

MINUTES  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JULY 16, 2020

Present: Terry Hill, Bill Gerard (remote), Ruth Janke, Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, Leah Pykkonen, David Pritchett

Absent: Tony Compo

Also attending remotely: Dan Stangle, Rob Lucas, Bob Stokes, John Bergman

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 approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting. Second by Gerard. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Paulson made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 78,467.00 (Check #'s 45422 – 45460) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 8,414.87. Second by Paulson. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

June receipts in the amount of \$ 49,366.54 and June fund balances were reviewed.

An email was received from Sandra Rengo regarding the internet options in the rural areas of the township and the State's Border to Border Broadband Infrastructure grant. She has been directed to contact Carlton County for additional information. She has already contacted the State. She will attend a future meeting to discuss the program further.

A thank you was received from Stuart Bottila for the well wishes following his recent retirement.

A letter of resignation was received from Steve Panger. Panger served as the alternate representative on the Cloquet Area Fire District Board of Directors. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to accept the resignation with regret. Motion carried with 4 yeas. Discussion was held on possible replacements. This will be discussed further at a future meeting. Peleski will also contact the Carlton County auditor to inform her of the resignation.

Road Foreman Logan Saline updated the Board on information he received from MNDOT regarding safety upgrades to the E. Stark Road railroad crossing. MNDOT did a safety survey at the crossing. Crossings are graded 1 (good) – 9 (bad). This crossing is rated 4 which means it's not very high on their list for improvement projects. It could move up on the list if the Town agreed to provide more than the required 10 % match however there is no funding available until 2023-2024.

A list of potential new members on the fire department was presented. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve Lucas Pyrlik for probationary membership and Mason Blankenship and Abigail Blazevic for apprentice membership. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Discussion was held on the CARES Act Relief Funding (CRF) that is being distributed by the State. The Town is eligible to receive \$ 389,475. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to approve the submittal of the certification form. Motion carried with 4 yeas. Once the form is sent to the State, the funds will be deposited into the Town's bank account. Any monies not spent by November 15 will be turned over to Carlton County for their use.

Discussion continued on how the funding can be spent. Things discussed included updating the phone and internet service at the Town Hall to improve the ability to hold remote meetings. Carlton County has created a committee to brainstorm on projects that it could be used for. Peleski was instructed to reach out to the County to see what projects they're considering.

Peleski provided a list of election judges for the 2020 Primary and General elections. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to approve the list pending the required two hours of training is completed. Motion carried with 3 yeas and Janke abstaining.

Peleski requested that the elections judges be paid hazard pay for their service considering the COVID-19 pandemic. This would be an allowable expense for the CRF. After discussion a motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to pay the election judges an additional \$ 2 per hour of hazard pay for the work they do. Motion carried with 3 yeas and Janke abstaining.

Saline inquired about the Wood City Riders snowmobile trail through the Township and who would be responsible for maintaining the culverts where the trail crosses Town roads. After discussion a motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard that the Town would take responsibility for the culverts within the Town's rights-of-way. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

The Esko Soccer Association financial reports for 2018 and 2019 have been received. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve the payment from the Recreation Fund to the Esko Soccer Association in the amount of \$ 3,000 (\$1,500 for each year). Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Saline requested that the sewer hookup permit fee be increased. The permit fee is currently \$ 25. He'd like to increase it to \$ 200 and use the additional charge to provide the contractors with a uniform tracing wire. It would keep the tracing wire and installation consistent for future sewer lateral locating. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to increase the permit fee from \$ 25 to \$ 200 effective immediately. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Discussion was held on the additional signage on Juntunen Road. The "Share the Road" signs can't be added to the walking path markers. If new posts are needed, they will be installed when Carlton County can schedule it. A new double arrow sign has been ordered for the Juntunen / E. Harney Road intersection.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle gave his monthly report. A variance hearing is scheduled for July 28 for a property on Jay Cooke Road. Other variance applications are being reviewed for future hearings. He continues to review site plans for new structures, assign new addresses, and work with property owners on parcel splits.

Deputy Rob Lucas gave his monthly report. There have been requests for increased patrolling and speed enforcement because of the detour from Canosia Road.

Andrew Barnebey from MSA was present to update the Board on projects being worked on.

Paulson reported on CAFD activities. The District is trying to levy for new radios.

Peleski updated the Board on the upcoming Primary Election and changes that will be made.

At 7:26 p.m. those attending via telephone were inadvertently disconnected by the internet.

Hill called for additional comments from those attending in person.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson