

Approved

Lutsen Township Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2024
Lutsen Town Hall

Present: Ashley VanDoren, Carl Friesner, Samantha Mcquatters-Spangle, Lollie Cooper, Steve Duclos, Matt Kartes, Chris Homyak, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Charlotte Skinner, Charles Skinner

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, L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

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

Commissioner's Report: (Ginny Storlie) Not in attendance

Lutsen fire policies and Hydrant updates: (Charles and Charlotte Skinner):

Discussion on fire policies near Lutsen Mountains and the hydrants and pipeline are concerning. Charles let it be known that the recent fires of both Papa Charlie's and Lutsen Resort affected him personally as a main staple in the community disappeared with them. Improving the fire facilities is a necessity and have started plans to replace two fire hydrants located at Papa Charlie's site and one at the Golf Course; one more is planned to be placed at Lutsen Resort site. Looking at fire protection within the community Mr. Skinner is looking for a way to improve the fire rating which is currently located at 9 (the lower the number the better) that Lutsen is classified at for both the community and for insurance purposes. Many factors go into the fire rating such as how many fire trucks are available, terrain, access to water, security measures being taken. Mr. Skinner is looking into getting funding over time to improve the hydrants and connections with water tanks or possibly the snow making system on Lutsen Mountains. A great example is a ski resort out west recently used their snow guns to suppress a fire and saved most of their buildings; this system is a great potential and opening this discussion a first step.

Papa Charlie's is currently planned to be rebuilt starting this summer of 2024 with plans of placing a fire hydrant next to the building connected to the 100,000-gallon water tank that is gravity fed. Public safety determined fire coding and what the state likes to bond for and what fits infrastructure grants. Mr. Skinner is looking for a pathway forward to improve public safety from a fire stand point. Supervisor Friesner commended Mr. Skinner for putting the effort into replacing some of the fire hydrants and had heard by passing that there was some miscommunication on the local radio program related to current malfunctioning fire hydrants, pipe line and legal issues. We as a township do apologies for that as there was no ill will. Good questions as far as implementing new fire suppression means far beyond what is currently in place. Fire chief Duclos let the floor know that the fire code rating is the ISO rating and talking with other fire chief Lutsen just missed the deadline cutoff the change the rating this past year but is something that the fire crew will be working on. One of the main reasons for our current ISO rating in the pumping capabilities currently in place and is a rating for the entire township and would affect everyone's insurance. The one main item holding the township back from a better rating is how much water can be pumped for an extended period of time maintaining a stable pressure; a specific amount I believe in the thousands needs to be pumped per minute and once new hydrants get set up that goal should not be hard to achieve. Mr. Skinner advised that the newer system is anticipated to have more capacity than the ones currently in Minneapolis in terms of pressure and volume over a period of time. Fire chief Duclos advised that any new hydrants installation is dependent on the ability to self-drain since that is the main culprit for rendering the old hydrants unusable; in the winter months the water freezes and breaks the connections within the system. This ISO fire rating is in fact district wide and affected all of district 10.

Mr. Skinner is looking to take extra step in fire policy and on the Lutsen Mountain property to get a better rating and what processes can be designed. Supervisor Homyak questioned working on all fire hotspots in the west end as the rating is district and not just township wide. Currently there are two fire hydrants plus the new hydrants going in, Tofte has 1 hydrant near the beach. Perhaps it is better to increase the fire hydrants in Schroeder and Tofte, possibly working with the DNR and IRRRB to increase hydrant capacity. Treasure VanDoren research the web and found from other fire

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departments that there is a ISO rating and there is an ISO classification; classification rates from 1-10 which we are most likely currently rating at a 9 in and then there is a rating that goes up to 105 pointed based on fire department, water supply. These two different scores dictate what class you fall into.

Lake Superior population of water district is a separate region that helps to maintain the poplar river and Mr. Skinner is looking to find more that could be done to improve the fire protection and rating at a quicker pace and possibly mitigate using the available snow making system currently at Lutsen Mountains and that could be more beneficial that having to rely solely on fire trucks depending on how gallons each truck hold. Fire Chief Duclos; the tender trucks hold 2,000 gallons and the engines between 1500 and 1200 both of which can be emptied in two minutes. Mr. Skinner; the ski hill system has the ability to pump 8000 gallons per minute that can be maintained. There is also a pond up hill from the chalet that probability has 2 to 3 million gallons of water that could be utilized. Currently two pumps and one specifically designed to give the ski hill enough water for a fire system.

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

Correspondence: 5 rentals booked, 1 townhall showing. New address updated for G&G septic. Back up portable drive updated with sundew technical. Emails; BWCAW Forest Order Bear Aware FAQ Released. Religious Discrimination Workshop: Join EEOC General Counsel Karla Gilbride for a Fireside Chat. May 30 Webinar: Gender-Based Violence & Women's Well-Being in the World of Work; forwarded. Fire Safety - Northern Wilds Article; forwarded. IRRR Board Meeting Recap - May 28. AAAA Newsletter, June Update. May Newsletter from the Superior National Forest. MN housing Special Preview of Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness. Bandit Prescribed Fire near Tofte scheduled for Sunday, June 2. Learn about MN's Home Energy Rebate Program Virtually. 2026-2027 Qualified Allocation Plan: Public Comment Period Now Open and Engagement Opportunities until July 3, 2024. Superior NF to hold Public Meeting for Ambassador Outreach at Isabella Community Center. Minnesota - Half-Staff Alert; forwarded. PERA Member Newsletter: Summer Edition. Cook County Voice - add your story; forwarded. 2024 Fall Legislative & Research Committee: Save the Date September 13, 2024. CCHE June Events Newsletter.

- A. Verify fall pancake breakfast date
- B. Post Tball/parent pitch signs
- C. Shred excess documents
- D. Order requested items for EMS/Fire
- E. Research and present signs for Grand View Park
- F. Continued back up of township data
- G. 2 checks voided due to paper jam #17598 #17597
- H. Fire fighters pancake breakfast booked for September 15, 2024
- I. Lutsen official population estimate from MN demographic center;
 - As of April 1, 2023 Lutsen population estimate is 513
 - As of April 1, 2023 Lutsen household estimate is 250
 -

Treasurer's Report: A VanDoren: As of May 31, 2024;

North Shore Federal Credit Union has; General Fund Checking \$187,635.78, General Building Fund Savings \$35,741.05. Grand Marais State Bank has; Fire/EMS truck fund Money Market \$119,867.53 totaling \$343,244.36. Total funds including CD investments \$645,701.86

CD investments;

- 7-month CD at North Shore Federal Credit Union \$102,000.66
- 13-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$100,000.00
- 29-month CD at Grand Marais State Bank \$100,391.47
- Totaling \$302,457.50

Year to Date Receipts \$60,118.43, Year to Date Disbursements \$412,706.31(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.

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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. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed

Review and Approval of Claims:

- Clerk S. Mcquatters-Spangle provided the invoiced May Claims. Details; 13 claims for a total of \$6,778.16 This included \$1,799.30 for turnout gear from MacQueen. \$3,150.00 for repainting of townhall building
C Friesner made a motion to approve claims, C Homyak seconded. Motion passed.
- Clerk provided May payroll Claims for a total of \$9,862 that included fire and EMS quarterly pay
C Friesner made a motion to approved payroll. L Cooper seconded. Motion passed
- Cash Control Statement for May 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 and EMS Chief's Report: (Steve Duclos)

- Fire Chief requesting use of the townhall for the evening for a group of 11 boy scouts and a handful of adults stranded from their campsite in the flooding with fallen trees. This point illustrating the important use of the townhall for a short-term emergency shelter; the supervisors unanimously agreed.
- 9 EMS calls since the last meeting including a 3-hour rescue at Eagle Mountain; currently 6 more call this year then previous years
- Fire Fighters completed all emergency vehicle training
- Cleaned and inventoried the EMS truck
- Air bag testing
- Fire Chief Duclos requested supervisor input of new fire trainees; currently they are not paid for helping with EMS calls, should they be? **Supervisor Friesner made a motion for Fire trainees to be paid for EMS calls, L Cooper seconded. Motion passed.**
- EMS calls for the 1st quarter questioned about not being paid the EMS attendance meeting initiatives. Deputy Sharon Hexum-Platzer reviewed the payroll and verified that EMS did not get paid the initiative for attending the training meeting and as it was before the pay was changed to the new system. **Clerks will make sure the overlooked amounts will be disbursed at the next meeting.** Fire Chief Duclos as also started working with Jenny to create a more streamlined excel that covers all payroll and incentives in a more cohesive manner.
- 1 structure fire that was a loss; fire marshal did attend
- All new helmet in circulation, currently waiting on one more medical helmet
- Donated expire fire gear to underfunded fire fighters to hand in hand logistics a nonprofit that help to distribute around the world
- WTIP interview at Lutsen block party
- Block party generated \$736 fundraising
- Fire commercial washer broke and need a new circuit board needs to be replace; Tofte and Schroeder had previously asked about renting the washer out and Fire Chief Duclos is asking if renting it out and splitting maintenance cost would be plausible. All three departments are mutual aid and this arraignment would be beneficial. All supervisors agreed unanimously.
- Other fire department are inquiring about going in together to buy a hose washing station and maintaining for the west end; a washing station is a couple thousand dollars but split between west end departments is much more affordable. Supervisor Friesner requested a monetary breakdown.

Supervisors' Report:

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C Friesner:

- Assisted with T-ball
- Will call pest control on behalf of Lutsen fire

L Cooper:

- WTIP recording on behalf of Lutsen Township
- Met with health department, representatives from Red Cross and our liaison Andrea Tofte to discuss requirements and suggestion to have Lutsen township be a short-term emergency shelter; very productive meeting. Lutsen township will be going forward as an independent short term emergency shelter but will continue to review with Red Cross to ensure quality of facilities and training. Further meeting to meet requirement will continue in July.

C Homyak:

- Scheduled meetings with different insurance company to review policies and coverage to see if there is a better option available to Lutsen township. Different policies cover many different aspects and it may be necessary and more cost effective to have multiple insurance companies cover different items.
- Mediated calls with businesses over fire hydrant publication on the local radio
- Drove fire truck to the Lutsen block party

Old Business:

- Consideration to make Lutsen township suitable for emergency shelter; generator.
 - **L Cooper will be the point of contact for public health coordinator and red cross protocols.**
 - **C Friesner will connect with Hank to start the process of finding generator to purchase.**
- Tree fallen on fence line of ball park; **C Friesner and M Kartes will create an action to plan to fix**
- Pest Control issue: **C Friesner will call pest control**
- Brushing removal around Lutsen sign and additional areas: **M Kartes will schedule in a maintenance time**
- Parking lot line striping; *each supervisor will review and discuss best way to implement parking lot striping over the next month however no final discussion 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.*
- Garbage signs for Grandview Park. *Clerk Mcquatters-Spangle presented 12 designs for supervisors to review*
- 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.**
- Cardboard trailer road maintenance. **Commissioner Storlie agreed to contact the county for maintenance.**

New Business:

- Lutsen Mountain fire hydrant installation and fire policy review (Charles and Charlotte Skinner represented earlier on in the meeting)

Donations: North Shore winery LLC, Lutsen block party fundraiser

Citizen Comments:

- **Lutsen Rummage sale will be held July 13, 2024**
- Great job Steve Duclos on the exterior painting of Lutsen townhall!

Adjournment: C Friesner made a motion to adjourn; seconded by L Cooper. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm

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