

Town of Duluth

Town Board Meeting Agenda September 8, 2022

Call to order: The regular meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors Tim Strom, Rolf Carlson, Stacia Grayson, and Jim Ward were present. Absent Supervisor Penelope Morton. Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek and Clerk Nicole Chatterson were present. There were fifteen community members present as well.

Approve Minutes Tim moved to approve the minutes as written Jim seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda: Add computer quote under Town Hall and move NSCS community rink to public comment.

Finances: The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$968,100.43, with deposits of \$25,638.75, with expenses of \$70,844.43 and an ending balance of \$ 922,894.75. Tim questioned two charges for the Cemetery. They were for the monument work and a charge for removing an excavator. He also questioned the Rodda bill. Jim said that the charges were merited, and it was for work dating from June to August.

Public Comment:

Torgeson Road: Sabrina Stauffer and Nathan Nesgoda along with some of their neighbors on the Torgeson Road spoke to the Board regarding the water on the Torgeson Road. They stated that when there is a rain event, the water flows down the road and pools on the properties at the end of the road. The neighbors hope to have their road ditched to help prevent standing water on the road. They also discussed the possible turnaround that was discussed three years ago by former Supervisor Mike Kahl. Neighbor Dan Billman stated that all the homeowners agree that whatever land (privately held by the landowners) could be used to potentially create a legal turnaround as this would benefit the whole neighborhood. It was mentioned by the Board, the landowners would have to have a survey done and easements written granting the Township permanent access to that land, however, the landowners should reach out to a realty lawyer to verify that this would be the correct course of action. Question: how much would it cost for the Township put in a turnaround? Versus the cost of a private plow overall. As of now the County will continue plowing the Torgeson Road. The turnaround issue was not resolved at this meeting. Supervisor Jim Ward stated that he will have the Torgeson Road ditched before the winter.

NSCS Community rink: Shane Stolp and Ron Sundberg from North Shore Community Rink discussed the request for additional funds from the Town for new hockey boards at the skating rink. The plan in 2019 was that they would replace the boards for \$10,000.00 every ten years. After research it was realized that with the upgrade in product quality, the boards are now lasting 30 years at a cost of around \$80,000.00. They stated that they are short \$60,000.00. They anticipate they will receive \$50,000 in grants. They are asking the Town Board to match the funds that they received so far which would be \$31,100. At that point they would be \$30,000 short of their project goal. Shane asked for an advance on the next 10 years of the Community Rink levy fund. There is an estimated cost of \$118,000 remaining to complete the project. Penelope sent an email and stated that she was in support of the project. Tim proposed that they take the requested funds from the TWP Capital Improvement fund now, then at the annual meeting when we discuss how to spend the ARPA funds that the folks who represent the skating rink propose that \$60,000.00 of the ARPA funds be used to replenish the funds used out of TWP Capital Improvement.

Motion: Stacia moved to advance \$60,000.00 out of the TWP Capital Improvement with the expectation that the funds might be replaced and will be refunded with the ARPA funds at the Annual Meeting with a request from the Electors. Tim seconded the motion.

Discussion: Question: Can this be done with \$30,000 and then request the funding at the annual meeting?
Answer: No, we do not believe that it would be possible.

The motion passed with a vote of 3:1 Rolf Carlson, Stacia Grayson and Jim Ward voted Aye. Supervisor Tim Strom Nay. Supervisor Penelope Morton was absent.

Department Reports

Police: All is quiet with the township.

Fire: There are two upcoming Firewise events, one is being held at North Shore Community School and it is an informational event for the entire community. The other is the annual Chipper Days event where residents in Duluth and Alden Township can bring their tree trimmings to Fire Hall #1 on Ryan Road or Fire Hall #3 on Laine Road and will be chipped. There was a question raised if the Town could pay Volunteer Fire Fighters mileage for training. The Board said Chief Bob can approve the requests if it is within his budget.

Planning and Zoning

Sue's Retirement: Sue provided her retirement notice. Sue requested that the Board make note that after her retirement, if she helps the Town with information or advice that it is strictly as a volunteer and not a paid employee, so it does not interfere with her PERA retirement. Sue notes that Liz has accomplished everything on the job description of a Planning Assistant and is ready to step into this position.

Resolution 09082022: The Town Board resolves that after Sue retires, if Sue helps the Town with information or advice it is strictly as a volunteer not an employee and it will be without compensation. The resolution passed unanimously.

At the regular commission meeting there was a High Frequency Short Term Rental extension granted for one year. There was also a variance hearing for a structure on Greenwood Road. That variance was granted. On the Johnson Masonry site on McQuade Road, Ulland (Road Contractor) has been stockpiling the road debris from the main trunk road work. There is a permit needed for that. They applied for a permit with the intent they must have the piles removed by the end of the year. When Sue visited the site, she noticed they have increased their parking lot. Sue informed them that they need a storm water plan, and it must be submitted by October 7, 2022, to address the issue of an increase in the impervious surface.

Legal: Nothing to report

Roads: It has been a busy month and a half. Seventy-five percent of our stockpile in the pit has been used on our roads. The quality of the gravel is mostly sand. Jim found a contact with Silver Creek Township where we can have them apply chloride on our roads. Jim tried to work with Edward Oil multiple times and there has been no response. Following up on snow plowing for the Town Hall and Fire Hall #1 it was decided that Tim will reach out to Kurt Rogers to see if he will be willing to add us as a client for the upcoming snow season. A resident, Rod Garver, had a question if the other side of Beck Road was an old Town Road. It was instructed that Mr. Garver should talk to an attorney.

Town Hall: The Township received an email asking if they would be interested in a display case.

Motion: Tim moved that the Board authorize the Clerk and Stacia to look into the display case and decide if the Town has use for it. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk requested that the Board consider the recommendation to purchase a new computer tower for the office. Jaws Computer provided a quote.

Motion: Tim moved to authorize the Clerk's office to purchase a new computer and not to exceed \$900.00. Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA- American Rescue Plan Act: The notice drafted by Tim will be in the November Newsletter. It will also be included in the Newsletter blast email for the September Newsletter, posted on the Towns website, and the Towns Facebook page. We will resume the discussion at the October meeting to decided what the format of the meeting will be and when this meeting will take place.

Materials Management: Recycling had been busy.

Cemetery: The discussion about Green Burials continues. Judith Torrance was here to speak on the topic of Green Burials with Molly. They have been working together to see if it is possible to have green burials within the Palmers Cemetery. Molly has been speaking with other people involved in the industry for more information. She was seeking information about the positive and negative impacts from this type of burials. The Board requested that Molly investigates the following questions: What are the rules? Where do you place the Green Burial section? Do we need to change policy? What policies rules do we need to enact? What must we buy and what are the additional costs?

Communications: Nothing to report.

Personnel: MAT annual conference is on October 14-15, 2022, the Clerk requested to attend. Tim said that the conference is full of useful information and a wonderful opportunity to network with others.

Motion: Tim moved to authorize Nicole to attend the MAT Conference and use the credit card for Travel expenses, such as lodging and meals, related to the MAT Conference in October. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: There was a generator quote to install Wi-Fi connections. The discussion led to the agreement that we will not pursue the addition of the Wi-Fi connection.

New Business: No new business.

Correspondence:

- Gnesen Township Newsletter
- TC Energy

Calendar Events and Meeting Schedule

- September 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Firewise event at NSCS
- October 5-9, 2022, Firewise Chipper Days
- October 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting
- October 14-15, 2022, MAT Conferences in Saint Cloud, MN.
- November 8, 2022, Elections 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Tim moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.