

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 6, 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.

Gerard made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with one correction. Second by Compo. Motion carried.

Paulson made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 73,577.60 (Check #'s 44219-44280, Void 44228) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 15,769.48. Second by Gerard. Motion carried.

A thank you was received from North Country RIDE for the Town's contribution from the Recreation Fund.

A thank you was received from the Class of 2019 for the Town's contribution to the All-Night Grad Party.

The liquor license for Esko Pizza Pies is up for renewal through Carlton County. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to support the renewal of the license with the conditions that were previously placed on it. Motion carried.

The liquor license for Esko Liquor is up for renewal through Carlton County. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Gerard to support renewal of the license. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairperson, Dale Reed, was present to report on the Commission's recent interviews for the comprehensive plan consultant. The Commission interviewed three firms and unanimously recommends MSA Professional Services. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to award the contract for the comprehensive plan update to MSA Professional Services. Motion carried.

Town Engineer, Joe Jurewicz, was present with the results of the bid opening for the paving of E. Harney Road. This included both Church Road to Marks Road and an alternate bid for Marks Road to Erickson Road. Three bids were received. KGM Contractors submitted the low bid of \$ 132,160.25 for the base bid and \$ 99,584 for the alternate. Jurewicz recommends accepting both parts as the price of blacktop per ton will not get any lower. After discussion a motion was made by Compo with a second by Gerard to award the base bid and alternate bid to KGM Construction in the amount of \$ 231,744.25. Motion carried. The project will include replacing all mailboxes along the road with the preferred "swing away" mailbox. A portion of the paving will be paid for with the grant received from MNDOT for the railroad crossing upgrade.

One quote was received for crack filling in 2019. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to accept the quote and award the work to Sinnott Blacktop. Motion carried. Jurewicz assured the Board that the material used will meet MNDOT standards.

Discussion was held on adding a Flexible Spending Account for dependent care to the benefits currently offered to full-time employees. Peleski explained that the cost to the Town will be close to the amount the Town will save on employer contributions to FICA/Medicare since these are pre-tax dollars. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve the Town's enrollment in the FSA-Dependent Care program. Motion carried.

Peleski has received a resignation notice from the current building maintenance /grounds maintenance worker. Discussion was held on whether to contract with a company for the cleaning and mowing, also on whether to separate the description into two separate positions. This matter was referred to the personnel committee for review.

A motion was made by Compo with a second by Paulson to move the Thursday, July 4 meeting to Tuesday, July 9. Motion carried.

The Hillside Road feasibility study is complete. Estimates were provided for both a 20' road width and the Town's standard 24' road width. The 24' road would require additional work to widen and ditch properly. A motion was made by Gerard with a second by Janke to refer this to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review to determine if the project fits in the Town's current comprehensive plan as required by State statute. Motion carried.

Peleski presented prices for four different copiers that office staff has been considering. All prices are very close but she would like to get an opinion from legal on each of the leases. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to authorize the Clerk to enter into a five year lease of an office copier pending legal review. Motion carried.

John Bergman was present to discuss his recently submitted building permit application to use his existing ham radio tower for an internet service pilot project. After discussion it was decided that since the Board has disbanded the original committee that was working with him, he will need to meet with the building inspector to determine what additional information is needed for the permit.

Logan Saline reported that now that road limits are off, the road crew has been hauling gravel.

Jurewicz reported that the new GIS map is up and running. There will be a training session scheduled soon.

Deputy Rob Lucas was present with his report for May. Activities included the annual rummage sale, graduation and the post-grad party.

Gerard met with a Wood City Riders representative to discuss a snowmobile trail through the township and a possible location.

Paulson requested that the corner section marker be located at Marks and E. Harney Roads. It was covered up when improvements were made to the E, Harney Road railroad crossing.

National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 6 at Northridge Park.

Paulson reported that the Cloquet Area Fire District's legislative request to raise the levy for ambulance service only failed. Their bonding request was passed.

Compo reported that the leak in the roof at the fire hall has been repaired. He also noted that the new grass fire truck is now in service.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:30 pm by Janke with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson