

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Kevin L. Comnick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Daniel J. Golen
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

REGULAR JULY MEETING MINUTES July 3, 2019

Attending: Chair Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen, Deputy Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Fire Chief Clyde Mortinsen, Rec Director Mike Ellingson, and two residents. Chair Comnick called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

AGENDA, MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT & BILLS

- A. **AGENDA:** Motion by Golen, seconded by Brooks, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- B. **MINUTES:** Motion by Brooks, seconded by Comnick, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting (5/30/19 and 6/5/19) and the I & I Public Hearing (5/28/19). Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** 1. Brooks asked if all fuel receipts were received. Treasurer Borndal stated no and that check #8443 was being held until receipts were received. 2. Treasurer Borndal received a check reimbursement from Clerk Krasaway to cover the accidental personal charge on the township credit card. A copy of the check has been attached to the July receipts. 3. The \$848 charge for the baseball ag lime covers the entire year. Since the amount was under 1k, no motion was needed to approve the purchase. Board agrees that the dirt mound needs to be covered and next year needs to be relocated away from the playground. Motion by Golen, seconded by Brooks to approve the Treasurer's Report and to pay bills except check # 8443. Motion carried, unanimously, 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

FD Pool Filling: Hillary Creurer sent an email to the township requesting clarification on the township's policy on pool filling by the volunteer fire department. She stated that they were declined the service but her neighbors were not. Chief Stevens stated that the fire department has offered to fill pools for years as a training opportunity. It is one of the few departments that still offer the service. Creurer stated that they were advised that pool filling was not being offered as it was a drain on township assets and that if there was an emergency during pool filling then that could harm the community. She stated that they were advised to contact Northland Constructors who advised her to contact a milk truck delivery company. She did not remember who within the fire department they talked to. Chief Stevens stated that when someone contacts the department he takes down their main number and address and puts them on a wait list. Typically, pool fillings occur on the normal Tuesday night trainings, however, they can also occur at other times based on volunteer fireperson availability. He stated that they request a \$75 donation which goes into the fire relief fund. They purchase the water from Hermantown. Creurer asked how many firepersons are typically in a truck. Chief Stevens stated that it depends, but typically there are two. She also asked if kids were allowed in the trucks. Chief Stevens stated that kids are not allowed during fire calls, but sometimes come in during trainings and other fire department activities. She stated that she saw kids in the truck while the volunteers were filling her neighbor's pool. He stated that it is challenging to secure firepersons as it is, and that being flexible with their families is helpful. Creurer asked if it was really a good idea for the pool filling service to be offered. Chief Stevens and Assistant Chief Mortinsen stated that they believed that it was a good service to offer the community.

Brooks stated that in April of last year the Office of the Auditor wrote a newsletter that discussed the process of pool filling. It stated that it went beyond the duties of the fire departments, benefited residents rather than the community as a whole, and that the auditor did not recommend taking money for the pool filling process. In the May 2018 town board meeting the issue was discussed. The town supervisors are concerned since they, nor the fire department, have the authority to use public equipment for private use. Chief Stevens stated that the Office of the Auditor's article was only a recommendation, not a requirement. Chairman Comnick agreed. Golen stated that he remembered from the meeting that they were not going to offer pool filling unless it was legally ok to do so. He is concerned about liability insurance, especially if non-volunteer firepersons are in the vehicles. He also brought up a concern about the costs to the township and vehicle use. Brooks questioned whether the service benefited a private individual or the community. Chief Stevens stated that the pool filling was an important part of the fireperson's training. It also provided valuable use of their vehicles as they need regular use for maintenance. He also stated that if it is deemed as only a private benefit, then he questions whether the department should be involved with other activities, such as private races that occur within the township. Chairman Comnick stated that he has not seen a statute that prohibits the practice of pool filling. He recommended that if the service is offered, it be offered at a certain time of the year with a no fee for service, donation accepted. He stated that he believed that it could occur during training nights and only with volunteer firepersons. He went on to state that he is ok with approving the service, declining, or tabling the topic so that the board can research how other townships are handling the service and whether there are statutes concerning the topic. He also stated that they could reach out to MAT for guidance. Golen agreed that he could use more time to look at the statutes. Mayor Boucher stated that Rice Lake offers the service on a limited basis. Treasurer Borndal stated that if monies are donated, they should not be going into the fire relief fund. Chairman Comnick recommended tabling the topic so that the board can contact the auditor and MAT. Brooks agreed.

Chief Stevens asked how they should handle current pool filling requests. He stated that there are only about two weeks left for the season and that they receive about 10-20 requests each year. Chief Stevens and Assistant Chief Mortinsen stated that they could advise those waiting that service will not occur this year. Motion made by Comnick for the Canosia Township Volunteer Fire Department to fulfil the requests for 2019 with any donations made placed in the township's general fund. Motion died. Chief Stevens and Assistant Chief Mortinsen stated that it wasn't worth the headaches and animosity from those upset over the pool filling process. They stated that were no longer interested in offering the service. Golen stated that he would prefer to wait on any motions until more research is done. Brooks stated that he did not think a motion was possible if the township does not have the authority to grant the equipment. Motion made by Comnick, seconded by Brooks that the Canosia Township Volunteer Fire Department will not longer offer pool filling to Canosia Township residents because the township does not have the authorization to allow the use of township equipment for private resident use. Motion carried, 2-0-1. Brooks and Comnick voted yes. Golen abstained. Chairman Comnick stated that the issue could be revisited in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

A. PLANNING & ZONING

Driveway Permits: Chief Stevens requested that driveway permits be amended to mandate a fire number permit be attached. Oswell stated that he can also add the 911 number signage be added to his check off list for site visits. Motion made by Comnick, seconded by Brooks to amend the driveway permit application to include the requirement that a fire number permit be attached and for the 911 number signage check off be added to the check list for site visits. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

B. HAZARDOUS BUILDINGS ORDINANCE

Letter to SLC: Chairman Comnick contacted Commissioner Jewell explaining the township's request for guidance. He has not heard back but will follow up and make sure that the topic is being brought up to the County commissioners.

C. **FIRE RELIEF**: A meeting has not been scheduled as of yet.

D. FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 FIRE DEPT. RESPONSES			
Call Type	June #'s	Notes	Total for 2019
EMS	13		66
Medical MUA	0	Grand Lake	4
Twp Fire	1		1
MUA Fire	2		8
Service	1		3
TOTAL	17		82

The FD had pump training, water shuttle, driving and first responder refresher training with the Mayo Clinic. The doors are on order for the key card access. They are setting up a time to visit the Cich property. Chief Stevens asked if the Jefferson Fire invoice had been paid. He and Treasurer Borndal will research and make sure that it is paid.

E. ROADS

Road Plans: Oswell stated that the striping is coming up soon. The scrub sealing will begin July 17, 2019 through August 1, 2019. A notice has been posted on the website.

Brush Cutting: Jake's gave a quote for brush cutting. One pass would be approximately 3.5K and two passes would be about 8.2K. Chairman Connick stated that he believes that it would be ok to only do one pass this year and two the next year. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick to authorize Jake's to do one brush cutting for 3.5K. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Chairman Connick and Oswell met with Rick's Tree service about getting a quote for tree removal in the noxious weed areas. Grant money would be used to pay for the service. They also discussed putting a flier in the newsletter to help residents with weed identification. There are three trees on one part of Spruce Lane and seven on another part of the same road that are falling down into the right of way. There is concern that someone may be injured if they are not removed. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen to authorize Rick's Tree Service to remove the ten trees from the right of way on Spruce Lane after the property owner's have been contacted. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Oswell stated that he is concerned about some of the trees that are on the school property next to the townhall property. He and Chairman Connick will verify whose property the trees are on. If they are on the school property then Chairman Connick and Clerk Krasaway will write a letter to the school superintendent requesting that the trees be removed. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick for Chairman Connick and Clerk Krasaway to write a letter to the Proctor School District superintendent requesting that the trees be removed, if necessary. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

F. RECYCLE SHED

The grant was received in June. There was a discussion on whether the dumpsters should be inside or outside of the garage. Motion by Connick, seconded by Brooks for Clerk Krasaway to contact WLSSD and transition the dumpsters to large outdoor ones. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

G. RECREATION AREA

Fridge/Freezer Purchase: The fridge/freezer in the concession stand did not work so used ones were purchased for approximately \$145 and \$70. The baseball league runs the concession stand. Since the amount was under 1K and the decision fell between board meetings, Golen approved the purchase. Chairman Connick asked why it was not brought up during the last meeting. Ellingson stated that he did not know about the June

meeting date change. Chairman Cornnick stated that the meeting date was posted. He also stated that he wants to make sure that the process for approving charges, even those under 1K are done with a consistent process. The board agreed that if a purchase can wait til a board meeting, that is best. If it is over 1K, then it needs to wait until the next meeting. If it occurs in between meetings, and is under 1K, then supervisors need to use their best judgement.

Lawn Fertilizer: Golen and Ellingson have concerns about the current contractor quote. Ellingson will seek out additional quotes. It was \$700-800 for each application last year. They did two applications last year. Due to the lateness of the season, they will only be seeking one application. Golen stated that if they switched to a new contractor that the quality needed to be as good, if not better.

Underground Light Wiring: Brooks asked the status of the underground wiring for the ballpark lights. Golen stated that when they sought previous quotes it was about 16-30K. The quote depended on if the lights were also included or only wiring. Chairman Cornnick asked if there was enough need to justify the underground wiring. Brooks stated that if the wires are underground, then the township is eligible for DNR grants. Ellingson and Brooks will meet with the contractors to discuss how the wiring can occur.

Concrete Slab at Playground: Ellingson has received comments from concerned parents about a concrete slab that is jutting out at the playground. Chairman Cornnick advised him to get it removed. Ellingson will try to remove the slab. If he can't, then he will contact someone who can.

H. AIS/CD3

Usage is a bit lower than expected. Chairman Cornnick stated that the township pays \$850 each year to track usage. It may not be worth it moving forward since the township now owns the system.

I. TRAILS

Phase II: The application for phase II was discussed. Golen asked about how users will be notified of the multiuse status that phase II will create. Brooks stated that there will be signage. There will also be signage where the trail meets the wildlife management system. Motion by Cornnick, seconded by Golen for Clerk Krasaway and Brooks to submit the application to the county. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

J. CEMETERY

Mausoleum: Chairman Cornnick shared information on the potential installation of a mausoleum in the cemetery. He met with the Larson's to discuss quotes. A 48-drawer mausoleum with a slab would cost approximately 30K. It would include maintenance, engraving, and locks. Rough estimates for the cost to someone who purchases a drawer would be \$800. Each drawer fits two remains. The slab would be approximately 5K.

K. NEWSLETTER

Golen stated that Ellingson's contact information should be in the recreation area of the newsletter. Brooks stated that Clerk Krasaway should be the contact so that she can collect information on callers.

L. PLAWCS

I/I Ordinance: Motion made by Brooks, seconded by Cornnick to approve the Finding of Facts for the I and I Public Hearing as written. Motion carried unanimously 3-0. Clerk Krasaway needs to take the document to the court house for recording.

Resolution 2019-09: Motion made by Brooks, seconded by Cornnick to approve resolution 2019-09: authorizing the PLAWCS rate increase effective January 1, 2020. Discussion: Golen is concerned about the wording of the resolution as it states "has reviewed the project costs for the operation of the sewer system."

He stated that in relation to this resolution they reviewed the costs associated with the televising, but not the entire system and that is strongly against the generalized statement. Brooks stated that as PLAWCS reviews their budget annually, they have reviewed the general operations, and do so each year. Golen stated that a capital budget study needs to be completed to state that the operation has been reviewed. Brooks stated that rates are looked at annually. Golen asked why the statement had to be included in the resolution. Chairman Comnick stated that it needed to be in there as operations are reviewed annually. Motion carried 2-1. Brooks and Comnick voted in favor. Golen voted against.

Resolution 2019-10: Motion made by Comnick, seconded by Brooks to approve resolution 2019-10: Authorizing the purchase of cellular life station service for PLAWCS. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

M. TOWN HALL WELL ISSUE

Golen stated that the well tested clear. It will need to be tested again in 30 days. He thanked the fire department for flushing the lines. Brooks stated that they might still want to look into well drilling.

New Well Research: Four quotes were requested. One did not respond. One responded only does horizontal lines. Bob Kent Well Drilling quoted 6.1K for 60ft with \$28/ft after. Sunnarburg Well Drilling quoted 12.9K for a 300ft well. Neither quote had hydrofracting included. They also do not include the trench. Brooks stated that there is a grant due in September that might match up to 10K for a new well. Brooks will get quotes for the well driller and line installation. He and Clerk Krasaway will work together to submit a grant request in September if the overall quote for the well is 20K or more.

N. PFC WATER CONTAMINATION: Nothing

O. NOXIOUS WEEDS: Nothing

P. AIRPORT ZONING: Chairman Comnick stated that custom zoning starts August 2019.

Q. MEETINGS/TRAININGS: Chairman Comnick and Brooks attended a MAT training on roads and culverts and liability insurance. He stated that Clerk Krasaway is updating the list of township assets. Golen stated that the score board needs to be on that list of assets. Brooks and Chairman Comnick agreed that the township is in a good position concerning roads and culverts. Brooks stated that he attended the WLSSD annual elections.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RECOGNITION OF NEW BUSINESSES

Chairman Comnick would like to see new businesses in the township recognized with an acrylic plaque. St. Germain Cabinets will be hosting an open house in the new future. He would like to present a plaque then. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen to approve the purchase of an acrylic plaque up to \$100 for St. Germain Cabinets. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

B. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PLANNING

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen to approve the payment of \$100 to Steve Oswell for playing music at the event. Motion carried unanimously 3-0. The fire department will help grill food and make popcorn. Brooks asked if the historical society had been contacted. He will contact them. They would also like for Clerk Krasaway to reach out to them to see if they want something added to the newsletter.

C. APPOINT ELECTION JUDGES FOR AUGUST 13 SPECIAL ELECTION: Motion made by Comnick, seconded by Brooks to approve Barbara Misgen, Linda Bashaw, Laura Solem, Judy Kehtel, Nancy Cameron, and Jeanne Trush as election judges for the August 13, 2019 special election, Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

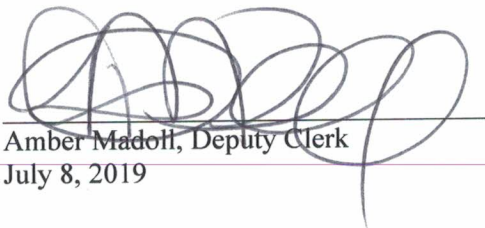
- 2018 Annual Report from the St. Louis County Attorney Office
- Thank you letter from the All-Night Grad Party Committee
- Newsletters from: Town of Fredenberg, Duluth Township, Solway Township, and WLSSD
- Two hearing approvals from St. Louis County Zoning and Planning for 4977 East Pike Lake Road and 5797 Kehtel Road

ADJOURNMENT


Motion by Brooks, seconded by Comnick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:



Amber Madoff, Deputy Clerk
July 8, 2019



Kevin L. Comnick, Chair
August 7, 2019