

September 13, 2023

Regular Board Meeting

Chairman Bukovic called the September 13rd, 2023, meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Bukovic, Ferris, Bruno, c/t Micolichек, D-c/t McCarthy

Absent: None

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Ferris to approve the agenda as read; motion seconded by Bruno. Motion carried.

Reading and approval of August minutes:

The minutes from the August Regular Board Meeting were read by Micolichек and motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Bruno; motion seconded by Ferris. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

The July and August Financial report was presented. Motion to approve the Financial Report as read for July was made by Ferris, motion seconded by Bruno. Motion carried. Motion to approve the Financial Report as read for August was made by Ferris, motion seconded by Bruno. Motion carried.

Resignation of Dan Bilitz as Service Director and Resignation of Jane Micolichек from Hiles Fire Department as EMS Responder:

Ferris advised Bukovic he wanted to go into closed session for these discussions. Clerk Micolichек advised this has no notice and was not on the agenda as closed. Motion made by Bukovic to amend the agenda to go into closed session to discuss both resignations. Micolichек stated that she wanted hers in open session and did not believe this could be in closed with no notice. Ferris seconded the motion. Closed session began at 6:06 pm. At 6:55pm, Bukovic reopened the closed session to announce that Dan Bilitz gave his letter of resignation as Service Director. He will be moving south and is unable to continue to be the Service Director due to it being hard on the family. He has agreed to be the Standing Service Director until a new one is appointed. Ferris made motion to accept his resignation, with Dan agreeing to be the Service Director until a new one is appointed. Motion seconded by Bukovic. Motion carried. Per Bukovic, Nancy still needs to have her National Registry signed off on, she has reminded him multiple times. It needs to be done by end of September. Ferris will call him to have him do this. **NOTE:** This closed session did not have the appropriate notice per our Town Attorney which was verified via email and therefor mins are required to be documented, again per the Town Attorney, to avoid any violation. The following is what was discussed in the clerk's office between the board, Jane Micolichек, and McCarthy: Jane Micolichек expressed feelings that she felt her and her husband had been disrespected by the board and multiple fire department members. This was discussed at length, Ferris and Micolichек explained mutual loss in respect for one another - This was also discussed at length. Jane Micolichек advised she does not want to quit the department but has multiple concerns. Ferris expressed not wanting to allow Jane Micolichек to stay on the department, because it should be on a case to case basis who should be able to come back when they quit. Ferris suggested a closed session with fire department members. Clerk will look to see if any state law will cover a closed session for that case. Ferris also advised he does not agree with Clerk changing office hours, Bukovic and McCarthy explained that this office never had office hours and Micolichек explained she started those as a courtesy but there are not many residents that take advantage of those hours and so to save on expenses the office does not need to be open 3 days a week, office hours going forward will be Wednesdays and residents can also schedule an appointment to meet and clerk will work with anyone who needs to see her. Dan Bilitz was discussed briefly. No board action was taken in the clerk's office. – **End of note.**

Officer and committee reports:

Ferris: Received something close to the final estimate from Ayers on the dam and it has been reviewed. Because the town is the owner of the dam, with relationship between the town and the Lake District, we are suggesting a public meeting where Ayers comes and gives the final review of the dam and the public will be invited sometimes towards the end of the month. A notice will be put in the paper. It's important that everyone can ask their questions. Approximate estimate is about \$475,000.00 Questions can also be answered about the grant through the DNR and the funding that would come out of the Hiles dam money market. Concerns about the lake level and wanting the levels raised begins with a petition to the DNR and then the petition will be reviewed followed by one or two public hearing, possibly sometime in spring of 2024. At that point people can state their approval or disapproval. To get the levels changed, we have to follow the process by the DNR. Ferris asked about the pickleball court, wondering if she can follow up with the painter to see if the lines would be painted too, not just the resurfacing.

Bukovic: needs to get in contact with Brad Pitlik to get a price on putting a new driveway and parking area to the fire shed up north which would make it easier this winter. Flannery's came inn and did a good job with clean-up after the tornado. Discussed that if signs are put back up around the lake road, wants the poles to be back about 75 feet.

Micolichek: Stephanie Montgomery has been trying to get a hold of one of the board members because there's an issue with the sequence of the fire number signs. She wants to meet with the board. All of the pickleball equipment is in the office, and it should be moved to another holding area. No answer back from board if anyone is going to any of the district meetings yet. Date needs to be set for the budget workshop next month. November 8th would be the budget meeting for the town then. She needs the information from both fire departments so that it can be included. Meeting to be held Tuesday October 17th at 6:30pm. LRIP outreach meeting to try and get more funding for roads coming up on September 19th. Want to start getting amounts together for trailhead so that we can start working with the Chamber on grants for the trailhead. Possibly five that we can apply for and it's free money. She questioned if anyone had heard back from Ayers on the bills that they are getting for the bridge project. If it's because of the delay of the dam project, we're running low on bridge funds. It is at \$80,000 on their lists, but a bill was just paid for \$22,000.00. It is a cost share project so we have to cover 20 percent of the project. As money was not levied this year or the previous year, need to see if these are actual bridge ones. Copies of the bill were given to the board. The Lake District got one also. we should be paying for the bridge bills, the lake district should be getting the dam ones. Need to figure out what the bills are for. Questions about the AED and being in the paper. McCarthy will get an article, together on them, how they were paid for and where they will be. Act 12-increase in shared revenue should be received in October. Restrictions on how it can be spent include EMS, public works and fire protection-should be \$34,000.00 this year compared to about \$8000.00. South is about 100% over budget so will have to do budget resolutions but can talk more about it at the budget workshop as both stations are way over.

Citizen Input:

Luke Bukovic-search and rescue training with Crandon Area Rescue is already scheduled for same night as closed session and training could go from 2 to 4 hours. Closed session will be moved to Tuesday, the day after the training to September 26th. From up north, spoke about Paul Gehart passing away and that they now have Cory and she is doing a great job at the dump so want to give her accolades. Question about who picks up their metal as it still hasn't been picked up. Will get Cory the number. Recycling has been called about already as north needs theirs emptied, especially for safety reasons. Could go up north first and then pick up what they can from the south. Board will have Bill move the recycling bin to the other side. Micolichek noted that people at the north end are going around the gates and possibility of putting cameras up there. Question on the roof up north? town crew has been hauling gravel but he will get them up there to work on the roof. discussion on suits? all are old, majority of them are over 30 years. Grants should be worked on together from both fire departments, otherwise one is left out. North can still order from Amazon, just let Jane know what is needed. Chuck will just order things on his own and then send screen shots for purchasing things. Needs to follow process. Things should be going through the chief for purchase. Chuck is good at writing grants, but those should

be coming through the town, not the fire department. The auditor will question why it then will be going through the town instead of the social fund. Grants need to be worked on together that will benefit the whole department. Bukovic mentioned that the wood that was cleaned up is stacked up and the north can have it if they can find someone to haul it as they sell it at the dump. It is sitting on the town land. Probably wouldn't need it til spring anyway. Moving the next meeting to October 17th. New member for up north, she can either go to Nicolet, or can do online through NTC and can test out in Crandon. Jane will email them the contact info. Issue still with Knapp road-2 spots still washing out with heavy rains. Town does not have the money to pave it, town can possibly get patches on the bad spots for now. Signs for the south transfer station? A lot of people are not separating recycables from regular garbage. People throwing even chairs into plastic bags and throwing it in the garbage. Stickers have been ordered along with cards to be starting next year at each transfer station to show residency. North would like to replace their bulletin board-wants to look at grants for replacing it. Question if town gets money back from the forest service for roads? Just gas tax money but nothing extra for heavily trafficked atv areas. Fire chief-update that the first annual picnic was a success and will be done again along with other planned events at the trap range. Old van was being used on calls. Julie Brink-awesome community, we all care, nice to see all of the attendance and that people are expressing their concerns. There will be a Harvest Dinner on October 14th along with raffles that night. Also a fish fry in the hall by the fire department on October 6th. Service Club is also talking to Rocky in Crandon about basic banners that can be re-used for future events.

Approval to Pay Monthly Bills:

Motion made by Bruno to approve the payment of monthly bills for July and August as presented by clerk; motion seconded by Ferris. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Ferris to adjourn; motion seconded by Bukovic at 7:50pm. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.