

Town of Duluth

Town Board Meeting September 10, 2020

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisors Tim Strom, Michael Kahl, Rolf Carlson, John Schifsky and Penelope Morton were in attendance.

Approve Minutes: Penelope made a motion to approve the minutes, Tim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda:

- Additions: Under Fire Department add Generator, under communications add Newsletter, under Town Hall add security system/internet.
- With those additions the agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

Finances: The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$596,388.47, deposits of \$49,545.85 and expenses of \$51,431.59 for an ending balance of \$594,502.73. Claims were reviewed; a question about Benson Electric, the new generator was installed in Fire Hall #1. Bills were approved for payment the payroll net pay account distribution document was approved and signed.

Public comment: There were no public comments at this meeting

Department Reports

Police: The police report was e-mailed this month

Fire:

- Generator: We had a storm a few weeks ago the power went out the Town Hall generator was running but would not power up the fire hall. The Fire Hall and all of the Townships important stuff such as the furnace and kitchen aren't hooked into the generator either. If everything is added to the generator including the Fire hall without doing calculations and not everything drawing at the same time it will work. John made a motion that we ask Benson electric to do the rebooting of the wiring to cover the power services it currently does not cover, cost not to exceed \$500. Penny seconded Motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning:

- Storm Water: Nothing new
- Directors Report
 - o There was a variance hearing at last month's meeting which was granted.
 - o There has been another proposal for the former Nokomas restaurant the proposal is a mixed use structure. They would like to rent the top space for short amounts of time. The commission decided the building would be considered a mixed use residential structure. There will be a Conditional use Hearing in October.
 - o A lot of permits are coming in.
 - o The Planning Commission granted Les and Ryan Grumdahl a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to build a shop on the McQuade Road. There were quite a few requirements that went along with the CUP one of which was put on by the Duluth North Shore Sanitary District (D/NSSD). The D/NSSD had some strict requirements including topographical maps of the building area which are outside the Townships stormwater requirements. Sue will write an e-mail back to the Grumdahls and run it by either Tim or John before sending.
 - o Sue received a phone call from Terry Michaelson on Homestead Drive about the driveway going into the Shelhon property on the Homestead Road. The driveway was installed with a St. Louis County Road agreement. Sue will suggest that the two parties talk to each other. Michael Kahl will stay involved with the issue.

Legal: Nothing to report

Roads

- County Road Maintenance request: The Town received a quote from Wrights Tree service regarding the County's 17 action item. The bid came in at \$13,500 and will start the 24th of September. If we take care of some of the County's requests by continuing the ditching on three town roads we will be able to reduce the cost. We've been told the County's list is not negotiable, the county's trucks are getting bigger and single axle road beds simply will no longer work.
- Phone lines: a lot of contract work done for the phone company was never completed with the lines laid in the middle of the ditch or laying on the top of the ground. The Town has been working with a Phone company engineer to resolve the problem.
- Michael will do a ride around with Bob Rodda again

Town Hall

- Hall Mats: quote from Twin Ports Paper and Supply was received, they used square foot costs which will save us money but the deal breaker is an extractor to clean the mats. Research will continue.
- Security system: half installed the other half will be installed within the next couple weeks.
- Credit Card: Michael made a motion to have the two credit cards share the single \$5000 not \$2500 each card, Penelope seconded Motion passed unanimously.
- Department of Health: The water analysis is fine.

Emergency Operations: Covid continues

Materials Management: WLSSD sent out our grant funds.

Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Communications:

- Corlis West's name continues to be in the newsletter and on the web site.
- Barb Crow would like to be replaced as Web mistress.

Personnel: Nothing to report

Old Business: CARES act relief fund: Congress created the CARES act to assist townships and governmental entities finance and cover expenses that are related to the pandemic. The amounts are based on population so our portion would be \$48,300.00. The CARES act funding may cover elections and cleaning. Tim made a motion that the board authorize the clerk and chair to complete and submit the Coronavirus Relief Fund form on or before the September 15th deadline; we also authorize the clerk, chair and Supervisor Strom to move forward with any other reasonable and necessary steps to pursue the CARE Act Funding and reimbursement for qualifying town expenses, and to report to the Town Board from time to time as necessary. Penny seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Form on or before the September 15th deadline.

New Business: General Insurance Renewal

Correspondence

- Co-op Light and Power: Herbicide spray under power lines
- Pipeline Association newsletter
- Technology Exchange

Calendar Events and Meeting Schedule

- Town Board Meeting October 8, 2020

Adjournment: Michael made the motion, Penny seconded. Motion passed unanimously.