisors had individually reviewed the CDC and Gov Walz recent announcement. Posted on the door is their combined response: No masks required if vaccinated. If not vaccinated, stay 6 feet from others.

**Donations:** Peters & Swanson to Fire & EMS & Crooked Spoon Cafe donation to Lutsen Fire Department L Cooper motion to accept the donations. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed

**Citizen Comments:** G. Storlie shared that KTM is repaving the Gitchee Gami trail. She also said how great it is to not be wearing a mask. Others agreed.

Approved

**Adjournment:** C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by L Cooper. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:57p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Sharon Hexum-Platzer Clerk

C Friesner Chairperson