

MINUTES  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 6, 2020

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

Staff also attending remotely: Kyle Gustafson, Logan Saline, Rob Lucas

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 approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting with corrections. Second by Janke. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

Gerard made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 151,685.14 (Check #'s 45461 – 45511) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 10,215.41. Second by Compo. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

A letter was received from Peggy Meseroll requesting Manisto Road be extended. There is a portion of her driveway that could be used as a turnaround area for snowplowing and grading equipment. Road supervisor Logan Saline stated that it is a problem area and extending the road would help. Pritchett advised that an easement would be needed. The matter was referred to legal and engineering to work with Saline.

Peleski requested approval to reimburse Zoning Official Dan Stangle for expenses he incurred to enable him to work from home for 3 months during the initial stay at home order. The Town's auditor advises that CARES Act Relief Funding (CRF) can be used for this expense. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Gerard to approve the reimbursement in the amount of \$ 433.48. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

Discussion was held on what other expenses the CRF can be used for. Other municipalities across the State are also looking for answers to the question. It was decided that a committee would be formed to discuss different projects. It will include Compo, Gerard, Peleski, Pykkonen, Saline, Stangle, and Gustafson.

Kate Eiyneck from MSA was present to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public meetings had to be suspended. Options were given for in-person meetings with limited attendance, virtual meetings, or delaying the completion until public meetings can be held. After hearing the Board members' thoughts, a motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to pause the meetings for 6 months and discuss again at the first meeting in February 2021. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

A motion was made by Gerard with a second by Paulson to authorize Peleski to enter into a financing agreement with John Deere pending legal review. Motion carried with 5 yeas. The agreement should be ready in a few days.

Larry LaPlante, the former owner of the property at 1 Korby Road, was present via teleconference to appeal the decision made by Utility Supervisor Saline regarding a recent sewer lateral inspection at that location. With each sale of property that is on the sanitary sewer line, a video inspection is now required as part of WLSSD's increased efforts to eliminate inflow and infiltration in the sewer system. The Town adopted Ordinance No. 44 to enforce this action. Saline viewed the video from 1 Korby Road and also had the Town's engineer at MSA view the video. All had the opinion that corrective action was needed. LaPlante is questioning the findings. He has also shown the video to plumbers and either directly or indirectly to inspectors, and they disagree with the findings. Saline had requested a second video be completed because the original was not done to Town standards. Saline will see that Town engineer Andrew Barnebey views the second video. Further discussion will be held at the August 20 meeting.

Two young men were present to speak to the Board about vandalism done to the Northridge Park pavilion. Both admitted to participating in the vandalism and expressed their remorse. Deputy Lucas reported that more kids were involved and all have admitted to the vandalism. Discussion was held on what type of punishment would be given.

It was decided that each boy would be required to complete eight hours of community service to the Town. Projects will be lined up at both the park and the town hall.

Discussion was held on issuing a Request for Proposals for engineering services. With staff changes at MSA it is a good time to look at other options. Other firms have approached the Town and would like to provide the service. Paulson will find sample RFPs and put together a draft for the Board.

Saline provided a quote for garage doors at the Town Garage. The lower panels are deteriorated and just replacing those will not fit. The Board agreed. Saline will get additional quotes.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson reported that four firefighters have reached the end of their probation. Chase Bergstedt, Phil Rogers, Krista Leach and Steve Krocka are now full members effective July 16, 2020.

The annual fire department pancake breakfast will be held Oct. 3. It will be served curbside only this year.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle gave his report. He has been working on parcel splits, stormwater violations, and variance hearings. He also made arrangements to have the flag pole fixed and the heating/cooling system work at the Town Hall finished.

Saline gave his report. One seasonal worker will be done for the summer next week.

Barnebey reported that he's been working on the stormwater pond repairs, reviewing sewer lateral videos when needed and the plan for Northridge Park.

Pykkonen provided quotes for initial installation and monthly broadband internet service fees using the fiber optics that were extended to the Town Hall through the Middle Mile Fiber project. She also obtained quotes for extending that service to the Town Garage and Fire Hall. The increased internet speeds will enable better internet service for the teleconferencing of meetings and public hearings at the Town Hall. It will also enable the fire department to conduct meetings and trainings via teleconference. The Road and Utility staff will be able to hold safety training sessions with internet access. The cost for the work should be reimbursable through CRF. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to proceed with the internet options presented for all three locations. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

Discussion was held on the road signs that were to be installed on Juntunen Road. With the additional requirements and having to wait for the County to install them, it could be six weeks before the signs would be up. Since the Canosia Road bridge project should be completed in early October, the decision was made to not install the signs.

Paulson reported that the Cloquet Area Fire District will be holding a budget meeting.

Peleski reported on the upcoming primary election. Set-up will begin on Friday.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:08 pm by Gerard with a second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson