

Canosia Township

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 1, 2020

ATTENDING: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Dan Golen, Deputy Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Chief Clyde Mortinsen, Rec Director Mike Ellingson, and St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Musolf. The meeting was held in- person at the town hall; a dial- in option was also available for anyone (including the public) who wanted to attend virtually. No one chose to do so.

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

AGENDA, MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT & BILLS

- A. AGENDA: Motion made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Dan Golen, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- B. MINUTES: Motion made by Dan Golen, seconded by Kevin Connick, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting (6/3/20.) Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- C. TREASURER'S REPORT & PAY BILLS:
- The updates to the financial system were completed. With this new update, all pertinent payroll information is on each paystub. The Fire Department Relief Fund had accounts that were impacted by the update. All receipts and payments that were impacted by the update have been resolved for the financial year 2020 and moving forward.
 - Concerning check #8717 for \$146, Golen requested that Treasurer Borndal keep track of lawn mower repairs. She agreed to go back and note the expenses separately for tracking.
 - Chief Stevens asked if the Cascade bill had been processed. Treasurer Borndal stated that it will appear in next month's reporting.
 - Motion made by Dan Golen, seconded by Kevin Connick, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/20 – 6/31/20) and to pay bills (check #20871 -20907 and EFT-2020-7.) Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- D. PUBLIC COMMENT: St. Louis County Commissioner Musolf said the county's road repairs and construction are in full swing. The 2020 county budget is on track; however, the 2021 budget will be very challenging. The county will be given 24.5mil for Covid-19 relief funds. Some of those funds will be given to the township. The township has until November 2020 to use the funds; anything left over is given back to the county. SLC has until December 2020 to use remaining funds before they are returned to the state. The township can be reimbursed for Covid-19 related expenses as long as receipts are provided. Treasurer Borndal will track these expenses. Connick asked that Clerk Krasaway order necessary supplies. Commissioner Musolf also stated that the county commission also took the .5% sales tax and moved some of the funds to help keep services on track. He stated that 95% of county workers are currently working in some capacity.

OLD BUSINESS

A. PLANNING & ZONING

- 1. Wastewood Recycler's:** Supervisor Brooks said SLC asked if the township board wanted to hold a review of the Wastewood Recycler's CUP in October 2020, as was originally planned prior to the county taking over the township's P&Z. Brooks talked with SLC's Jenny Bourbonais and she said they are ok with the business and do not see the need to hold a review in October.,

Connick has talked with residents who are concerned about traffic coming in and out of the business during hours outside of the CUP. If the residents give him evidence of the potential violations, then he wants to send them to the county as a town supervisor. Brooks said when a town supervisor sends information, they must be careful since it could be construed as being sent by the board, rather than a concerned resident.

Connick said the town supervisors have an obligation to listen to residents and help them submit evidence when they note potential violations. Brooks stated that the county has looked into all complaints related to the business and have found none that were valid. Connick said the county is reviewing the complaints at the wrong time of day.

Golen asked if the residents had submitted all information to the county and Connick was unsure. Golen stated that if the residents submitted evidence to the township board, then they could consider sending a letter to the county, along with the evidence, asking for a review. However, at this point, the township board has not received any evidence. Brooks agreed. Connick stated that he would still submit an individual letter to the county, whether the board approved it or not, because he is obligated as a town supervisor to act on information submitted by residents.

Brooks stated that the October 2020 review would have been done by the Planning and Zoning Director and presented to the township Planning and Zoning Board. Neither exist anymore, so the township board needs to decide whether to hold a review. Connick stated that unless there is documentation from residents stating a potential violation, then there is no need for an October review. Brooks stated that the county did receive the reclamation, wetlands, air quality, and storm water plans. Those plans are now monitored for violations by their corresponding reporting agencies. The other areas of the CUP, such as the hours of operations, could be reviewed. However, driving in and out of driveways is not noted in the CUP- only crushing, grinding, and stockpiling. If those activities are occurring, and evidence is provided to the township board, then a review could be considered.

Motion made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Kurt Brooks to not hold a review of Wastewood Recycler's CUP. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

- 2. Pike Lake Golf & Beach Club:** The golf club has opened, and the clubhouse will open on Friday. The owners asked for old pictures of the township. They have also requested the oil painting hanging in the old zoning office. The township historical society says they own the painting, and do not want to donate it. Connick believes the painting was donated about 3 years ago and it was donated to the township board, not the historical society. Connick requested that Clerk Krasaway look through old minutes to see if she could determine ownership.
- 3. Flood Plan Insurance:** Brooks stated that when the township gave up planning and zoning, the flood plan insurance was no longer available to residents. They would contact the county. Connick stated that the township would automatically be unenrolled. Golen stated that a copy of the resolution transferring planning and zoning to the county is needed to unenroll. Brooks requested that Clerk Krasaway pull a copy of the resolution and send it in to the insurance company.

- B. FIRE RELIEF:** The association meeting might be held in August 2020, depending on Covid-19. Brooks stated that the meeting could be held virtually, if needed.

C. FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 FIRE DEPT. RESPONSES			
Call Type	June #'s	Notes	Total for 2020
EMS	14		75
Medical MUA	2	Grand Lake	10
Twp Fire	0	Grass fire	15
MUA Fire	0	Rice Lake and Grand Lake	9
Service	0		0
TOTAL	16		109

Training & Updates: This month, the FD trained on pump operations, shuttles, drafting and driving. Chief Stevens said they sold the extra filling station for \$1,000. They are well-stocked on PPE for now. The false alarm issue should stay on the agenda for next month.

Fire Hall Flooring: Motion made by Comnick, seconded by Brooks to approve the Duluth Coating Solutions quote for \$5,051 to replace the carpeting in the fire hall kitchen and meeting room. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Pike Lake 10K Race: Chief Stevens believes that based on current Covid-19 concerns, the race should be cancelled. The supervisors agree. Brooks said the township already sent a letter to the race owner, with no response, and to the county who issues the permit. The county responded that they only look at the road construction when approving a permit, not other considerations, such as Covid-19. Comnick will take our concerns to Commissioner Musolf to see if he can assist getting the race put on hold.

D. ROADS

Kehtel Road, Lindahl Road, Daniels Road, and Carmen’s Way have been completed. Shady Lane, South Pike Lake Road, and McComber Road will be starting soon. The county does not want to do grading until it rains more. The right of way mowing usually occurs in July. However, it is too dry. Brooks stated that the plan was to mow one year and cut brush the next year. Comnick said this year should be brush cutting. Brooks stated that it might not be needed. Comnick stated that he and Road Foreman Oswell will review the contract.

E. RECYCLE SHED

The WLSSD improvement grant for \$1,149.15 has been approved. Comnick will contact Asphalt of Duluth to get on the schedule for seal coating the parking lot; they will not start until the grant is fully executed.

Borndal was advised by the board to pro-rate the snow plowing for maximum financial accountability. The operating grant was reduced slightly because the township did not use all of last year’s grant. Comnick stated that he talked with Frank and the recycling shed is going well.

Treasurer Borndal will contact WLSSD to ask about closing on Election Day. Brooks stated that they were short one dumpster due to increase in visitors, a combination of residents, companies, and residents of neighboring townships.

F. RECREATION AREA

Playground: Motion made by Dan Golen, seconded by Kevin Comnick to re-open the township playground with a weekly cleaning schedule and postage signage that stated the MN governor’s executive order and the CDC guidelines. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Courts: Rec Director Ellingson stated that the volleyball court has a new boundary. The Board agreed to not put up the pickleball court this year.

G. AIS/CD3

Inspections are going well. Wildlife Forever is paying for banners and 100 copies of brochures for township use. CD3 usage is up 14% from last year. Comnick stated that the dock at the public access is not currently scheduled for installation. The DNR advised him that they are currently understaffed.

H. TRAILS

The old dump has been cleaned up except for small ground pieces. The board agreed Garrett Campbell should bring in a small machine to remove the rest. Brooks said he and Ellingson will put up the remaining trail signs. Previously they agreed to one time per year mowing. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

I. CEMETERY

Road Foreman Oswell said the fence was repaired. There are two loose stones, which the supplies are on order.. Rec Director Ellingson said he will add the new names to the veterans plaque. Rec Director Ellingson and Road Foreman Oswell will look at the property and make potential landscaping recommendations to the board.

J. PLAWCS

Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Kurt Brooks, to approve Resolution 2020-8 (PLAWCS basin repairs). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Comnick stated that the PFA loan is paid off for the sewer system. Future funds will be used for capital improvements, such as lift station replacements and/or repairs. Comnick requested that Clerk Krasaway add this news to the Canosia Township website.

K. TOWN HALL WELL

The new well ran for two hours, about 1,500 gallons. After the 4th of July, Brooks said they finalize installation/directional boring.

There is a sewer smell inside the town hall. Brooks wondered if the sewer pipe has been cracked. Road Foreman Oswell stated that there is a clean out near the building. Comnick stated that they should wait until the project is complete and see if the smell remains.

L. AIRPORT ZONING

JAZB will meet on July 16, 2020. The draft ordinance will be sent to MN DOT after this meeting. There will be a public hearing on August 2, 2020 and another one after MN DOT provides their input/revisions. Comnick said this is the first ordinance with customizations for communities.

M. BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Comnick stated that after the Fourth of July the garages will be cleaned out of remaining unused items. This will be done before the seal coat. The fire department will help with the clean out. He contacted MN Locksmith but has been unable to secure a locksmith for the locked township safe. Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Dan Golen to rent a 10 yard dumpster for use in cleaning out the garages and township space. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. The fire department recently power washed the outside of the town hall.

NEW BUSINESS

A. INVASIVE/NOXIOUS WEEDS

Road Foreman Oswell will contact Rick's Tree Removal to start the service for weed removal in September.

B. COVID-19: CARES ACT

CARES Act expenses will be tracked as required. Comnick said purchases need to be made now, rather than later. He also recommended replacing the bathroom town dispensers with automatic ones. Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Dan Golen, to have Chairman Kurt Brooks sign the certification for the Covid-19 CARES Act grant. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

C. AUGUST 11, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Kurt Brooks to approve Resolution 2020-7 (election judges). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Kurt Brooks to have Clerk Krasaway purchase on behalf of the township what is needed to host a safe election at the town hall and to have Clerk Krasaway send town residents a mailer encouraging absentee voting. Motion carried unanimously, 3- 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- WLLSD letter stating that they are extending current rates for users in light of Covid-19
- MN Demographic Center letter stating that as of April 1, 2019 Canosia Township had an estimated population of 2,189 and a household population of 844.
- Fredenberg Newsletter, Solway Newsletter

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Dan Golen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED

x
Amber Madoll, Deputy Clerk
August 5, 2020

Kurt Brooks
Kurt Brooks, Chair
August 5, 2020

-Sara Krasaway, clerk.