

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chairman Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Jeff Lundholm
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Angela Christianson

REGULAR MEETING

April 2, 2014

ATTENDING: Chairman Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Jeff Lundholm, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Angela Christianson, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Recycle Shed Attendant Deanna Nordeen, Rec Director Mike Ellingson, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, P&Z Director Tim Walburg and 9 residents.

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Lundholm, seconded by Connick, to approve the agenda with one change: moving Comprehensive Plan/John Powers to before the public input section. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Motion by Lundholm, seconded by Campbell, to approve the minutes from the Regular (March) Meeting (2/27/2014), Board of Audit Meeting (02/27/2014), Budget Meeting (2/27/14), Board of Canvass Meeting (3/11/14), Special Application Review Meeting (3/18/14), and Special Interview Meeting (3/25/14). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, with Connick noting that he approved all the minutes except the Board of Canvass since he was not present at that meeting.

Motion by Campbell, seconded by Lundholm, to approve the minutes from a special meeting on 2/25/14 (this was the initial treasurer application review meeting that had been called into question). Motion carried, 2 – 0, with Connick not voting.

Motion by Lundholm, seconded by Campbell, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/14 – 3/31/14). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Chairman Campbell also introduced the township's new treasurer, Angela Christianson.

MOVED AGENDA ITEM

B. Comprehensive Plan

1. John Powers Presentation

The township's comprehensive plan consultant, John Powers said the completed comprehensive plan should offer the township guidance on future projects and plans; He also noted that

Canosia's survey response was the highest he has seen during his career. Supervisor Lundholm thanked Powers for the work he has done.

2. Adoption of Plan?

Supervisor Comnick said the board could not legally adopt the plan without first having a formal public hearing (must be published ten days in advance) on the matter. He also said the completed plan must be filed with adjoining townships.

Motion by Lundholm, seconded by Comnick, to hold a public hearing as part of the regular town board meeting scheduled for May 7. The public hearing portion can be added right into the agenda. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Comnick also mentioned he had some reservations about adopting the plan before the township has dealt with its zoning ordinance problems. Chairman Campbell said this was a separate issue that was not necessarily intertwined with the comprehensive plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

Resident Dan Jezierski said he had some questions stemming from the reports that were handed out at the Annual Meeting in March. First, he asked Gary Oswell to explain his job as Road Foreman and justify the money he has made in the position. He also said he believed it was a conflict of interest for Gary's road work company (the Oswell Company) to perform any work on the township roads that he routinely inspects.

Oswell explained that decades ago the town board (not him) decided that the foreman should inspect the township roads every 7-14 days and deal with any problems that arise and/or residents' concerns. He also said the conflict of interest question came up years ago and that the board at the time consulted an attorney before moving forward with using the Oswell Company. Oswell said that Jezierski's accusations that he was doing anything inappropriate were completely unfounded and he would be willing to justify 100% of the work he's done and the costs. However, he would not waste his time explaining it to Jezierski and that any further comments about his position should be directed to the board.

Supervisor Comnick also reiterated that it is the board (not Oswell) that makes all money decisions and signs off on any and all bills; He also said he resented any implication that he or Oswell were doing something out of line. Comnick noted that using the Oswell Company is a cost effective and efficient way to take care of the small problems on our roads. Supervisor Lundholm said he would follow up with the Minnesota Association of Township's attorney regarding the conflict of interest question.

Jezierski also questioned why the expenditures for the town board went up \$5,000 in the previous year and asked why the board members must attend so many other meetings (i.e. DAT, ACTS, SLCATO). Supervisor Comnick explained that these meetings are valuable education opportunities that often directly impact the decisions the town board members must make.

OLD BUSINESS

A. ANNUAL MEETING/LEVY RECAP

Chairman Campbell explained that the electorate at the Annual Meeting changed the board's proposed 2015 levy: the voters decided to put \$20,000 back into the fire truck fund instead of using that money for fixing the tennis and basketball courts at the rec area. Fire Chief Gene Stevens explained that he requested that the electorate make this change after talking to the other firefighters; Stevens said the membership believed there was a good chance that the department truck fund would not have the money reinstated in 2016.

Chairman Campbell said he supported the electorate's decision with the understanding that there may be additional funds available now that the township no longer has to pay roughly \$20,000 annually to have the county assess our properties. He noted that this was his opinion and not that of the entire board.

B. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: moved to top of meeting

C. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

1. Report

MARCH 2014 FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES		
TYPE OF CALL	#	NOTES
EMS	8	
Medical MUA	1	
Township Fire	2	1 truck leaking gas, 1 structure (playhouse) fire
MUA Fire	1	Hermantown garage fire
Service	0	
TOTAL	12	

TOTAL FOR 2014	36
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Training: This month the department attended a pipeline class and installed a new hose drying rack that will keep the hoses off the floor.

Chief Gene Stevens said they were dealing with some water coming into the hall during the snow/ice melt. They had several guys chipping the ice to make a trench and used some sandbags to try to stop the flooding.

2. Fiber Optic Line/Apron Project Update

Chairman Campbell explained that after last meeting and a good discussion with the residents who had been present, the township sent a letter to the Proctor School District about the township's final attempts to reach out and get some answers on the fiber optic line before moving ahead with the apron project this spring/summer. The superintendent then forwarded that

letter to the installation company and heard back that they plan to move the line this year. Campbell announced there will be a meeting between the town board members, the school district and Northeast Service Cooperative on April 7th at 1 p.m.

D. RECREATION FACILITY:

Rec Director Mike Ellingson asked about what will happen now in regards to resurfacing the courts at the Rec Area. Supervisor Comnick said the township will research alternative ways to fund the project, including the possibility of tapping into some school district funds and asking other users (i.e. sports leagues) to contribute as well. Chairman Campbell added that in the near future the township will need to look into exactly what is needed and get estimates, etc. Supervisor Lundholm said he would look into fencing grants as well.

E. ROADS

Road Foreman Gary Oswell said the road restriction signs will be put up on Friday (April 4), and asked that residents report to the township any obvious violations on township roads.

The board decided to wait until the May meeting to set a date for the annual road inspection tour.

F. PLANNING AND ZONING

1. Report

Planning & Zoning Director Tim Walburg reported:

- There were no new permits issued in March, but one application did come back.
- A resident has shown interest in putting an 8-plex on a township property and will come to the P&Z meeting for discussion.
- The Sather property at 5849 Kehtel Road is again listed for sale. This property currently has only a seasonal home; there were some inquiries last year about the rules for constructing a new home on the lot. Walburg noted that the new St. Louis County ordinance regarding holding tanks might change the building possibilities for that property.
- Walburg will be attending a meeting next Monday about issuing permits in the airport safety zone.

2. Update: Shady Lane (Grand Lake) Variance

Chairman Campbell reported that St. Louis County did in fact grant a variance to a Grand Lake Township property on Shady Lane; this is pertinent to Canosia since our township has set a precedent of not granting similar requests on the same road. The township had sent a letter to SLC stating the board's opinion, but to no avail.

Supervisor Lundholm said he would like to attend a Planning and Zoning training session for which the township received a notice. Chairman Campbell said he believes educational opportunities are important and allow the board members to make informed decisions.

G. AIRPORT ZONING

Supervisor Comnick reported that the airport master plan and airport zoning ordinance are making progress and will head to the FAA and MnDOT for approval in the next 6-9 months. He mentioned there is some discussion with MnDot about minimum lot sizes (MnDOT = 3 acres; Canosia = 2.5 acres).

H. TECH COMMITTEE

Clerk Krasaway reported that the newsletter will go out in the next few weeks. This issue will include articles from Supervisors Comnick and Lundholm, the fire department, the recycling center stats for the year, and a recap of the annual meeting/levy/election.

I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1. Cemetery Documentation Proposal

Clerk Krasaway said the township has received a request from the Twin Ports Genealogical Society asking if they could index/photograph the cemetery this summer. The records are then put on file at the Duluth Public Library, the MN Historical Society, and the MN Genealogical Society. The group would need access to the township's records along with permission to visit the cemetery. Clerk Krasaway said she contacted the township historical society about the proposal and member Wilson Spence III said he was in favor of the project assuming the township would be given copies of the final records for our residents to see.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to allow the Twin Ports Genealogical Society to index/photograph the Canosia Township Cemetery this summer. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

2. Window Covering Idea

Clerk Krasaway said Historical Society member Wilson Spence had emailed the township with a suggestion for covering the town hall windows with an adhesive film that would block UV light and keep the artifacts on the wall from fading. A 3ft x 100ft roll would cost \$144. The supervisors ask that a historical society member attend the May meeting to further discuss this and other options. Clerk Krasaway said she would contact Mr. Spence.

J. CEMETERY

Gary Oswell said there is one pending burial at the cemetery (Mrs. Rose Johnson).

K. RECYCLE SHED

Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS

A. TREASURER VACANCY TIMELINE

Chairman Campbell submitted into the records a document outlining, from his perspective, the contentious treasurer hiring process. A copy of his timeline will be kept on file.

B. LIQUOR LICENSES

1. Pike Lake Liquor: Renewal of License

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to renew the liquor license for Pike Lake Liquor. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

2. SuperOne: Renewal of 3.2% Malt Liquor License

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to renew the 3.2% malt liquor license for SuperOne. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

3. AAA Club: Renewal of 3.2% Malt Liquor License

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to renew the 3.2% malt liquor license for the AAA Club. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

C. WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS FOLLOW UP

1. Grant Amount: \$2,500

Chairman Campbell reported that the DNR grant for the watercraft inspections at the Pike Lake Landing will be \$2,500 instead of the \$5,000 they had anticipated. However, Campbell said that the Pike Lake Association will contribute to the effort as well, possibly up to \$7,500 (no set number yet) so Canosia will hopefully absorb only minimal expenses. Campbell suggested the township set up a specific account to handle the grant money and the PLA donation.

2. Meeting with Grand Lake? Letter to Employees?

Chairman Campbell said Canosia will need to coordinate with Grand Lake since we will be utilizing the same employees they will be using at Caribou Lake. However no date has been set for a meeting between the two townships. There was some discussion about whether the inspectors should be hired as seasonal employees or some other hiring option. Campbell said he hopes the process will be expedited fairly quickly once we hear more from Grand Lake/PLA.

D. MEET WITH DNR TO DISCUSS CARMEN'S WAY

Chairman Campbell said he will meet with a DNR Supervisor in late April to look at the old plans, easements, etc. at the landing. The DNR and the township are working together on plans to possibly revamp Carmen's Way to add an inspection lane along with additional parking spots.

E. ABANDONED FISH HOUSE AT PUBLIC ACCESS

Chairman Campbell reported that after he contacted the county sheriff's office about the abandoned fish house at the public landing area, it was removed.

F. ORDER CTAS MANUAL: \$35 FROM STATE OF MN

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to approve the purchase of a full CTAS manual from the state of Minnesota. This was requested by the new treasurer. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- An informational sheet from Jake's Grading company outlining their 2014 road maintenance prices. Road Foreman Gary Oswell said Jake's did a good job last year; However, the current pricing list was vague and if the township chooses to use Jake's this summer, they should be sure to be specific about what they want and put a ceiling on the amount they will pay. This discussion will continue this spring.
- A price list for dust control services from Mahkahta Trucking of Eveleth.
- A notice from Minnesota Power regarding their decision to not move forward with the 345-kV Great Northern Transmission Line from the Iron Range to Duluth.
- A request from CenturyLink asking that the township notify them of any road construction projects that could potentially impact their lines.
- A note from thanking the township for sending flowers in honor of Mrs. Rose Johnson.
- Newsletters from Grand Lake, Rice Lake, Duluth, Solway, and Fredenburg Townships.
- Spring 2014 newsletter from the Proctor Public Schools
- Fundraising requests from Bayview Elementary and South Ridge School
- A thank you note from the Hermantown Chem Free Grad Party committee for the township's \$300 donation

MOTIONS TO PAY BILLS/ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to pay bills #17460 –17505. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
May 7, 2014

Scott Campbell, Chairman
May 7, 2014