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Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2024
Lutsen Town Hall

Present: Ashley VanDoren, Carl Friesner, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Lollie Cooper, Chris Homyak, Ginny Storlie, 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 the June agenda, C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.

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

Commissioner's Report: (Ginny Storlie)

- Mr. Rose helped to repair the washed-out Grandview Park entrance earlier this month.
- Due to the large June storm commissioner Storlie has made it a point to meet with dozens of citizens to consult on washed out roads, taking picture and connecting with emergency manager Mr. Keyport as well as a current FEMA representative who is taking the time to meet with people who have been affected by the storm. FEMA has currently set up a base in Virginia MN and have plans to create an office area in Duluth MN. The estimated damages to west end Cook County MN is slightly more than half a million dollar with almost \$300,000 of damages sustained around Bluefin in Tofte MN.
- Cook County emergency manager recently sent out an email for a mitigation plan update that suggests Lutsen township should join a hazard mitigation committee before purchasing a generator as is the current plan to create a short-term emergency shelter at Lutsen townhall. The emergency managers current plan includes steps to be approved by the committee before proceeding with any further with steps for short term emergency shelter to be eligible for a FEMA grant to help cover costs however local concern over time delays as a significant time delay of almost two years has already occurred due to waiting to hear back from the emergency management team. Currently Lutsen township is in contact with a Cook County liaison for red cross as they help us with the needed requirements. The township has kitchen, cots, shower; the generator is one of the last items needed. Lutsen township has been preparing for a short-term shelter since the winter storm of 2022 cut off power and heat for homes in Lutsen MN for up to 3 days. *The supervisors agreed to review the information.*
- Land services informed the commissioner that the Tofte recycling center will get two cardboard trailers due to increased needs; current cardboard trailer located in Lutsen will continue to stay in the current location and one load of gravel was used to fix the road leading to the trailer with another load of gravel to be spread over the coming months.
- Birchgrove seedings program recently opened for childcare needs age 0-3years. Childcare committee currently is working on getting better wages in place for those licensed to have childcare in their homes however the state is putting a pause to any new childcare license in home for awhile as their regulations were found to be excessive such as requiring a specific type of electrical outlet, made and model of fences, etc. Those policies will be reviewed.
- New county employment opening up, the Cook County recorder Dusty Nelms is retiring; previously an elected position will now become an appointed position along with the Cook County auditor.
- Cannabis meetings including public meetings, townhall meetings the commissioners are currently decided on number of dispensaries allowed in Cook County and placement requirements. The current consensus is having 7 dispensaries as there are 7 licenses for liquor stores. Discussion on how to handle underage persons attempting purchase. As there wasn't a full board during the previous meeting the board will decided on Tuesday August 27th, 2024 during the Cook County commissioner meeting.
- ***Superintendent invited to speak at Schroeder townhall Thursday August 22nd, 2024 at 7pm. to talk about bonding for the district. 36 million dollars of bonding in three parts however discussion on the confusing procedure needed because if one of the parts fails then all three parts fail.***

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

Correspondence: 8 calls forwarded to Fire chief, 8 townhall rental inquiries and questions Emails included: Available: 2024 TIF Training – Live Webinars, City of Grand Marais Weekly Update, PERA 2024 Legislative Update Webinar, ARM Air Quality Story, August Cook County Board of Adjustment Public Notices; forwarded to supervisors, Remittance Advice Notification; forwarded to treasurer, Recreation.gov Updates Mobile Application to Include the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Permit, SLFRF July Newsletter, OSA Weekly Update, PERA 2024 Legislative Q&A Handout, July 2024 Newsletter for MAT, Superior National Forest Storm Damage Update - July 25, Petroleum Storage Tank Release Letter - Lockport Country Store; forwarded to supervisors and trailbreakers, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Collaborative June Meeting sets Future Dates, IRRR Board Meeting Recap - July 29, CTAS 2024 Enhancements Video Available, AAAA Newsletter, August Update, Invitation: MAT District 10 Meeting; forwarded to supervisors, Town Aid Certification Update - 2025 Aid Amounts Posted, Superior National Forest Storm Damage Update - July 31; forwarded to supervisors, Washout road repair; forwarded to supervisors and Sharon, Webinar for local governments on cannabis implementation available, School Trust, St. Louis County, and TCF Land Purchase Scoping Package, PERA Open Election Period October 1 to October 30, Public Office Hours shift for Gunflint, LaCroix & Tofte District Ranger Offices - effective August 12, Tofte and Gunflint Gravel Pits Expansion Project opportunity to comment

- A. Worked on CTAS with treasurer
- B. Multiple phone meetings with auditor to correct cash control coding
- C. Arrowhead EMS communicated with for payment already made
- D. Multiple orders for Fire/EMS
- E. Communicated with lawyer on final cartway payment
- F. Sharon Hexum-Platzer resolved issue with contractor payment
- G. Sharon Hexum-Platzer covered Clerk duties while Clerk was gone-Thank you!
- H. Prep for continued annual meeting

Treasurer's Report: A VanDoren: As of July, 2024;

North Shore Federal Credit Union-Checking \$196,379.48; General Building Fund-savings \$35,747.01; Fire/EMS truck fund \$150,314.47 totaling 382,440.96; CD investments;

- 7-month CD at North Shore Federal Credit Union \$102,484.33
- 13-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$100,000.00
- 29-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$100,391.47
- Totaling \$302,875.80

Total funds including CD investments \$720,549.20

Year to Date Receipts \$196,819; Year to Date Disbursements \$205,975.38.

2024 General town Budget \$41,450.00, 2024 Fire District Budget \$201,645.00 for a total budget of \$243,095.00.

2024 General town Levy \$30,000.00, 2024 Fire District Levy \$145,000.00 for a total 2024 Levy of \$175,000.00

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 July Claims. Details; 19 claims for a total of \$46,410.67 This included \$41,091.49 to MacQueen for fire fighter turnout gear(boots, jackets, helmets), \$1,644.98 to Kirvida fire for fire truck repairs, \$515.52 for EMS equipment.
C Homyak made a motion to approve claims, L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.
- Clerk provided June payroll 6 Claims for a total of \$2,992.50
C Friesner made a motion to approved payroll. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed
- *Cash Control Statement for July was reviewed and due to a glitch with the CTAS program 8 checks were unable to be cleared; the clerk is reviewing the problem with the state auditor representative to fix the problem however the clerk asked that the supervisors review but don't sign the cash control until it is fixed.*

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- Claims approval and Payroll distributions were signed by Supervisors; copies are on file in the town office.

Fire and EMS Chief's Report: (Steve Duclos)

- Fire Department received all but 3 of their new turnout gear, jackets, boots, pants, helmets with the newer materials used being much lighter and more durable and more moveability. The old gear that currently out of date via OSHA standards will be retained for any new volunteers. ***Supervisor Friesner made a motion to purchase the remaining 3 fire turnout gear needed. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.*** Chief Duclos; thank you for the board for prioritizing the Fire/EMS and making sure they had new and up to date gear.
- Cleaned and organized around the fire truck bays and backup materials
- Inspected and flushed the hydrants on water line
- Hose testing, taking old red hose out of services
- 6 fire calls with some being mutual aid including the fire at taconite in Schroeder MN
- 8 calls for EMS with some being mutual aid
- EMS mutual aid training with ambulance director and Tofte EMS; discussion of variances changes and carrying items like Nitro.
- New insurance claim submitted; 2 bottom panels bent and rear light on the back of emergency truck
- Fire/EMS received a professional sketch of Lutsen resort along with a donation check with a thank you note telling the Fire/EMS team they could auction off the sketch for funds.
- Pressure gauge order to mount on the new fire hydrants to help to increase ISO rating

Supervisors' Report:

C Friesner:

- Contacted Mr. Rose to fill the washed-out entry to Grand view park; suggested looking into extending the asphalt landing pad to a level area so wash out doesn't continue to be a problem
- Discussed with the Grandview Park neighbor about a specific family type group of about 35 people that came through traveling through the park for a few days this past month that had used it last year and left is a garbage dump with trash, diapers, etc. both times and how to deal with this issue if it arises again. If this same group of people is seen visiting again supervisor Friesner will be called to go talk with them
- Issues with the bathroom outhouse door handle sticking; *supervisor Friesner will replace*
- Continued to help replace the dog waste bags at the dog park near the townhall

L Cooper:

- WTIP recording on behalf of Lutsen Township
- Discussed with Andrea Tofte our liaison for red cross on setting up meetings and possible training needed for Lutsen township short term emergency shelter
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C Homyak:

- Attended Gitchi Gami trail meeting: current footing being poured for bridges and engineering processes starting for the bridge needed near Paradise Park Place.
- Fire truck engine claims resolved and fixed to condition before the Lutsen Resort fire
- New insurance claim for door panels and emergency light filed; MATIT advised that the building has a 500\$ deductible and the truck has a \$1000 deductible. Midwest claims will visit in the next week to review the damage. Overhead door company will be contact after a missed visit.
- EMR training for October/November for EMS
- Attended almost all cannabis meetings; talked with a few people interested in applying to open a dispensary.

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Old Business:

- Consideration to make Lutsen township suitable for emergency shelter; generator. (Discussion located under commissioner report) ***Supervisor Friesner will contact Hank and Mal on getting a slab poured and possibly getting the generator ordered. Will call and talk to North shore plumbing about connecting generator to building needs and heating requirements***
- Tree fallen on fence line of ball park; ***M Kartes has reviewed the problem, has a plan, and will submit an estimate, and purchase any necessary materials so repair is completed soon. 3-5 dead spruce and balsam will be removed. The donated oak saplings will replace those trees.***
- Parking lot line striping; each supervisor will review and discuss best way to implement parking lot striping over the next month however no final decision to be made until after the parking lot has been resurfaced. Fire Chief Duclos requested new painting on “no parking” signs in front of fire bay doors. ***Incomplete***
- Review of townhall insurance and look into new insurance companies. Supervisor Homyak will continue to liaison with other insurance companies to compare costs and coverage of needed items.

New Business:

A. Letters of support for 3.2 liquor license renewals for: Clearview General Store, Lockport Inc and Full liquor license for Moguls F&B LLC. C Friesner made a motion to send a letter of support for the 3 establishments, L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

B. **Fall celebration planning date selected for Saturday October 26th, 2024 from 1pm-4pm**, planned potluck with supervisor Homyak providing hot coco, apple cider, hotdogs and brats; costumes welcome! *C Friesner and Danielle will head the planning and decoration.* Finalization of plans and notices will be announced at September/October townhall meetings.

C. MAT district 10 meeting and election scheduled for Thursday August 29th, 2024. Registration at 5:30pm; 6pm meeting and 7:30pm election for District 10 representative at the Grand Lake town hall just outside of Duluth.

D. The shed currently needs to be stained and seeding around the shed take place before winter sets in; C Friesner advised a contractor who is fully insured and would only need supplies to be purchased; material suggested is a heritage timber oil which doesn't leave a shine and is great for pine for about \$500 a five-gallon bucket. C Homyak and L Cooper agreed.

Donations: Tait Lake Association, Lutsen Evangelical Lutheran Church, Thomas McDougall, Jay and Karen D. Young. C Friesner made a motion to accept the donations for August 2024, C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments:

- Trailbreakers bridge update:
- Caribou lake rusty crawfish invasion

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by L Cooper. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm

Respectfully Submitted,

S Mcquatters-Spange; Clerk

Carl Friesner; Chairperson