

Town Board of Supervisors  
Regular Board Meeting January 14, 2016

Attendance: Wendy Gustofson, Don Sitter, Mary Anne Daniel, Dave Edblom, Travis Stolp

1. Call to order 7:00 pm
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve Minutes
  - a. December 10, 2015
    - Mary Anne made a motion to approve, Wendy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve Agenda
  - Dave Edblom made a motion to approve the agenda, Wendy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Finances
  - a. Treasurers Report

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$665,124.53 |
| Deposit           | \$ 393.00    |
| Expenses          | \$ 35,223.80 |
| Ending Balance    | \$629,293.73 |

    - i. Review Claims List for Approval
      - One more Rodda Maintenance statement pending; Claim 452 first responder refresher; Claim 446 skating rink lights.
    - ii. Sign Payroll Net Pay Account Distribution: approved and signed
    - iii. Set time and date for audit and budget meeting: February 2, 4:30 p.m. Board of Audit first, Budget meeting to immediately follow.
5. Public Comment - None
6. Department Reports
  - a. Police
    - Contract renewal: Mary Anne Daniel made a motion that we approve the agreement between the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union on behalf of Local 1028-01 representing the Duluth Township Police, the contract runs from February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2019 Dave Edblom seconded. Motion passed unanimously
  - b. Fire
    - Concept designs for Fire Hall #1 are in process.
  - c. Planning and Zoning
    - i. Storm Water
      - Zoning ordinance and stormwater ordinance: have been placed on the web and are now effective.
      - Val, Jo and Sue have been meeting to discuss the possibility of obtaining a grant. They will continue to search for construction grants. Many Thanks to Jo and Val for their continuing work on this project.
    - ii. Directors Report
      - Next Commission meeting: Short Term Rental request
      - Planning Commission project: Greenhouse was erected without a permit; need to research hydroponic greenhouses (Clover Valley Road East) not currently listed in the use matrix.

- Tax Forfeit Land- Clover Valley High School: St. Louis County and the Town Board need to have a conversation to try and come to some common way forward to take care of the condition of the old high school and get the property back on the tax rolls. State of Minnesota owns the tax forfeit lands, the County manages it.
- d. Legal
- Tim has not followed up with Kent Sulem and the auditor.
- e. Roads
- Poor job snowplowing on the Olson Road
- f. Joint Use Committee
- Decision tracking for JUC proposals: the Town Board requested written notes on the Hockey Board and Potting Bench approvals from ABC and the NSCS Boards dated November 13<sup>th</sup>. From now on we need to have approved proposals tracked. The Slab bid was accepted for a basketball court, \$384.75 in design funding was approved but actual construction plan was not approved. Sue Lawson will resend all documentation to Barry Wolff, Phil Strom and George Sundstrom.
  - Electric invoice: discussed and approved.
  - Security System proposal: Don provided a brief background on the original request submitted in June 2015, and the special meeting held to review the revised request submitted in November 2015. Phil Strom presented the request for funding for the security system for NSCS. Dave Edblom made a motion to approve funding of \$29,895.00 for the North Shore Community School, Wendy seconded. A letter of support for an enhanced security system from Chief Shawn Padden was read by Phil.

#### Discussion

Don asked several questions to Phil as head of the ABC Corporation.

- When security for the children was a driving factor in eliminating the portable classrooms, why was a security system not included in the original plan when the \$3.5 million addition was built? Answer: the architect didn't include it in the plans.
- Did you explore any grants for this system? Answer: no
- Did you ask your contractor how much would be saved by using volunteer labor to pull the low voltage cable as suggested by your security consultant? Answer: no
- Why is the request now for the town funding 100% of this security system when the original request was for a 50/50 split between the town and the school? Answer: the capital needs of the facility have currently exhausted the ability of ABC to fund this project now or in the foreseeable future.

Don commented that in attempting to be good stewards of the CCF, he thought more homework should have been done to minimize the costs and explore other funding sources, thereby freeing up more dollars for other improvement possibilities in the future. At a minimum, this should be a cost sharing project between the town and ABC.

Mary Anne questioned the dollar amount of the request asking why they didn't consider a system similar to the one installed in the town hall which was installed for a total cost less than \$1000.00.

Comments were made from the public that supported the motion and rejected the idea that volunteer labor should be used for this project. Comments were also made from the public that supported the security system but thought it should be a shared cost between the town and ABC.

Tim Strom commented from the legal viewpoint that although the town does not have the power to simply give money to a school, in this case he believed this expense could be justified. Tim commented that the building is insured for over \$6 million. He believed an expenditure of approximately \$30,000, amortized over a 15 year period, which equated to an expenditure of \$2,000 per year, would be justifiable as an expense commensurate with the benefits to the town as users of the community center. He believed this could be viewed as a system that may decrease the chance of crime, when neither the school nor the town is utilizing the facility and that the expense could be justified to an auditor if needed. Tim went on to explain that the policy matter is a separate issue from having the legal power for such expenditure.

- Don called for the vote on the Motion: Wendy – Aye; Travis – Aye; Don Sitter – No; Mary Anne Daniel – no; Dave Edblom – Aye; Motion passed. Don Sitter Comment: I am 100% in favor of the security system I am not in favor of the town financing the system 100%. Mary Anne Daniel Comment: Reasoning for my “no” vote to fund the entire amount (approximately \$30,000.00) for a security system which I believe to be the responsibility of the Affiliated Building Company includes the following points: While I wholeheartedly support a security system at North Shore Community School as well as at all public schools in Minnesota and across the country; and I would support the use of a portion of the Community Center funds to purchase and install a security system at the School/Community Center commensurate with the one the township purchased and installed at the town hall, I oppose this motion because: the Affiliated Building Company wanted the school transferred to them so they could replace the portable classrooms which had become a safety concern and yet a 3.5 million dollar addition to their building was constructed without a security system installed and; The Affiliated Building Company has a fiduciary responsibility, before expending taxpayer money to pursue other opportunities such as grants and fundraising to help cover some of the costs of the security system rather than expect township residents to fund the entire cost.

g. Town Hall

- 3 letters from Hutchinson school students: Letters were passed along to the North Shore Community School who will respond to the students.
- Water meters for rentals: the new septic tanks are getting pumped frequently, we might want to put a water meter on the tanks and increase the cost of rentals. Travis will make signs for the bathrooms and kitchen on water conservation. An electronic call system needs to be created if the alarm is set off. Travis will talk to Max Bruckelmyer.
- Vic Lund: Fire Hall signs. Vic Lund measured and reviewed the issue we have restricted sights to the North. One inactive (non-lit) fire truck sign will be installed. Town Hall directional signs. Would cost the township \$300.00 each which the county would then install. No one on the board expressed any interest in funding these signs, issue closed. Guard Rail. Will not be replaced due to safety concerns expressed by St. Louis County engineer Vic Lund.
- Phone issues: Phone issues have been resolved.

h. Materials Management

- Very busy lots of cardboard
- Lighting needs to be better. New lights will be placed in the spring when we can dig.

i. Emergency Planning

- Meeting January 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.

j. Cemetery

- Green/Natural Burial: Mary Anne would like to make a motion that the town form an adhoc committee to study the interest in creation of and plan for a green burial section in the Township Cemetery, Wendy seconded. Motion passed unanimously

k. Communications

- Meeting Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

l. Personnel

7. Old Business
  - Equipment sales: snowblowers one isn't working well, the second is being used. Sprinkler has not been sold
  - Answers to Mr. Sundstroms Questions: responded in writing by the entire board.
  - Supervisor Training, Audit and Equalization and basic supervisor training/short courses: Recommended to those supervisors who have not yet had the training.
8. New Business
  - There are lights that can be turned on around the entire building. They need to remain off.
9. Correspondence
  - SLCAT calendar and meeting minutes
  - Road Salt symposium e-mail notification
  - St. Louis County: 2016 Aggregate crushing/crack sealing/maintenance striping programs
  - North Shore Management Board agenda and meeting minutes
10. Meeting Schedule
  - a. Town Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. February 11, 2016
11. Adjournment: Dave Edblom, seconded by everyone. 9:30 p.m.