

Town Board Meeting  
October 9, 2008

Roll Call: Dan Tanner, Dave Mount, Jeff Cook, Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff  
Pledge of Allegiance:

1. Approve Minutes

- Bat Minutes – September 4, 2008
- Short Term Moratorium – September 4, 2008
- Board of Adjustment Conflict – September 4, 2008
- Town Board Minutes – September 11, 2008
- Odyssey Discussion – September 30, 2008
  - Wendy Meierhoff made a motion to approve all minutes, Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed.

2. Concerns from the Audience

- Janet Green: Request for the Town Board to approve a letter of support to the Coastal Program in Two Harbors, to create a plan that NOAA has for an estuarine land. The Coastal Program has been presenting a planning process which would incorporate plans already in process. Dan Tanner made a motion to prepare and sign the letter as proposed by Janet, Stephen Dahl seconded. Motion passed.
- Larry Mattson: Ambulance Service question.

3. Approve Agenda

- Jeff Cook: Under Roads - signs for Gamble Road
- Wendy Meierhoff: Under Police department – Nuisance Animal Ordinance
- Move the ambulance issue to the next item discussed.
- Wendy made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed

Ambulance Matter:

Dave Mount gave a brief history of the entire issue as presented during previous meetings beginning with the resolution received from the Lake County Board of Commissioners. If we signed the resolution we would have one representative on the over site board which would cost the Township money for mileage and supervisor pay. There is a belief that Lake County properties are assessed at a lower rate; the State has tightened over site in their areas, the rate distance is no longer as pronounced. Lake County is trying to limit their ambulance costs; they are extending the life of their ambulance rigs by 2 years.

*Question:* Wendy Meierhoff - will our portion always be 6 ½ % or will it be \$8.00 this year \$10.00 next always adjusting upwards.

*Answer:* Dave Mount - In the future, based on the information we have at hand, there is strong evidence we would pay 6 ½ % if the relative property values do not change. Individuals would pay \$8.04 for every \$100,000.00 of their property value.

There are 10 entities involved including a portion of Cook County, the Southern portion of Lake County, half of our Township. All other entities have signed on with the exception of the St. Louis County Townships. If we do nothing we end up freeloading on their system as the over cost for the Ambulance system comes from the Lake County general budget. They would continue to provide ambulance service as before but the cost would come from someone else. We could ask them to cease service within the township allowing Gold Cross to cover the entire area but Two Harbors would then be hurt by the smaller ambulance district. At this time Two Harbors Ambulance is receiving mileage from St. Louis County to cover all runs “outside their service area” which does

include our township. Another option would be to say the township would write a check every year for a sum approved at the Annual Meeting but then the entire township would pay for something only portion of the township receives.

*Larry Mattson:* is the Two Harbors Ambulance service Advance Life Support (ALS) or Basic Life Support (BLS)? I was working as a first responder during the time the change was happening, Gold Cross was servicing our area until it became political, then we were forced to take Lake County Ambulance.

*Answer:* Two Harbors Ambulance is a BLS service; Gold Cross is an ALS service.

*Question:* What is the difference?

*Answer:* ALS services use Paramedics, BLS services use EMT's.

*Beth Hendrickson:* Two Harbors used to take the patient to Two Harbors then to Duluth taking time and cost for the run.

*Answer:* Two Harbors no longer does that, generally the patient specifies which hospital they would prefer St. Luke's or St. Mary's.

*Dave Mount:* the Lake County Commissioners are working with Congressman Oberstar's office trying to get the Federal Rules changed. The way BLS services were set up in the Legislature was by using urban ambulance as a standard service. What they didn't take into account was the distance rural ambulances such as Two Harbors have to run per patient.

*Beth Hendrickson:* The other part of the problem is charges in terms of Ambulance, hospital. Medicare is trying to cover only the actual cost of the item. In terms of charges and costs and what the ambulance services are reimbursed are very different.

*Dave Mount:* Two Harbors ambulance is not allowed to increase their fees to recover enough money to provide the service. There are constraints on what they may recover.

*Don Mattson:* The ambulance service will only get what Medical says they will receive.

*Don McTavish:* I would much prefer the higher qualifications of Gold Cross, a strategy would be to send a letter to Lake County requesting the line be changed following the county line then say we will not join their group as leverage or an enticement.

*Janet Green:* When was this line determined?

*Larry Mattson:* About 10 years ago or so the change was made.

*LuAnne Miltakis:* I would much prefer having Gold Cross. Has there been any talk about a flat rate per household?

*Dave Mount:* The Board has talked about it but not Lake County. They still have to come up with the same amount of money. Instead of looking at home value, set a flat rate per household. The Lake County Auditors office could tell what the break down would be.

*Wendy Meierhoff:* Next month, invite Alden Township, let the community out of it. Perhaps make a motion at the Annual Meeting for the 5 member Board to make a determination without the input of the residents.

*Dave Mount:* I would not like to be the point person on this subject; we all pay for township roads but only a small portion live on them why should the ambulance issue be any different? This issue is more complicated because we don't choose who services us. There are a lot of unanswered questions.

*John Bowen:* St. Louis County reimburses for mileage?

*Dave Mount:* yes it is a general fund reimbursement. The potential double tax issue was brought up; Lake County will forgo the mileage reimbursement.

*John Bowen:* It would be better for everyone if they took the mileage and then charged the residents the remainder. If there is any movement we need to get back to this.

*Jeff Cook:* we spent hours and hours on this already, Lake County should have been on this a long time ago.

*Stephen Dahl:* we should move forward and save this until next month.

#### 4. Correspondence

- a. St. Louis County: Odyssey sub-development public hearing. Odyssey called the County at the last minute and said they withdrew their sub development and were planning on resubmitting a new plan. Our understanding is Odyssey wishes to re-look at the wetland delineation. As such the County Planning Commission denied their proposal.

Odyssey decided not to appeal the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commissions decision. Janet Green has said yes she would talk to Odyssey on an individual basis. We have no idea what Odyssey will do, no one wins in a lawsuit but the lawsuit route was very destructive for the township. A constructive alternative was to get an outside facilitator if Odyssey thought it might be helpful, which they did.

- b. Lake County Commissioners – Resolution of Support (Ambulance). Tabled until November
- c. Lakewood Board of Adjustment public hearing: North Shore Management issue.

#### 5. Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance:	\$771,099.96
Deposits:	\$ 27,826.84
Expenses:	\$ 59,042.90
Ending Balance:	\$739,883.90

- o CD is coming due on the 16<sup>th</sup> (this one is at North Shore) 2% would be the interest for a 12 month rollover or a 9 month CD at 3% at North Shore. Lake Bank is at 3 ½ %. We have a letter of credit to cover our money if the bank fails. Wendy would like to keep everything at North Shore right now. Janet will go to North Shore Bank and Lake Bank to add Wendy Meierhoff to the approved list.

##### a. Review Claims List for Approval

- o 81022 Qwest bill. Pay the bill; fax a copy of the bill to Wendy.
- o Claims list signed.

\* Dave Mount would like to make a proposal to the board: make part of the program of work meeting a financial responsibility. Establish one of the work elements financial oversight; 1. CD's and analyzing the situation. 2. Budget track. 3. Signature authority on the account. Dave Mount nominated Wendy Meierhoff for that position.

#### 6. Tabled Agenda Items from Previous Months

- a. Shipping Container: remove from Agenda

#### 7. Department Reports

- Police
  - o Nuisance Animals: Cloquet does not want to take any animals. Wendy Meierhoff has some names in Lake County which can be checked. Robin Whaley does dog watching it is possible she might have other suggestions.

- Fire
  - Nice quiet month
- Road and Bridge
  - Close to the budget, last grading this month.
  - Gamble and North Shore roads did not “ok” dead end or end of road signs. We need to send an official letter on township letterhead to St. Louis County.
  - This summer two cracks were made by graders placed by St. Louis County on our parking lot. Dan Tanner had talked to the foreman but nothing has been done as of today’s date.
- Community Center
  - Basketball: Tim Strom asked the Town Board, which is also the recreation board, to allow the Community Center gym to be open from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays for basketball. The request is for the board to approve basketball as a no fee program. Wendy Meierhoff – Community Education is requesting a one time fee of \$10.00 for volleyball and basketball to cover the cost of equipment and a janitor for cleanup. Dave Mount – is there a way to adopt a policy of the township covering programs such as this out of the community center fund? We put big chunks of money into soccer and such; I don’t know what dollar figure is, but those programs are not profiting. This township spends a lot of money for recreational activities for all children in the township which are free to them; it is not unreasonable to extend that provision of service which is not affiliated to the school. We will allow the program.
- Legal
  - E-mail draft ordinance about restricting firearms below the shore. It is not a zoning ordinance we do not have to have a public hearing although it might be a good idea to have one anyway.
  - Meyer Cartway: The Town Board officially canceled the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting allowing the Meyers attorney time to review and amend their petition.
  - Elden Cartway: A letter has been received formally withdrawing their cartway request.
  - Nelson Matter: Court case on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October.
  - Mr. Andresen represents a party who requested a variance; the variance was denied and will likely go to the Board of Adjustment. Tim Strom has a personal and financial interest in this issue; as such he will not be able to be the towns’ attorney in this matter. We will hire an attorney if it goes to appeal. Spending money on an attorney is a foggy issue. Dave Mount is more than happy to take the lead to decide how much attorney involvement there is for the issue. Wendy Meierhoff: can we ask MAT for assistance? Tim Strom: they can help you out but they will get to a point where they will recommend you hire an attorney.
  - Worden BoA in the written report.
  - Firearms Ordinance will be written in the newsletter. No schedule was created for a public hearing on this matter. Perhaps after the first of the year or possibly take a look at the December calendar for the public meeting.
- Planning and Zoning
  - Written report.
  - Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> Meet here on the 28<sup>th</sup> for BAT 6:30 p.m.
  - E-mail formal letter from the board members on the SWPPP, this is what we are doing to meet our plan. The MPCA is in general OK with the plan with only a few adjustments. We are using our zoning to take care of the trout stream issues. All culverts need to be GPSed.
- Building Addition Team

- Future of BAT: we have a great plan for the school. Searching for grants is the final function; it is time to switch over to a grant seeking committee. We are short about \$350,000.00 for the two part addition.
- Still have the roof to complete. The R value will go from 0 to 36.
- Water source for the fire department would be water runoff from the building. There is a firewise grant for cisterns.
- Do we want to touch the reversionary language? There is nothing keeping us from adding on to the structure as long as we don't borrow money.
- Dave Mount would be happy to help with putting the grant packages together but not researching for grant opportunities.
- Is the remainder of the board comfortable with the fact that we do not need to do much more with the BAT? They are functioning well on their own. The conceptual designs need to be completed once the Community School provides their input. We expect the final price tag to be around the \$750,000.00 mark. It could be broken down and only one side completed but it is preferable to do the entire unit of phase 1.
  - Preference is to push it out into the township and provide a mechanism for comment. The wish is for no one to come back and say they didn't know anything about the project.
  - One more round of input. A one double sided page to be sent out in the January Newsletter including both pictures together. This project has had quite a few public hearings; residents have had more than enough opportunity to hear about what is going on.
- Town Hall
  - Wendy Meierhoff asked the Clerk to reply back to Peg Sweeneys e-mail and say we are content with the decisions we have made over the guardrail issue. The current plan is guardrail will be removed, replaced by break away posts and plastic chain.
  - On demand hot water heater has been installed, switch over from the oil heater has not yet happened. Request was also to get rid of the grease trap.
  - Local carpenter will be hired to build a small stoop out the back. Chuck Sjodin was recommended as a good choice.
  - The Newsletter will not carry their normal survey in January; it will be replaced with information regarding the Community School and its addition.
- Recycling
  - No report available at this meeting.
- Cemetery
  - Drain the rain barrels; glass blocks to replace the broken windows have been brought down.

## 8. Old Business

No old business at this meeting.

## 9. New Business

No new business at this meeting

## 10. Pay Bills

Bills were paid

11. Motion to Adjourn: Jeff Cook made a motion to adjourn, Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed 9:35.