MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2020

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

Absent: Terry Hill

Additional staff attending remotely: Kyle Gustafson, Logan Saline, Rob Lucas

Vice-chairperson Gerard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall. Gerard then turned the meeting over to Janke who was in attendance.

Gerard made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting. Second by Compo. Motion carried with 3 yeas, Paulson late and Hill absent.

Compo made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of $ 238,016.24 (Check #'s 45512 – 45549) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of $ 8,798.96. Second by Gerard. Motion carried with 3 yeas, Paulson late and Hill absent.

July receipts in the amount of $ 1,287,159.59 and July fund balances were reviewed.

A thank you was received from Esko Boy Scout Troop 152 for maps that were provided to them by Zoning Official Dan Stangle and Engineer Joe Jurewicz. The Troop was able to complete their Citizenship and Community Merit Badge.

Larry and Cheryl LaPlante were in attendance to discuss the review of a sewer lateral inspection for a house they recently sold. The first video that was provided wasn't a good quality. It was deemed as showing inflow and infiltration and corrections were required by both the Town's Sewer Official, Logan Saline, and Town Engineer, Andrew Barnebey. A second video was done and was initially deemed failed with corrections needed. The LaPlante's dispute the findings. The second video was viewed by the engineer who is now willing to take responsibility and sign off on the certificate of compliance as passed with no corrections required. Paulson inquired of Barnebey as to what would cause the staining at the joints of the sewer pipe. Barnebey could not provide an answer without taking the sewer pipe apart. Paulson requested to be on record as saying that Barnebey has indicated that there is no infiltration, and furthermore, as the Town's engineering firm, he does not know what the brown staining is. The LaPlante's will be given a certificate of compliance once it has been signed by Barnebey.

Peleski reported that a meeting has been schedule for the CARES Act Relief Funding (CRF) committee. The group will be developing a list of possible uses for the funds. The list will then be sent to the Town's auditor, Wipfli, for review. Any suggestions should be brought to a committee member.

Paulson put together a request for proposals for engineering services. It was then reviewed by legal counsel and presented to the Town Board. Paulson requested that the dates be adjusted as he will not physically be in attendance at the next meeting. The RFP was tabled until the September 3 meeting.

Barnebey met with Saline at Manisto Road to determine what improvements would be required to extend that road. The road would need to be widened and brought up to Town standards, an easement would need to be in place, and all costs for the improvements would be borne by the property owner. Barnebey will provide an estimate for the gravel needed for the improvements. This will be tabled until the next meeting and the property owner will be given the information provided.

Matt Wilder from the Firefighters Relief Association was present to share the status of the relief association funds. The annual benefit was increased last year to $ 2,200 per year of service. They are not requesting any increases this year.

Brent Hipp from the Esko Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts was present to inquire about property that might be used for a food truck festival. He's looking at using the festival as a way to raise funds for upcoming trips he would like to take the scouts on. No Board members present were opposed the idea. He was invited to put together a plan and attend a future meeting.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson reported that annual pump testing has been completed.

Peleski provided a recap of the recent primary election. Things seemed to run smoothly with the new layout required to enable appropriate distancing. Wait times will be longer at the general election in November.

There continues to be an issue with a sewer line at W. Highway 61 and the Midway River. Previous video shows excessive amounts on infiltration.

Paulson reported that Jim Langenbrunner will be stepping down from the Cloquet Area Fire District Board of Directors. Paulson also reported on a recent Arrowhead Regional Development Commission meeting.

Barnebey clarified something said earlier. MSA can't give a definitive answer on whether there is inflow and infiltration or not. A pressure test would need to be completed on a sewer line to determine exactly.

Compo reported that Saline has been working on repairing hydrants.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:20 pm by Paulson with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Thomson

Ruth Janke, Supervisor
Bill Gerard, Vice-chairperson