

Town of Duluth

Town Board Meeting March 14, 2024

Call to order: The regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:28 p.m. Supervisors Rolf Carlson, ArMand Nelson, Stacia Grayson and Jim Ward were present. Supervisor Penelope was absent. Treasurer Melinda Peulen, Deputy Clerk Hannah Jurek, and Clerk Nicole Chatterson were also present.

Approve Minutes: ArMand moved to approve the minutes with the changes to the finance report. Stacia seconded. The minutes were approved.

Approve Agenda: The agenda was approved as written.

Finances: The Treasurer provided a report with a beginning balance of \$715,300.88, Deposits of \$32,461.71, Expenses of \$83,060.03, and an Ending Balance of \$664,702.56. ArMand moved to approve the payroll net pay account distributions and the claims list for approval. Jim seconded. The payroll net pay account distributions and the claims list for approval were approved and signed.

Public Comment: George Sundstrom spoke to the Board regarding the upcoming Memorial Day service. In the past, there has been difficulties finding someone to play Taps for the Memorial Day service. George provided the Board with information about a ceremonial bugle kit the Town could purchase for this purpose and for any vets that are laid to rest within the Town's Cemetery. George requested that the Town purchase the ceremonial bugle kit as presented for these uses.

Motion: ArMand moved to have the Clerk use Cemetery funds to purchase the ceremonial bugle kit up to \$650.00 for the cemetery. Stacia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports

Police: There has been no response from the Bohlmann regarding the letter that was sent.

Fire: St. Louis County Emergency Response reached out to Nicole and ArMand through an email regarding using the Town Hall as an evacuation location in case of a natural disaster like a fire. It was noted that North Shore Community School was to be an evacuation place as the Town had purchased a generator for this instance. ArMand would investigate and report back to the Board.

Planning and Zoning: There will be three public hearings at the March meeting. There would have been four however the property owner did not submit their application in time for the notification deadline. Liz has an abnormally high number of violations which she has been following up with. Liz spoke to the Board and requested that the Board to make a motion tonight regarding a resident that we have been working with to become compliant with a storm water plan. The homeowner defaced the shoreline. The MPCA has also placed a violation on the homeowner. Soil stabilization needs to be done since it is on a slope. Jim Dexter from the MPCA has explained to the owner how to install silt fencing. The DNR is concerned about the toe of the slop and is holding his permit until the owner complies with the Townships request. MPCA is saying they will have him cover the soil since it needs to be 70% covered. With that said, a Stormwater plan needs to be submitted to the Township. Liz has been speaking with Mr. Witty. He recommends pursuing a lawsuit. Step one will be Mr. Witty writing a letter requesting a plan and if it's not produced, we will file a suit.

Motion: ArMand moved to give the Planning Director permission to work with the Town Attorney to draft a letter to be sent to the homeowner to start the process up to, and including, legal action. Stacia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Storm Water: Liz is working with an individual, who lives in the Township and is very familiar with MS4. They work for Lake Superior College and are the college's MS4 reporter. Liz will work with them to see where they could help the Town, including reviewing our Storm Water program. Liz has also contacted other agencies who work with communities and businesses that need to have MS4 reporting and compliance. Liz has had conversations with Val Brady, our existing MS4 reporter, to Thankssee where/what the Township needs to do moving forward.

Legal: Nothing to report

Roads: Roads have been quiet. All the paperwork for the Torgeson road has been submitted. There is a Buckthorn informational program that will be held at the Town Hall for area residents. Jim will work with the Clerk's office to schedule this event.

Town Hall: St. Louis County-Liquor Licenses, the Township no longer must sign off on liquor license renewals, just new licenses. CLP provided a bid for the parking lot lights.

Motion: Armand moved to pay up to \$1000.00 towards the light cost and to have the Clerk issue a check before the next meeting. If necessary. Stacia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Bathroom Bid Review: Murphy Plumbing and Heating \$44,500.00, Litman Construction \$56,759.00, J&RS \$83,256.81, Seth \$56,450.00. Handicap Ramp: We have received two bids for the ramp. We will reach out to the contractors and request clarification of what material will be used for the project.

Motion: ArMand Moved to hire Murphy Plumbing and Heating for the bathroom remodel, along with the removal of the second sink for a total of \$45,500.00 Stacia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Materials Management: The grant paperwork has been submitted for 2024 and we should see the grant funds by July. Colette had an issue last week where someone came from Grand Marais, and they had a car full of plastic film. Our collection container was full, so Colette referred them to the sanitary district for disposal of the film.

Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Communications: Nothing new, still working on the website.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Old Business: NSCS Rink-MOU: The board would like to set a meeting with NSCR.

New Business: ArMand has been attending the Duluth Area Township meetings along with the St. Louis County Area Townships. At the next Homesteader's meeting there will be a demonstration regarding Firewise. There will also be a demonstration at the Town Hall on June 29, 2024.

Correspondence

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- CLP Powerlines
- Canosia Township Newsletter
- Lakewood Township Newsletter
- MPT
- Gnesen Township Newsletter
- MAT Spring Short Courses
- Rep. Zelenikar
- St. Louis County-Liquor Licenses

Calendar Events and Meeting Schedule

- Friday April 5, 2024 Spring Short Courses
- Thursday, April 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting
- Thursday, May 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting
- Thursday, June 13, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting
- July 2, 2024, St. Louis County will hold a meeting at the Town Hall.
- Thursday, July 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. Town Board Meeting
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Adjournment: Stacia moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.