

Town Board Meeting
March 8, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mary Ann Sironen, Dave Miller, Dave Mount, Barry Lobbestael

Absent: Barb Crow

1. Approve Minutes

- Town Board Meeting February 9, 2012
 - Mary Ann made a motion to approve the minutes as amended Dave Miller seconded Motion passed
 - Dave Mount made the following amendments: On page 2 at the top of the page the discussion was on the proposed House Bill. Third line down strike “doing much the same for” and insert “permitting as”. In the following sentence strike the language used in the letter and amend to “there is a belief that the bill is going to pass”

2. Meeting Schedule

- March 13, 2012 Annual Election 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- March 13, 2012 Annual Town Meeting 8:15 p.m.
- March 15, 2012 Board of Canvass 5:30 p.m.

Additions

- No additions

3. Concerns from the Audience

David Edblom is here for a discussion related to item #6 on the agenda and will speak at that time.

4. Approve Agenda

Barry Lobbestael made a motion to approve the agenda, Mary Ann Sironen seconded. Motion passed.

5. Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance	\$721,526.18
Receipts	\$ 51,510.64
Expenses	\$ 40,367.69
Ending Balance	\$732,669.13

- We received the first half of our taconite appropriation.
- Review Claims List for Approval: Change the CTAS listing for Linda Hollindays wages from “e-mail” to “web service”.
- Pay bills: All bills approved and paid.

6. Table agenda items from previous month

- John Abrahams Letter to the Supervisors: Dave Edblom spoke on behalf of John Abrahams asking if the Planning Commission could take another look at John’s rezone request. Dave Mount read a letter drafted in response to John Abrahams letter of February 2012. The Township proceeded in accordance with our statutory responsibilities. There is a process for appealing and that process was not followed, at this time John has the right to reapply to the Zoning Commission. Dave Miller made a motion to accept the letter of March 8th to John Abrahams concerning his letter to the Town Board expressing differences in the Town Board decision regarding his rezoning request. Barry Lobbestael seconded. Motion passed. John Abrahams asked some additional clarifying questions.

7. Department Reports

a. Police Chief report

- Question whether there have been many wolves seen in the area? Short discussion on wolves followed.
- The township did not have a burglary in the year 2011.

b. Fire report

c. Planning and Zoning

- Directors Report:
 - At the last meeting the Planning Commission began looking at the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (comp Plan). Jo Thompson and Sue met with Clint Little to discuss GIS. Land Use Permits and sanitary district information provided by John Bowen can also be added to the GIS system. The Planning Commission would like to begin looking at the Natural Resources side of the comp plan and at what our activity as a Town does to the streams. The original comp plan came from the sanitary district, Lakewood and the City of Duluth it is not completely reflective of the township. Sue Lawson commented that it is however reflective of the shoreline. At this time the Commission is not looking at policy. Barry Lobbestael asked if it was possible to make refinements without redoing the entire plan. Yes.
 - Copies of data on Land Use Permits issued between 2002 – 2011 and a draft analysis to determine if the comp plan needs to be updated will be sent to the Town Board.
 - Proposed Text Amendments to Town Zoning Ordinance. Sue provided a copy of the “Synopsis of the Public Hearing comments” to the Town Board this issue has now been released by the Planning Commission to the Town Board. Dave would like to wait until Barb Crow is present for discussion. There may be a need to develop some new language, the Board suggested that Barb Crow and Sue Lawson work together to create new language if it is needed. We can discuss this at the end of the meeting.
 - Letter to Governor Dayton: This has to do with the pending legislation in the house to remove our legal authority to do much of anything on short term rental. With a correction to the spelling of Tom Bakk’s name and adding Mary Murphy as a representative the letter is accepted by the Board and will be sent by Dave Mount.

d. Legal

e. Roads

- Stormwater
- Road Report: other than the last little storm we should save money on snowplowing.

f. Community Center

- Facility Report: everything is going very well we are in the process of preparing a final Community center budget and working it out with the Community School.
- Community Education: Spring session has been published.
- Recreation: We had a very successful Winter Frolic, we dedicated the warming house and made note of all the volunteers who made the warming house possible. Kevin is now working on a basketball program.
 - School arena lighting: the lighting at the ice arena goes right up into the sky our ordinance says we should have down lighting to prevent that problem. Mary Ann will talk with people over at the rink to see if there is something we can do to correct or amend the issue.

g. Town Hall

- The Town Hall now has a new refrigerator in the kitchen. Thank you to Bill and Dorothy Aho for researching, purchasing and making arrangements for delivery.

h. Materials Management

- Recycling
 - Retirement: Thank you to Alvin Anderson for his time of service to our materials management program.
 - Interviews with our two current alternates will be held to decide Alvin’s replacement as shed keeper.
- D/NSSD

i. Cemetery

j. Communication: The Newsletter is out, next one will be mid April.

k. Personnel: Compensation change on Stipends. Stipends are for the previous year work. There is a resolution being created for the way we pay Township employees, we will combine Supervisor stipends into that resolution. Barb and Mary Ann Sironen will try to get something in place for April.

8. Correspondence

- Letter: "Assessors of Minnesota Cities and Townships"
- Knife River Watershed: Articles of Incorporation
- Township short course March 19 – April 6
- Urban Short Course April 19, 2012

9. Old Business

- Tentative date for the Program of Work is April 19th 7:00 p.m.
- The Board would like to issue a formal Thanks to Barry Lobbestael, we are sorry it didn't work out to have him continue on the board.
- Annual Meeting discussion: for those departments which have budgets, the supervisor who deals with that particular budget will do the presentation.

Proposed Text Amendments to the Town Zoning Ordinance: Discussion

Non conformities – Tim Strom will be asked to comment.

Structure height and Zoning Map

Home-stay – Barb Crow and Sue Lawson. Possibly modify it to say "1-6"

Definitions Practical Difficulty

Definitions Dwelling – Barb Crow and Sue Lawson will review.

Ordinance violations – Tim Strom will be asked to comment.

Clarification – Barb Crow and Sue Lawson

Reporting Requirements – Town Board to review.

BOA (Board of Appeal) - fine, needs no change.

STR (Short Term Rental) – The current proposal is to strike the definition making it disappear from the ordinance. It would be preferred to have it clearly stated that Short Term Rental is not permitted. All that would be required is to not strike the definition but where it would appear in the matrix there would be all null symbols.

Interim Use – Barb Crow and Sue Lawson

Filter Strips

Barb and Sue will make additional adjustments as needed. We will need a summary paragraph that says the Town board is removing Ordinance #3 and adopting Ordinance #4 placed in the newspaper and we will need to vote for approval or denial of the change.

10. New Business

11. Motion to adjourn: Dave Miller made a motion to adjourn Mary Ann Sironen seconded. Motion passed 9:25 p.m.