

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Kevin Connick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2016

ATTENDING: Chair Kevin Connick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Assistant Chief Clyde Mortinsen, Fire Relief Treasurer Scott Mercier, P&Z Director Tim Walburg Rec Director Mike Ellingson, and four residents.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. AGENDA: Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen to approve the agenda with one addition: Add Fire Relief Treasurer's Report under FD section. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- B. MINUTES: Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to approve the regular meeting minutes (7/6/2016). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.
- C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/16 –7/31/2016). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

The treasurer also reported:

- PLAWCS paid us twice as much as they should have for the WLSSD reimbursement; we will reimburse them next month.
- We received \$294 in Town Aid
- MATIT issued us a \$3,200 workers comp dividend check.
- She will submit the paperwork to get the \$3,000+ back from SLC for the AIS inspections to this point.
- She will transfer money to the checking account to keep it at a comfortable balance.

Supervisor Brooks cautioned against depleting the General Fund too far (it will be down to roughly \$40,000 next month); we will not receive any more money until year-end. He also asked about various claims with discrepancies and/or missing invoices or receipts. All issues were resolved. The fire chief will try to print out invoices for future online purchases.

PUBLIC INPUT

Resident Dan Jezierski asked for the cost of the emergency culvert replacement last month on Christianson Road (Answer: \$1450 for labor to Peterson and \$660 for the culvert).

OLD BUSINESS

A. PLANNING & ZONING

No permits issued last month, but there are four pending now. There is a public hearing next Wednesday (August 10) at 6 p.m. for the draft zoning ordinance. There is a variance hearing next Thursday (August 11) at 6 p.m. for Cory Garden.

The board discussed an ongoing zoning lawsuit. Supervisor Brooks to get an updated timeline and projected cost from our attorney.

Last month, the board sent a letter to the owner of a blighted property on Lavaque Road; no response yet, but the letter was not returned “undeliverable”.

B. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

1. Fire Relief Report

Fire Relief Association Treasurer Scott Mercier gave Treasurer Borndal the forms he is required to present to the board each year (Maximum Benefit Worksheet and SC-16, both are also a part of the new F.I.R.E.-15 reporting form). The board again questioned why the township’s annual reports to the state auditor are overdue; Mercier said their accountant submits them as soon as possible. He stated there is no real penalty for missing the deadline, other than a delay in receiving their state aid payment, which happened last year.

For the next township contribution to the retirement fund, Mercier asked the township to contribute the maximum amount possible using the mil levy formula (an estimated \$18,000).

2. Fire Chief’s Report

JULY FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES		
TYPE OF CALL	#	NOTES
EMS	13	
Medical MUA	0	
Township Fire	4	Power lines down
MUA Fire	3	2 Hermantown lightning strikes, 1 call to Rice Lake
Service	0	
Monthly Total	20	
TOTAL FOR 2016	86	

The FD spent a lot of time handling the aftermath of the July 21 storm. The supervisors thanked the Chief for all their hard work.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to approve the purchase of the Mini-pumper Cab & Chassis from Midway Ford (off the state bid) at a cost not to exceed \$54,000; Chief Stevens has the authority to move forward once he has the final estimate in hand. Discussion: The latest estimate was missing a few minor details, so we’re still waiting on an exact amount. Connick will sign any necessary paperwork. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

C. ROADS

St. Louis County has declared a state of emergency after the July storms. The township will compile our related clean-up expenses and volunteer hours in hopes of recouping some of our costs. Comnick will take the lead on completing the required report and the board will approve it and submit by September 15. Comnick also drafted thank you letters to the power company employees.

Road Foreman Report: The crack-filling, etc. is complete on Lindahl, Kehtel and Dubla Dr. The right-of-way mowing will continue as soon as the machine repairs are done. The ditching on Daniels road is complete. One culvert on Kehtel was replaced. Jay Peterson will replace the Ferguson's culvert on Kehtel as well.

The board discussed a culvert/flooding issue at the end of Daniels Rd. near the lake. Resident Ken Wallace will research whether the easement in question belongs to one of his neighbors.

The board plans to get private quotes/hourly rates for snow plowing the end of Kehtel Rd. this winter now that the county will no longer do it.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Brooks, to have Bob Rodda put 350 yards of gravel on Tomak Road. Discussion: Rodda offered to do it as the same rate as he did the Christianson Road gravel work (Tomak cost is an estimated \$5,700). Oswell will find out what Rodda can use to document the yardage (i.e. scale tickets, etc) for our records. The road was damaged earlier this year. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

The clerk will add the Tomak project to the inventory worksheet. The smaller miscellaneous projects will be tallied at the end of the year.

D. REC AREA

Hermantown ISD has confirmed they will donate \$200/year for the next five years in exchange for using our tennis courts.

E. AIS INSPECTIONS

Pike Lake is still staffed daily with no major issues. Caribou Lake will be staffed weekends for the rest of the summer.

F. PIKE LAKE IMPROVEMENTS: Nothing to report.

G. TRAILS

The survey launch/initial public meeting will be held on October 3 at 6 p.m. at the town hall (a notice will be in the Sept. newsletter). The clerk will research whether this is a public "hearing" or a public "meeting".

H. AIRPORT ZONING

The airport zoning board of adjustment is meeting twice in August (once for re-structuring, once for a variance request).

I. CEMETERY

Our cemetery rules state that flowers, pots, lights, etc. must be removed in the fall for maintenance reasons; however, we do not currently enforce this. The board will discuss again next month.

The supervisors all agreed the repairs done by Shelton Excavating were adequate; in the future, they will use some sort of ground cover before driving heavy equipment in the cemetery.

Peterson will remove a stump that is causing problems (storm-related).

J. RECYCLE SHED

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to approve the \$9,634.40 WLSSD grant for the 2016 recycle shed operations. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

The recycle shed back-up attendant has been trained. Frank created a set of instructions/work guide which we will add to our files.

K. MPCA: MS4

Golen and Brooks attended a training session today with the MPCA. Golen will continue to fill out the permit application due October 25.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen, authorizing Joe Juriwecz from MSA to fill out a STAR grant application on behalf of the township, if he deems it worthwhile after assessing our roads, maps and related information. Discussion: the STAR grant can be used to create a culvert inventory. We would like this for our records/long-term maintenance, but it is not directly required for the MS4 permit. The minimum grant project cost is \$5,000 (the township pays half). The grant would cover all related administrative costs, student surveyors, and MSA's time. The board considered whether we could do it for less than \$2,500 on our own. Grant applications are due Sept. 1. Connick has the authority to authorize the grant process if it looks feasible. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

L. NEWSLETTER

Tentative articles include: Trail meeting info (KB), Historical Society election article and related election information, Business Spotlight on Red Goose (SK), Recycling info (WLSSD), road update (KC), rec area (DG), FD info. Future article ideas: info about local farmer's markets, MAT training course information.

M. WEBSITE: Nothing to report

N. GOALS & PRIORITIES: Edit laborer/grounds laborer job descriptions for next month.

O. BROADBAND: Nothing to report

P. PLAWCS

The board discussed whether change orders on large PLAWCS contracts need to come back before the township boards. (Concensus: PLAWCS board approval is adequate as long as the change orders total less than \$10,000.)

NEW BUSINESS

A. LAWNMOWER ACCESS AND DOOR COMBINATION CHANGE

The board is opting to not change the town hall door combination at this time. To solve the lawnmower access issue, Groundskeeper Laird Erikson is now taking the mower keys with him.

B. OTHER: Brooks thanked Mike Ellingson for staining the front porch.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Dept. of Health notices regarding the town hall water: nitrate and coliform levels are safe
- Notice of public hearings for SLC zoning and subdivision ordinance amendments
- DAT flyer for annual BBQ/meeting on August 18 at Rice Lake City Hall
- Notice of Solway and Midway's National Night Out picnic, PLA's annual golf event
- Fredenberg and Lakewood Township newsletters

MOTIONS TO PAY BILLS/ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Connick, seconded by Golen, to pay bills #18854 –18903 and MA-2016-7. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
September 7, 2016

Kevin Connick, Chair
September 7, 2016