

Town of Duluth

Town Board Meeting August 10, 2023

Call to order: The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:32 p.m. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Penelope Morton, and ArMand Nelson. Supervisor Stacia Grayson arrived later. Supervisor Jim Ward was absent. Treasurer Melinda Peulen, Planning Director Liz Strohmayer, Police Chief Mark Haselow, and Fire Chief Robert Engelson. Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek, and Clerk Nicole Chatterson were also present.

Approve Minutes: ArMand moved to approve both minutes for July 13 and 20 meetings. Penelope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda: The agenda was approved as written.

Finances: Treasurers provided a report with a beginning balance of \$ 587,220.14, Deposits of \$214,147.99, Expenses of \$48,064.02, and an Ending Balance of \$753,304.11. Question: The Wright Tree Service claim from last month, was this addressed? Yes, Nicole made the change and Mel will make the update on her side. ArMand moved to approve the claims list and payroll. Penelope seconded the motion. The motion carried. The payroll net pay account distributions and the claims list for approval were approved and signed.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Department Reports

Police: All has been quiet, apart from the dump trucks hauling on the Homestead. This has resulted in multiple complaints being received about speeding. The fastest Mark clocked them was 63 and he spoke with the driver. If he catches any truck speeding, he will ticket them.

Fire: We advertised the truck for \$7,500.00. Floodwood Ambulance responded and offered \$5,000.00. Bob feels this is reasonable as they received the truck for free.

Motion: Penelope moved to authorize the Fire Department to accept the bid for \$5,000.00 for the old ambulance from Floodwood Ambulance. ArMand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning: During the last commission meeting there were five public hearings. There is an upcoming MPCA grant opportunity that Liz shared with the Board. The Clerks office received a letter from St. Louis County re: Dennis Bruckelmyer Right of Way Construction. Within the ordinance, depending on where you are in the Township, there are different setbacks and you are not allowed to build on the property line unless the neighboring property approves it. This is the letter stating this. So, the driveway project can move forward.

Legal: Sue Lawson attended tonight's meeting to share her knowledge of and the history surrounding Stoney Point and the Congdon Trust Land. The city of Duluth owns Congdon Trust land. Penelope asked who enforces. The basic answer is we would enforce it since it is within the Township, but the city could as well. Sue recommended that the Duluth Township Chair have a meeting with the Mayor of Duluth. She would also recommend speaking with a Senator and/or Representative as well. Just to start conversations with the Mayor to move forward with determining what to do with this land. There has been increasing loss of public land with people placing trespassing signs. Sue mentioned that the Costal Program offers some larger grants where it might be possible to help with this project. Sue recommends that public land surveys, and property research/cornerstone be completed. We would need the City of Duluth to work with us to determine who owns that land as a united front. There are multiple government entities involved in the land including St. Louis County with their road, the City of Duluth, and the Town of Duluth. Historically, this was seeded territory in 1854 by the Anishinaabe tribe. ArMand has been speaking with Michael Gustason a gentleman who has been researching the CCC camps along Stoney Point. Michael has started conversations with the County to have the crumbling wall repaired. Sue stated that some years ago there was a grant that someone received to repair that wall. There has been no progress in that respect. ArMand will meet with Senator Grant Hauschild and reach out to Representative Natalie Zeleznikar to get a conversation started at the state level. Rolf will draft a letter to be sent to the Mayor of Duluth and present it to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Roads: Jim visited the office earlier today and provided his road report to the Clerk. Jim stated that there were two culverts replaced on the West Clover Valley. He also shared that he had spoken with Scott Witty regarding Torgeson Road, but Scott needed to do some further research. Jim recommends that the Board meet in the next couple of weeks to further discuss Torgeson Road after we receive more information from Mr. Witty. The Board scheduled a meeting for August 24, 2023, at

5:30 p.m. The Torgeson Road residents presented a Dedication of Land for the Board to review the Clerk will share that with Mr. Witty.

Town Hall: The *property valuation report* from MATIT was received from their inspection this spring. It was noted that the Fire Station #1 building value decreased drastically. By comparison, Station #2 appears to be overvalued. Penelope will reach out to Heather Tidmore with MATIT for clarification and will report back next month. Midwest Electric and Generator completed their annual inspection of the generator. In the final report everything is operating normally, however, they recommend replacing the battery. Roger will pick up a battery. The vacuum was purchased and is awaiting delivery.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): We received the contract for work from ASP for the HVAC work and will need the appropriate signatures to start the project tomorrow. The Clerk presented the Board with a copy of the HVAC and Mini-Splits rebate form from Co-op Light and Power. We will work with ASP to complete these forms and turn them in for a potential rebate from the power company. Les Grumdahl submitted a contract to be signed for the window replacement project. Perrault Construction provided a quote for the ramp project and J & RS Design will visit the Town Hall to provide a quote for the bathroom projects to make ADA compliant restrooms and the ramp replacement. There was a discussion regarding the kitchen upgrades we discussed for the ARPA funds. The Board might want to consider hiring a contractor to complete the upgrades.

Materials Management: Sometime this month we should be receiving our new larger dumpsters. The delay was as a result of WLSSD and Waste Management renegotiating their contract. There was a hangup on the grant check with some administration issues at WLSSD, we should have the check soon.

Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Communications: It was decided that the Township will use ProPrint as our printer and mailer moving forward for the Newsletter.

Personnel: Nicole attended an online seminar for PERA discussing new legislation that was passed this year. There will be some more employees that will now qualify to receive PERA benefits. Nicole and Mel will work together to identify who qualifies for the benefits. The office will be closed on Tuesday August 15, 2023.

Old Business: The pet signs purchased for Greenwood Road are now installed. The fire signs are almost all installed. A huge thank you to ArMand Nelson and John Luikart for volunteering their time to get this project completed for our community.

New Business: St. Louis County sent a request for support for the CSAH 61 Reinforced Soil Slope Project. The Township will sign a letter of support to encourage funding support from the state. There will be a movie filmed in the Township. The movie producers reached out and requested if the Town would be willing to have their police squad featured in the film. The Board asked the Police Chief if this is something they would be interested in, and he agreed. Nicole reached out to MAT Lawyer Steve Fenske to see if there was anything the Township needed to do or if there were any statues related to this. Steve said that the Town can participate in the film if they choose to, we just need to make sure that no sensitive information can be viewed in the squad while it's being used for the movie. The Clerks office brought attention to number of folding chairs we have considering a request to rent 75 chairs for the upcoming Clover Valley Farm Fest. Roger collected the chairs from various areas in the building and shed. We discovered that we would need a new chair rack which would cost up to \$400.00 to purchase a new rack.

Motion: Penelope moved to spend up to \$400.00 on a new chair rack ArMand seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- WLSSD Notice of Public Hearing
- MAT District 10 meeting and election
- CLP Powerlines- Support Redistricting?
- Gnesen Township Newsletter
- Gopher catalog
- Tree Top Products catalog
- Pipeline Safety
- Letter from John Upton District 10 candidate

Calendar Events and Meeting Schedule

- August 12, 2023, 1:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Come on Home Party
- August 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m. MAT District 10 meeting and election
- August 24, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Torgeson Road meeting
- September 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m. WLSSD Public Hearing
- September 14, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting

Adjournment: Stacia moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47p.m. Penelope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.