

MINUTES  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 1, 2019

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

Absent: Terry Hill

Vice-chairperson Gerard 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 with one correction. Second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Compo made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 62,464.96 (Check #'s 44393 - 44426) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 9,454.54. Second by Janke. Motion carried.

The 2018 financial audit was provided to Board members previously to review. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Paulson to accept the 2018 financial audit as presented. Motion carried.

Electric service has been extended to the new stage at the park. The work was done by Parson Electric.

Discussion was held on the wall between the offices and the community room. All Board members are in agreement that the wall needs to be soundproofed as detailed in the architect's design.

Matt Wilder from the Firefighters' Relief Association provided the Board with additional information on the effect a benefit increase will have on the Town's required payment to their fund. Paulson stated that he'd prefer that the department members vote on the benefit increase before it's brought to the Board. After additional discussion a motion was made by Janke to increase the annual benefit to \$ 2,200 per year of service. Further discussion was held before a second by Gerard. Motion carried with Compo abstaining.

Janke presented the Planning and Zoning Commission's findings regarding the proposal to pave Hillside Road. It was determined that the project is in compliance with the comprehensive plan which stated all roads would be paved by 2018. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to schedule an improvement hearing for Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to accept with regret a letter of retirement from Road Foreman David Black. Motion carried. His retirement will be effective August 31, 2019.

A resolution was put forward by Paulson with a second by Gerard thanking Black for the over 50 years of selfless and dedicated service to Town of Thomson. Resolution passed.

A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to waive ordinance # 28 and allow alcohol to be sold at the fire hall parking lot for the street dance on Saturday, August 10, 2019. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on crack filling on the W. Highway 61 trail. Logan Saline will work with the seasonal worker to have this done.

Peleski requested approval for Zoning Official Dan Stangle to attend a National Stormwater Center two-day course being held in Duluth. This will allow him to obtain his stormwater certification. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to approve the course. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to increase the rate of pay for cleaning the Town Hall to \$ 15.15 per hour. Motion carried.

Town Engineer Joe Jurewicz updated the Board on his current projects. Town staff will have a training session on the new GIS sewer, water and culvert mapping system. There will be a preconstruction meeting held for the paving of E. Harney Road.

Jurewicz also spoke about the 2019 -2020 sewer rehab projects. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to pay the design and bidding phases as a lump sum. Motion carried. The construction phase will be quoted as “not to exceed”.

Jurewicz noted that there is a second holding pond in Esko on Midway plat that will need some maintenance. Minnesota Power still needs to move a power pole for the E. Harney railroad crossing.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson reported on fire department activities. Training with neighboring departments continues. Members will be working at National Night Out, Burkholder 5K and the street dance in the fire hall parking lot.

Deputy Rob Lucas gave his report for July activities.

Janke reported on a recent personal committee meeting. Interviews are being scheduled for the office assistant position and ads have been placed for a heavy equipment operator.

Gerard updated the Board on his work with the Wood City Snowmobile Club to establish a trail through the Township.

Paulson updated the Board on the fire district’s plans to finance the purchase of two ambulances.

Compo and Saline spoke about the possibility of purchasing a sweeper for the Town.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:45 pm by Janke with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Thomson

Bill Gerard, Vice-chairperson