

# Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Daniel J. Golen, Supervisor Kevin L. Connick, Supervisor Penny Dieryck, Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2021

**ATTENDING:** Chair Dan Golen, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Penny Dieryck, Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Fire Chief Clyde Mortinsen, and Rec Director Mike Ellingson. The meeting was held in person at the Canosia Town Hall and virtually due to the pandemic. Eight guest attendees attended the meeting. Three were online and the rest were in attendance at the town hall.

Chair Golen 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 Penny Dieryck to approve the agenda with eliminating the discussion of the Pike Lake Golf Course, moving up the discussion on 5770 SPLR to Public Comment, and moving up the discussion on broadband. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- B. **MINUTES: Motion** made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Penny Dieryck to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes with one correction. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion** made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Penny Dieryck, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/21 – 7/31/21). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
  - a. ARPA: Treasurer Borndal stated that she sent in the township's ARPA request.
  - b. Chief Stevens asked if the Circle K cards were in. Treasurer Borndal stated that account was now ready to go and once they receive the cards they should give her their old cards. She also asked the board if the invoices arriving could be electronic, and the board agreed.
  - c. Treasurer Borndal stated that the CARES money has not been invoiced as of yet. She is clarifying an expenditure of \$200-300.
- D. **PAY BILLS: Motion** made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Penny Dieryck to pay bills # 21341–213XX and EFT2021-7. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. **NPLR Speed Sign:** David Humes of 5830 NPLR and Andrea Agar of 5766 NPLR would like to have a lighted speed sign posted on NPLR, which is a St. Louis County road. They stated that the Pike Lake Association would be willing to pay the cost, however, the county is insisting that the funds go through the township. Agar and Humes stated that there has been excessive speeding on the road. They stated that Agar reached out to Victor Lund, who is the road engineer for the county. He did a speed study and determined that while a sign could go there, the county does not feel it's obligated to provide one. Instead, they recommended that the homeowners have the township pay for the sign and be reimbursed by the residents. They stated that the county did increase the presence of police drivebys. However, they do not feel that this is enough. The board and residents discussed the reasoning behind why the county declined providing a sign, including Connick reading an email from Lund. Lund stated in the email that the road did not have enough excessive

speed to necessitate a sign at this time. Lund also stated in the email that if the residents what to pay for a sign, then the county would install it. Each board member raised concerns of liability if one were to hit the sign or the sign were to cause an accident. Comnick consulted the MAT attorney and stated that he advised the board that if they were not going to heed the advice and recommendations of the county engineer, then they should lay the reasons out clearly as they should be able to normally rely on the county's expertise. Comnick stated that there are three clear concerns: the liability of posting a sign not supplied by the county on a county road; the position that the town board should be able to rely on the professional advice of the county engineer; and that the town board should be able to rely on the professional advice of their attorney. He recommended that Agar and Hume go back to the county and work with them to have the sign installed. He offered to attend the meeting with Lund, if they would like his presence. He also stated that they could also approach their county commissioners and plead their case.

- B. **Broadband:** Pat Malley stated that multiple area townships and cities are pulling together to submit a NTIA grant application. There is \$220mil available and the grant request would be for \$10mil. The deadline is 8.17.21. They would like for Canosia Township to participate by committing \$40,000 in matching funds if the grant is approved. Canosia Township has approximately 84 homes, or 4% of the township without broadband currently. Malley stated that the cost for broadband in those homes averages \$500/home or \$42,000. He stated that the collaborative of townships/cities would contract with Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC), which would then buy access to the SCI Broadband fibers. Comnick stated that he was concerned about why SCI Broadband was not present at the meeting and why they were not consulted prior to the meeting. He stated that he would liked to of talk with SCI before making a decision to see what their 10 year plan was. He was also concerned with the lack of notice on the project. Malley stated that they were added later on in the plans. The board was concerned that they had not had a chance to discuss how they planned on using the ARPA funds and that \$40,000 is a large chunk of their total amount. The board discussed that while this is short notice, and a potentially large commitment, this is also a unique opportunity to collaborate with fellow townships and leverage that collaboration to increase the chances of obtaining the grant. Golen also stated that while there might be other opportunities down the road, they may not contain the same leverage and the board does need support the infrastructure of the township, especially with many working from home and distance learning. Other concerns the board had was the potential cost in monthly broadband fees to those residents, how the broadband would be implemented, and whether the residents would even want it. Malley shared some of the township's level of commitments, as well as how the county was considering increasing their level of commitment from \$200K to \$400k. **Motion** made by Penny Dieryck, seconded by Kevin Comnick to pass resolution 2021-7 that commits \$40,000 of the township's ARPA funds to the Northeast Service Cooperative & Consolidated Telephone Company's NTIA's broadband grant application for the implementation of broadband in the NE corner of Canosia Township- contingent on St. Louis County committing \$400,000 towards the same grant application. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- C. **5779 SPLR Meyerson:** The family interested in purchasing the property would like for the easement #198138 along the side of the property to be dissolved. They stated that there is already a paved driveway partially over it and that it is too overgrown to be used as an easement. Comnick explained that easements allow emergency vehicles and personnel to access the lake for fire truck water and water emergencies, as well as, access buildings that might be inaccessible from the road. Even though it is overgrown, hoses could get down the easement and if needed, the township could remove brush to help with emergency situations. The family stated that the current owners state that no one has used the easement in 23 years and the risk of needing access is very low. Comnick stated that it is good that the township has not needed to use it, but doesn't mean that it wouldn't be needed in the future. He stated that the board would need to conduct research

and seek advice from their lawyer concerning any easement dissolution. Golen stated that easements are rarely dissolved due to the concerns of emergency access. Dieryck asked if the potential owners knew about the easement. Their realtor stated no, it was discovered during a title search. Chief Stevens stated that if the easement is dissolved, emergency responders would be unable to go on the land without the property owner's permission, which could delay or prohibit a proper response. The son of the potential owner's read a letter they submitted, which will be attached to the minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **PLANNING AND ZONING:** No update.
- B. **FIRE RELIEF:** Dieryck stated that the report is not complete.
- C. **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**
  - a. Chief Stevens shared the number of monthly responses. He also stated they had a class on wildland search and rescue given by the County Rescue Squad, a driver's class at the county building (which is required annually,) and they worked on tanker 7. He stated that they also have a new side by side and Treasurer Borndal reminded him that she will need the serial number. He asked if ARPA funding could be used for the department's needs. Comnick stated to put together a quote and bring it to the next meeting, then they will run it by the ARPA specialist to see if any of it can be included.
  - b. **False Alarm Ordinance:** Chief Stevens stated that there might be some false alarms that need letters sent. He will pull together the call out dates/times and other information and bring it to the next meeting.

2021 FIRE DEPT. RESPONSES			
Call Type	JULY #'s	Notes	Total for 2021
EMS	13		87
Medical MUA	0		8
Twp Fire	2		15
MUA Fire	2	Hermantown	17
Service	0		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>127</b>

- D. **ROADS:** Comnick stated that the county will be striping all of the township roads next spring. They are almost done with the lateral repairing. By 9.24.21 the township will need to submit the resolution for county work for the upcoming year. Comnick also stated that he talked with Jake and he will be doing road brushing this month and will charge by the hour, up to 5K, which is what is in the budget.
- E. **RECYCLE SHED:** Clerk Madoll stated that Frank Bolos asked for something to go in the newsletter about people bringing items too big. Golen will contact WLSSD to see if they can provide signage to address the concern.
- F. **DOOR LOCKS:** Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Dan Golen to replace the townhall door keypad and change the combination. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- G. **RECREATION AREA:** Dieryck stated that the Prop Shop helped fix one of the soccer goals. Ellingson stated that the fertilizer might only be needed one time this year due to dry conditions. He said that some

straps and cables were also repaired on the playground. There is a toy on the playground that will still need to be repaired. He will work with Dieryck on the playground repairs and plans.

- H. AIS/CD3:** Comnick stated that everything is going well. A decontamination tank will be present at the Pike Lake Landing on 8.28.21. Boats who come off the lake will be brought over for the service.
- I. TRAILS:** Comnick stated that there is some overgrowth, but not much use.
- J. NOXIOUS WEEDS:** Oswell stated that someone should check for the presence of noxious weeds. There was some knotweed on private property. Comnick agreed that Oswell should go and check for weed presence.
- K. CEMETERY:** Comnick stated that Jay Peterson is set to lay down the foundation for the mausoleum. Then in the spring, the mausoleum will be put in place. Fees for each slot will be decided by the board over the winter. **Motion** made by Penny Dieryck, seconded by Kevin Comnick to not charge Mike Ellingson for the extra rock supply that was unneeded in the cemetery. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- L. PLAWCS:** Clerk Madoll mentioned that WLSSD sent a packet with a permit application to be considered at the next PLAWCS board meeting. She will make sure that everyone gets a copy.
- M. AIRPORT ZONING:** Comnick stated there is a meeting tomorrow to submit their final draft to MNDOT for approval.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECAP:** Comnick stated that the night went very well. It was well attended, most of the food ran out, and everyone really appreciated the fire department's assistance in the event. Dieryck stated that the suckers/whistles might want to be reconsidered for next year due to choking hazard. Golen stated that sign was good but that better signage could be made a couple of weeks before the event and placed in multiple locations, like Lavaque Rd, so that people can find the event easier. Comnick recommended purchasing a better grill.
- B. PIKE LAKE DENTAL CLINIC:** Clerk Madoll will send the clinic a letter stating that the township does not manage building occupancy.
- C. NEWSLETTER:** Clerk Madoll will work on a draft and bring it to the next meeting.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- Solway Night Out Invitation
- SLC Sheriff Volunteer Req Squad Donation Req
- WLSSD Newsletter
- Fredenberg Newsletter
- Lakewood Newsletter
- 2021 MN Election Laws Book

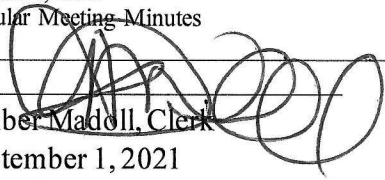
### ADJOURNMENT

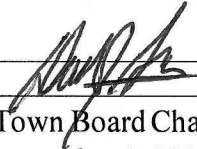
Motion by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Penny Dieryck, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED:

Canosia Township  
August 4, 2021  
Regular Meeting Minutes

  
Amber Madoll, Clerk  
September 1, 2021

  
Town Board Chair  
September 1, 2021