

Town Board Meeting
January 14, 2010

Roll Call: Wendy Meierhoff, Stephen Dahl, Dave Mount, Danny Tanner, Mary Ann Sironen
Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approve Minutes

a. Town Board meeting December 10, 2009

- Dave Mount: correction to road improvement grant page 2. The Town will benefit from \$60,000.00 of assistance matched by a \$15,000.00 contribution from our road fund which will be taken over a two year period.
- Wendy Meierhoff made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Dave Mount seconded. Motion passed. Stephen Dahl abstained from the vote.

2. Meeting Schedule

a. Posted Meetings

- i) February 11, 2010 Town Board meeting 7:00 p.m.
- ii) February 18, 2010 Budget Meeting 6:00 p.m.

b. Additions

- None

3. Concerns from the Audience

- None

4. Approve Agenda

- Police Department: Contract – Wendy Meierhoff
- Treasurers Report: Audit – Wendy Meierhoff
- Community Center: Separate checking account – Wendy Meierhoff
- TNDL: Old Business – Dave Mount
- Dan Tanner made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Mary Ann Sironen seconded. Motion passed

5. Treasurers Report

Beginning balance	\$890,949.46
Receipts	\$ 50,019.00
Disbursements	\$ 18,404.36
Ending Balance	\$922,564.10

Additional December 2009 Deposits of \$33,038.14

a. Review Claims List for Approval

b. Pay bills

c. Request from the Town Board to move the remaining \$12,000.00 from the Taconite fund into our Township Capital Improvement account.

d. Audit: We are required to have an audit when we have more than \$500,000.00 in disbursements.

This year we had more than \$500,000.00 in disbursements. Wendy Meierhoff will research to find an auditor.

e. Separate checking account for the Community Center. Table for February

6. Tabled agenda items from previous month

a. Welcome to Duluth signs: We currently have 6 signs on main entrances into the township, they were created by Todd Signs who likely still have the template, are 24 x 30 and say "Welcome Town of Duluth Permits required zoning enforced". Planning Director Sue Lawson suggested changing "Permits Required" to "Land use Permits Required". Wording that Zoning is enforced is not necessary. Dave Mount will come up with a proposal. Table until February.

7. Department Reports

a. Police

- Report in folder.
- Police contract, 3 year contract changes
 - Page 10 section 1. Lower 2160 hours to 1920.
 - Page 12, section 1. PERA, pay is whatever the state appropriates.
 - Page 14, \$.50 per hour per year increase
 - Wendy Meierhoff made a motion to pass the Police contract with the recommended changes for the years 2010 through 2013, Dave Mount seconded. Motion passed

b. Fire

- We had numerous first responder calls and one fire call to Two Harbors.

c. Planning and Zoning

- Directors report in binder.
 - St. Louis County is redoing their subdivision ordinance and will be contacting our Township.
 - Sign request from Stoney Point cottages.
 - Manure pile conflict.
- A hunting cabin built on Jim Ullands tree farm property without his knowledge, no sanitary, built close to the road and over 100 square feet in size. We will be working with Mr. Ulland to resolve the problem.
- Bieraugel suit has 90 days to settle.

d. Legal

- No report.

e. Road and Bridge

i) Stormwater

- Road Improvement Grant
- Nothing new at the last RSTP meeting.
- MPCA is putting in a proposal to do some GIS mapping that relates to understanding stormwater sources for this end of Lake Superior. They are doing it for identified dischargers of which the Town of Duluth is one through their runoff ditches. What the MPCA would like from us for their grant application is a letter of support and an agreement to facilitate an information transfer about Towns Roads. The letter basically will say we approve of their work and will provide whatever information we have available.
- There is a requirement in EPA rules that anyone who is a permitted discharger in the watershed has a portion of that discharge load allocated, Duluth Township has a 33% allocation.

f. Community Center

i) Report: in binder

- School would like to purchase a Kiln, Stephen Dahl has contacted our insurance company, they have no problem with a Kiln.
- Stephen Dahl rented an outhouse for the skating shack to try and eliminate students coming back into the school.
- Check to see if the Pavilion is covered adequately by insurance.
- Send a letter to Peak Construction commending them on the fine job they did on the Community center roof.

ii) Sundstrom Resolution: in binder; re: community center tax.

- Changes to resolution:
 - 1st Whereas: Change North Shore Community Center to Duluth Township Community Center.
 - 1st Whereas: strike "building and grounds of the North Shore Community School #4804".

- 2nd Whereas: strike “makes lease payments to the Town of Duluth in accord with the ‘lease aid’ program available to Minnesota charter schools, and
- 3rd Whereas: strike “North Shore Community School building and property, and
- 4th Whereas: strike “public entity, therefore”
- 4th Whereas: change wording to “tax a public entity for owning a facility used solely for public purposes”
- The Resolution will now read:

Whereas; the Town of Duluth (a legal public entity in St. Louis County) owns the Duluth Township Community Center, and

Whereas; North Shore Community School leases space in the Duluth Township Community Center, and

Whereas; the Minnesota Department of Revenue is considering assessing real estate taxes to the Town of Duluth for ownership of the Duluth Township Community Center, and

Whereas; if the Department of Revenue position is sustained, the effect would be to tax a public entity for owning a facility used solely for public purposes, therefore

Be It Resolved; that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners supports the position of the Town of Duluth in opposition to the Minnesota Department of Revenue’s proposal to assess and tax the Town of Duluth for ownership of Duluth Township Community Center.

Dan Tanner made a motion to pass the resolution, Stephen Dahl seconded. Motion passed.

g. Town Hall

- i) Wheel Chair is gone
- ii) Election Judges - signed and approved.

h. Recycling

- Light on side of building. Dave Mount will purchase a new fixture with standard bulb size.
- We will be happy to hand out the bags for magazine recycling but have no place to put them at this time.

i. Cemetery

j. Communication

- a. Telephone has been out since the Christmas day storm. Town Board instructed the Clerk to call Qwest to find the problem.
- b. Don McTavish has had some replies on the survey, so far people seem to be happy with the township.

8. Correspondence

- a. St. Louis County: Recovery zone Facility Bonds - *Noted*
- b. Co-op light and Power: deferred Patronage Dividend Allocation notice - *Noted*
- c. St. Louis County: Aggregate Crushing, crack Sealing and striping programs - *Dan Tanner will review*
- d. WLSSD: Solid Waste Ordinance – *Noted and will be filed in Town Office.*
- e. MP&L: Utilities Increase notification - *Noted*
- f. St. Louis County: Tax Forfeit Property December 23, 2009 – *Dave Mount will contact the County.*
- g. St. Louis County: Tax Forfeit Property December 30, 2009 – *Town is ok with this sale.*

9. Old Business

No Old Business at this meeting

10. New Business

No New Business at this meeting.

11. Motion to adjourn: Wendy Meierhoff made a motion to adjourn, Stephen seconded. Motion passed 9:00 p.m.