

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

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

Absent: Bill Gerard

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 with one correction. Second by Hill. Motion carried.

Janke made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 118,067.90 (Check #'s 44459 - 44515) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 9,389.86. Second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Residents Gwen and Loren Granda were present to discuss with the Board their desire to replace an existing garage on their property with a larger garage. They've been told by the Town's Zoning Official, Dan Stangle, that they have surpassed their 25% limit for lot coverage by an impervious surface. Currently, 35% of their lot is covered by impervious surfaces. They can only build a new garage if they reduce the current coverage. Discussion was held on what constitutes an impervious surface. They were previously instructed by Stangle to consult with an environmental engineer/scientist to find solutions to reduce the amount of impervious coverage by replacing portions of their property currently covered by structures, pavement, gravel and packed class 5 with a pervious material. Further discussion was held on whether they could apply for a variance. Hill suggested that Pritchett, the Grandas and Stangle should meet to try to find a solution.

Stangle received two quotes for replacing the garage doors at the Northridge Park pavilion. A motion was made by Janke to approve the quote for five 24-gauge doors with windows from Peterson Door. After further discussion, Janke revised the motion to approve the quote from Peterson Door for five 24-gauge doors with a window in the door on the east end of the building in the amount of \$ 6,340. Seconded by Paulson. Motion carried.

Stangle gave his report for the month of August. There will be a comprehensive plan steering committee meeting on Sept. 10. He's also been working with Northern Ground Source to fix or replace the ground source pump at the town hall. The pump runs continuously and most likely needs to be replaced. He's also been working with residents of a shared driveway that will now be a named private road and developers of a residential subdivision along with other duties.

County Commission Marv Bodie was present to introduce the new Carlton County Economic Development Director, Mary Finnegan.

Peleski presented a draft of the job description for the Road and Utility Maintenance Supervisor position for review. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve the job description. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on wages for the road and utility maintenance supervisor position. The personnel committee recommends half of the increase be given now and half after a successful six-month review. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Paulson to approve the increase to the full wage at this time. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the radar speed sign on W. Highway 61. It does not correctly report the speed of vehicles where it is currently located. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Janke to request Carlton County move the sign to Canosia Road across from the athletic fields. Motion carried.

A letter of resignation was received recently from the recycling shed operator, Cyndi Campbell. She will continue with her duties as the janitor at the town hall as well as opening and closing both the hall and Northridge Park.

Irene Rudnicki and Trevin Olson have agreed to share the position as recycling shed operator. They're both currently filling in at the shed as needed. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to hire Rudnicki and Olson as Recycling Shed Operators. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Compo with a second by Paulson to set the wage for Recycling Shed Operator at \$11.00 per hour. Motion carried.

The personnel committee recently interviewed candidates for the part-time office assistant position. They are recommending hiring Janet Odell to fill the position. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to hire Odell. Motion carried. Peleski will work with her to decide on a starting date and hours to be worked.

Peleski gave an update on the CAT 7 Board of Directors' meeting she recently attended. In order to work under the 2016 joint power's agreement, CAT 7 would need to act independently from the City of Cloquet and be totally run by the Board of Directors. The group has scheduled its next meeting for Thursday, September 26 to discuss further what the additional expenses might be.

A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to reschedule the improvement hearing for the request to pave Hillside Road to Thursday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

The respectful workplace policy has been reviewed. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to approve the policy. Motion carried.

A thank you was received from Esko Community Education for the support given for Esko Fun Days.

Joe Jurewicz, MSA, reported that the E. Harney Road paving has been delayed a bit because of the flagger needed for the railroad crossing. He's also still working on the issues with the Keanu Lane stormwater pond and the sewer rehab project.

Saline reported that there are problems with the panel at the Larson Road lift station. Water has been leaking into the panel box. It'll need to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$ 25,000 not including installation. He is still working with the technician to get an assessment.

Deputy Rob Lucas was present with his report. He checked on costs for lighted stop signs at the corner of Canosia Rd/Hwy 61/Thomson Rd. They cost about \$1,800 each. Discussion was held on possibly sharing the costs with the school and county.

Lucas also reported that the contract with Carlton County Sheriff's Department is almost up. This will be discussed more at a future meeting.

Applications for the heavy equipment operator position have been reviewed and interviews will be scheduled.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:34 pm by Janke with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson

