

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

MINUTES: AUGUST REGULAR MEETING August 7, 2019

ATTENDING: Chair Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Fire Chief Clyde Mortinsen and ten 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 Brooks, seconded by Comnick, to approve the agenda with the addition of Broadband under Old Business. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- B. **MINUTES:** Motion by Comnick, seconded by Brooks, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting (7/3/2019) with one minor spelling correction. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/19 - 7/31/19). Motion carried unanimously, 3 - 0.
- D. **PAY BILLS:** Motion by Golen, seconded by Brooks, to pay bills check #20469 - 20505 and EFT-2019-8 with the exception of claim #8464 (Holiday bill) until the missing receipt is located. Discussion: the newsletter was roughly \$200 more expensive this time due to the noxious weeds color insert, which will be covered by our noxious weed grant funds. Motion carried unanimously, 3 - 0. The treasurer noted that all paychecks will now be accompanied by an "Employee Earnings Report" to comply with payroll laws.

PUBLIC INPUT

- A. Bustrom Neighbor Property Dispute: the board heard from Mike & Jackie Bustrom (5614 Christianson Rd) about a property issue with their neighbor (Melanie Dubla, 5611 Christianson Rd). The Bustroms' efforts to work with Dubla on flooding and standing water issues have been unsuccessful; they are also having a property line dispute. This portion of road is an extension of Christian, and beyond our scope of authority. The board directed them to contact St. Louis County and encouraged them to submit a formal complaint about the flooding. The property line dispute will likely be a civil legal issue.
- B. Haburt Neighbor Dispute: the board heard from Samuelson Rd. residents Dave & Helen Haburt about a problem with their neighbor storing manure near the Haburt's well. The board directed them to St. Louis County Environmental Services Department to file a formal complaint.
- C. Resident Dan Jezierski again asked the board to do something to prevent vehicles from driving down his road; he believes Google Maps incorrectly sends drivers that way and would like a dead-end sign reinstalled.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **PLANNING & ZONING**

SLC Zoning Applications: The board had no formal input for St. Louis County on the Carlberg variance request related to expanding the Tongue & Groove Store.

Cich Property: On behalf of the board, Brooks will fill out an SLC zoning complaint regarding the Cich property where there is up to five habitable buildings accessed by one driveway/address. The FD has found this to be confusing when responding to emergencies at the site.

B. HAZARDOUS BUILDINGS ORDINANCE

Letter to County Administrator: The chair and clerk will send a letter to County Administrator Kevin Gray to gauge whether county leaders have any interest in incorporating hazardous buildings rules into the county zoning ordinance.

C. FIRE RELIEF: Meeting date still TBD

D. FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 FIRE DEPT. RESPONSES			
Call Type	July #'s	Notes	Total for 2019
EMS	8		74
Medical MUA	2	Grand Lake	6
Twp Fire	1		2
MUA Fire	4		12
Service	0		3
TOTAL	15		97

Training: The FD had pump training with Rescue 8 and a Mayo Clinic first responder refresher course.

Key Card Access: parts have been ordered

Pool Filling: Chair Cornick read the response we received from the MAT attorney regarding pool filling. In summary, there is no statute giving the township the authority to use public equipment to benefit individual residents. Attorney Steve Fenske compared it to a resident borrowing a grader to use on their own land: it does not serve a public purpose, even if the wear/ tear and costs are offset by a donation. Fenske said the safe practice is to stop. The board will meet with Fenske at the MAT District 10 meeting later this month to discuss further.

E. ROADS

Road Projects: the 2019 scrub sealing and striping projects are complete. The gravel roads will be graded one more time before winter.

ROW Brush Cutting: This year the board opted to have Jake's Grading do one swath (instead of two) which cut the price to \$3,500. The tentative plan is to alternate years and go back up to a full swath next summer. The board feels this is good balance that meets the brush cutting needs without the extra costs. There are some bigger ROW trees that will be taken care of by Rick's Tree Service.

Culvert Policy Discussion: A Holly Ln. resident contacted Cornick and asked if the township would reimburse him for a driveway culvert he installed a few years ago. The typical process is that residents contact us with the problem, we inspect the issue, and if repair/replacement is needed, we hire the contractor and pay for the work.

Motion by Golen, seconded by Brooks, to not reimburse the culvert costs since the resident did not coordinate with the township in advance and give us a chance to weigh in or offer options or providers. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

F. RECYCLE SHED

Changes are coming to the recycling site: WLSSD will be using a new provider in September. The individual carts inside the recycling shed will likely be removed and replaced with additional dumpsters. Some of the recycling streams may be combined. The plastic film cart will remain in the shed. Brooks reported that the recycling market is extremely volatile right now with WLSSD's costs increasing by 100%, so there may be additional changes in the near future.

G. RECREATION AREA

Concession Stand: Rec Director Mike Ellingson wanted the township to hire someone to run the concession stand during the soccer season. However, the board felt there were too many variables, liabilities and expenses with this with this option and reiterated that they do not want to be in the business of buying/selling food. They encouraged the person to contact the soccer association to figure something out.

Garage Quotes: Comnick received two quotes for adding a new 26' x 36' storage building at the rec area.

- Economy Garage: \$35,349 + \$1,593 for a two-inch slab
- Town & Country: \$38,982

He also gave a list of reasons for considering the building:

- Storage for rec area mowers, PLAWCS equipment, etc.,
- Frees up existing garage at the town hall for FD use and possible fitness center
- Over time the PLAWCS rent payments would offset the cost of the building. There is also school referendum money and donation money remaining that could be used.

Golen and Brooks are not sold on the concept of adding another garage at the rec area at this time, especially since the recycling shed and ice rink sheds might not be in use relatively soon and could be used for storage.

Buried Electrical: Brooks received a \$14,370 quote from Benson Electric to bury the electrical wires at the rec area; he will get another quote for comparison purposes. Brooks & Golen believe burying the lines would allow the township to apply for DNR grants in the future. Comnick would like to know what projects exactly are they planning that would need a grant? Ellingson believes the electrical project costs can be partially covered by a grant as well, which the board will research further this month.

A note on civility and meeting etiquette: Comnick stated that anyone making loud/aggressive outbursts in the future will be asked to leave, and if they don't, the Sherriff's department will be called.

H. AIS/CD3

Inspections: the inspections are going well; Comnick will work with the treasurer to calculate the remaining grant funds and determine when the season should end.

I. TRAILS

Garrett Campbell is continuing prep work at the Loop 1 trail, including shaping the parking area. A few spots may need some gravel. The FD suggested getting a 911 address/sign for the trailhead. An application has been submitted to St. Louis County's Kelly Anderson for the Phase II project as well.

J. CEMETERY

Vegar Family: this month the clerk was contacted by the Vegar family, asking about their cemetery plot reservations. However, neither the township or family have any record of their additional reserved spots, and it appears it may been a verbal promise made by a past township supervisor. The clerk contacted the family to let them know we are happy to work with them to get some formal reservations and the various costs; however, we have not heard back.

Mausoleum: the mausoleum concept was introduced in the newsletter. Connick heard from a few residents who might be interested, but we have not heard any other feedback.

K. TOWN HALL WELL ISSUE

Well grant application: the board has decided to move forward with pursuing a grant for a new drilled well, at an estimated cost of \$20,000; the grant would cover half of that. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to finish the application, get feedback from MDH, and send it in as soon as possible. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

L. NOXIOUS WEED: Treatment of the knotweed in the township ROW will take place in September

M. AIRPORT ZONING: meeting in September

N. BROADBAND

Brooks updated the board on broadband progress in our area: an updated map indicates that half the township is considered “served” while half is “underserved”. Since we are not entirely “underserved” it will make it even more difficult to know how to proceed. We might have some luck coordinating with Rice Lake’s efforts; the supervisors will bring this up at DAT.

{Nothing to report: newsletter, PFC, building maintenance, updated insurance list, PLAWCS}

NEW BUSINESS

A. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECAP

All agreed that National Night Out was a great success, with roughly 200 people attending. The clerk is compiling a “lessons learned” doc so we can remember next year how we can make it even better. For example, we need a sign/banner by the town hall, more pop and possibly a second bounce house. A huge thank you to the Canosia FD for handling all the grilling!

B. ELECTION JUDGE APPOINTMENT

Motion by Connick, seconded by Brooks, to appoint Barbara Erikson as an election judge for the August 13 special election. *Discussion:* Erikson will replace Laura Solem. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

C. UTILITIES LIST

The clerk gets frequent phone calls from realtors and residents asking which utility providers serve different areas of the township, and she wondered if we could put together a map outlining their coverage areas. The supervisors clarified that since Lake Country Power and Minnesota Power’s coverage areas are not clear-cut, the callers are better off just calling the companies directly to get a definitive answer. The only gas provider is Minnesota Energy Resources; for internet, it’s either SCI or CenturyLink.

CORRESPONDENCE

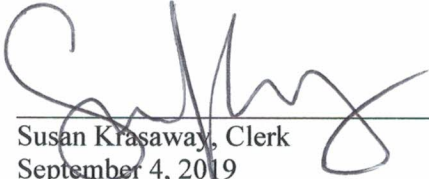
- 2018 Population Count from the State Demographic Center: 2,195 people and 843 households
- Notice of \$444 of certified Town Aid
- Notice of Solway Township’s National Night Out
- Fredenberg & Midway Township Newsletters
- Community Ed magazine
- DAT Annual BBQ notice, MAT District 10 meeting notice
- Thank you note from the Pike Lake Association for the use of the town hall for the July 4th breakfast
- Caribou Lake Association Newsletter
- WLSSD 2020 Budget Hearing Notice
- An email from Chris Buttke asking about the pool filling issue; Brooks responded

ADJOURNMENT


Motion by Connick, seconded by Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:



Susan Krasaway, Clerk
September 4, 2019



Kevin L. Connick, Chair
September 4, 2019