

MINUTES  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Present: Terry Hill, Ruth Janke, Tony Compo, Bill Gerard, Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, David Pritchett

Chairperson Hill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall.

Janke made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Compo. Motion carried.

Gerard made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 45,045.93 (Check #'s 43913-43961, Void 43925) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 7,929.56. Second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Hill and Peleski provided an update on animal control efforts across the County. A meeting was held at Cloquet City Hall recently. County and Cloquet representatives met with Douglas County Humane Society representatives and their contractor. They toured the former Friends of Animals building. It was thought that it would cost about 1.5 million dollars to complete the building renovation and purchase needed equipment. The cost of building a new facility is estimated at 2 million dollars.

It was proposed by some in the group that municipalities offer free spay and neuter clinics and free microchipping to first see if this helps to reduce the number of stray animals. Because of the possibility that programs like this could be abused by residents bringing in animals from friends and relatives, there was not majority support by the Town Board members. This information will be brought back to the County and City representatives.

Peleski updated the Board on closing out the FEMA application from the 2012 floods. She's been working to provide additional information to the State.

Discussion was held on the small cell and wireless tower ordinance. Paulson met recently with residents John Bergman and Jesse Mehrhoff. It's been decided that any changes to the existing tower requirements will be discussed when the comprehensive land use plan and zoning ordinance are updated. A motion to dissolve the small cell and wireless tower committee was made by Paulson with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

A quote was received from Stack Brothers to complete additional electrical work at the town hall. A motion was made by Gerard with a second by Janke to accept the quote from Stack in the amount of \$ 1,565. Motion carried. Two additional electricians were contacted but did not submit a quote.

Paulson requested an update on outstanding projects.

The Board was given a memo of understanding from the Regional Stormwater Protection Team. Peleski and Joe Jurewicz from MSA will attend the group's next meeting. The Town will need to join this group or one like it now that it's been designated a MS4 municipality by the MPCA.

Peleski reported that the pay equity report was completed and submitted to the State. Notification has been received that the Town is in compliance.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson was present with his update. The fire department radios are now programmed to communicate with St. Louis County departments. Some members recently participated in a "Wills for Heros" event held in Duluth. One truck recently sustained damage from low hanging trees in a driveway at a recent house fire.

Deputy Rob Lucas provided his monthly report.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle provided his monthly report. He's been working with a developer on a subdivision request. He's been contacted by a commercial realtor regarding lots still available in the Business Park. He's also been working on the RFP for the comprehensive land use plan and filling the vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments.

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Discussion was held on the carpet in the board room. After the two recent elections, it's in need of cleaning or replacing. It was decided that it will be cleaned. Peleski will contact Loyear Cleaning.

Gerard recently met with a contractor to look at the Northridge Park bathroom remodel. No quote has been received yet.

Gerard met with Stangle and Saline in the Business Park to determine if there's room for trees to be placed in the right-of-way.

Paulson reported on the recent CAFD meeting he attended.

Peleski updated the Board on projects she's working on. These include the recent special election, preparing the annual statement, the FEMA grant, preparing for the annual financial audit and preparing for the upcoming budget meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:41 pm by Janke with a second by Gerard. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson