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CONTINUATION OF ANNUAL LUTSEN TOWN MEETING
August 20th, 2024
LUTSEN TOWN HALL
MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order/ Reconvene 2024 Annual Town Meeting: Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle called meeting to order at 6pm

Attendance: S. Mcquatters-Spangle, Carl Friesner, Chris Homyak, Lolli Cooper, Ashley VanDoren (via zoom), Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Matt Kartes, Steve Duclos, Ginny Storlie

Nomination from the floor for Meeting Moderator: Carl Friesner nominated Sharon Hexum-Platzer for moderator; Lolli Coop seconded. Motion passed; Moderator took their seat at the head of table.

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

Setting of Agenda: Moderator S Hexum-Platzer asked for a motion to approve agenda. C Friesner motioned to approve the agenda. C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.

Other town business:

- **Fire fighter gear needs;** Fire chief Duclos announced that all but two of the new turnout gear has been ordered and arrived with only 3 sets being made from an older material currently remaining costing about \$6500 for each set consisting of everything from the boots up to the helmets. Fire fighters now will start to focus on dependable air packs. The fire chief along with the help of Sharon Hexum-Platzer wrote a FEMA grant for the 12-14 air packs needing replacement at the beginning of the year, the results of which will be available in September of 2024 however the town board should be prepared just in case Lutsen fire is not awarded the grant, the total amount needed is \$113,000 with the grant covering 90% of that cost. Currently the fire crew has 10 frames and 14 bottles that are in consist need of repair and are unreliable. Fire was able to demo the MSA brand of air packs and liked to quality (same brand Grand Marais uses); deliberately choose not to demo Draeger brand based off of all the previous issues encountered.
- Fire Chief Duclos also let it be known they are looking at getting stability struts for vehicle accidents on uneven ground. Currently they are using bocks and ropes that they put together themselves which could lead to a liability issue. A pair would cost about \$10,000 but would be of a manufactured grade and give greater stability and make vehicle extraction safer for both fire and the intended rescued.
- Fire chief Duclos looking into fire blankets as well for electric cars. A lot of water and resources are needed to put out an electric car fire and all the interior hardware, some places like California put a burning electric car in shipping containers and let them just burn out because of how difficult it is to extinguish. A fire blanket for electric car cost is \$2000 and are sometimes a one use item for large fires such as a Tesla car burn but can be charged to insurance to replace when used.

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- ARMOR radios are needed, a grant had been placed at one point a few years ago by the county but no news yet and Lutsen is running out of working radios. The first generation of ARMOR radios Lutsen received can no longer get replacement parts; Lutsen bought 6 radios in the last few years but that does not cover the amount of dying radios; the desired amount would be 16-20 new radios that would include for each fire/EMS crew, home base and inside the emergency vehicles.
- **Short term emergency shelter update;** L Cooper the current lead for Lutsen short term emergency shelter addressed the room. She has been in talks with Andrea Tofte to cover all basis of Cook County health and the red cross to discuss the basic needs of an emergency shelter, training of volunteer staff, procedures and needed items to be designed as a short-term emergency shelter such as showers, kitchen, generator, off grid heating and power source of which Lutsen township already has a majority of (discussions put on hold under the flooding emergency subsidies from this summer's storms). She has yet to hear back from Cook County emergency manager Mr. Keyport who was the person first approach two years ago to help subsidize the cost of installing a generator due to the concern that the west end is the only section of Cook County where there is no official short term emergency shelter. Current plans from Lutsen township are having a slab poured for a propane tank and have a generator installed and continue discussions and training with red cross. Lutsen township has already been used previously for a short term emergency shelter during the flooding storm in June of 2024 highlighting how much of a need this service is.

Reading of Treasurer's Report: Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle read the June Treasurer's report which indicated 6-month spending budget status. Balances as of June 30, 2024; North Shore Federal Credit Union: General Fund Checking \$126,855.00; General Building Fund Savings \$35,743.98. Grand Marais State Bank Fire/EMS truck fund Money Market \$120,074.42 totaling \$417,673.40.

CD investments;

- o 7-month CD at North Shore Federal Credit Union \$102,484.33
 - o 13-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$100,000.00
 - o 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 \$153,171.01, Year to Date Disbursements \$429,279.80(this includes investments). 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

Review of proposed 2024 budgets from Treasurer:

Treasurer VanDoren highlighted the biggest budget items currently considered for the 2025 budget consisted of projects proposed

- Under general town budget and capital items, a proposed \$75,000 cost for new park equipment. C Friesner advised with all the needed replacement items needed to keep Fire/EMS safe to hold off on any park equipment items for a different year.

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- Fire district admin budget, a proposed \$45,000 kitchen renovation. Treasurer VanDoren stated that a typical year of building maintenance is about \$3,000, a little high for 2024 with repainting the building exterior. It was proposed with little interest for commercial kitchen rentals hold off on any renovation along the same thinking with park equipment, Fire/EMS has a greater need. It was advised to raise the budget to \$6,000 for internal fixes such as painting to interior townhall and smaller maintenance.
- Fire District maintenance; a proposed \$10,000 drive way and parking lot; resurfacing the park lot previously cost \$8,800 a few years ago but due to inflation the cost will be higher than the proposed \$10,000. It was advised to put the line item at \$15,000
- Fire District under capital items; a proposed \$60,000 which would include Fire/EMS needs. Treasurer VanDoren; talking about the fire fighting gear and totaling items between the air packs, stabilizing struts, radios, fire blanket a total cost would be \$250,000 assuming we don't get the FEMA grant for the air packs. The breakdown being \$110,000 for air packs, \$21,000 for turnout gear, \$10,000-\$15,000 for stabilizing struts, \$2,000 for electric fire blanket and radios being \$100,000. If Lutsen fire receives the FEMA grant the cost be \$100,000 less. Treasurer VanDoren will create two separate budgets to present to the county stating one will be if the grant is received and one will be if the grant is not received.
- Fire district admin utilizes; under the trash line item is budgeted \$500 but our cost has never been that high so treasurer VanDoren suggest lowering it to \$350.
- Electric utilities cost continues to rise and for 2024 we are projected to go over the budgeted amount; a proposed amount of \$7,000.
- Fire district vehicle equipment and maintenance; treasurer VanDoren questioned if that should be adjusted. Vehicle maintenance can be hard to predict, for 2024 there were a number of insurance claims that raised to amount. Fire chief Duclos agreed raising the amount would be a good idea as fire just repaired their engine for \$1,200 from Kirvida and services call costs continue to rise. A suggest amount of \$7,500. The General truck was refurbished a few years ago and will in the next five years be refurbished again; it was suggested to create a new line item just for refurbishments. That way the fire truck fund can continue to stay in a CD and gain interest and start planning long term budget for items such as air packs and turnout gear when it will need to be replaced in ten years' time. It was suggested to create a separate line item for the known replacement items. Treasurer VanDoren created a separate line item for fire equipment replacement for \$10,000, turnout year replacement for \$7,000 and refurbishment to \$10,000.

With the changes we have a general town budget of \$40,850, a fire district budget of \$363,795 for a total combined budget of \$404,645.

Finalize 2023 Lutsen Township Levy: The proposed township levy set in march was a general town budget \$50,000 and a fire district levy of \$180,000. With the discussed changes and out townhall rentals doing better than predicted but still maintaining a conservative number treasurer VanDoren suggested bringing the general town budget levy down to \$40,000. The fire district levy heavily impacted by all the needed Fire/EMS gear will be \$300,000 if the FEMA grant is not received and \$200,000 if the FEMA grant is received leaving the same proposed deficit of \$63,795 currently in place. Totaling the levy to \$340,000 if grant is not received for an

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increase of 94% and \$240,000 if the grant is received which is a 37% increase. C Friesner made a motion to approve the general fund town budget and levy of \$40,000; fire district budget at \$300,000 with the caveat of a grant being received which brings it down to \$200,000. L Cooper seconded, none opposed. Motion passed.

Setting Location and time of 2023 Election and Annual Meeting: The Election is 5-8pm on March 11, 2025 at Lutsen Town Hall. Annual Meeting will follow at 8:05pm. Carl Friesner motioned for acceptance of the time and place; Lolli Cooper seconded; Moderator S Hexum-Platzer called for a vote; unanimous, motion carried.

Adjournment: Chris Homyak made a motion to adjourn the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Carl Friesner Seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm

Submitted by Clerk: S Mcquatters-Spangle

Moderator: S Hexum-Platzer