

# *Canosia Township*

4896 Midway Road  
Duluth, Minnesota 55811  
Voice/Fax 218-729-9833

---

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

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **December 7, 2016**

**ATTENDING:** Chair Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, P&Z Director Tim Walburg, Rec Director Mike Ellingson, and nine residents.

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

- A. AGENDA: Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen, to approve the agenda with one change: move the PFC water contamination issue before the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.
- B. MINUTES: Motion by Brooks, seconded by Golen to approve the P&Z Ordinance Public Hearing Minutes (11/2/2016), Regular Meeting Minutes (11/2/2016), and Special Meeting: Liquor License Transfer Minutes (11/18/2016) with one change: In the Regular Meeting Minutes, remove the word "blight" (leave it as "Solid Waste Issues"). Motion carried unanimously, 3 - 0.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

**PFC WATER CONTAMINATION ISSUE:** Capt. Ryan Blazevic and Capt. Jodi Grayson from the 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing attended the meeting to discuss the PFC water contamination issue. The problem originated with the air base's use of firefighting foam over several decades starting in the 1960's (they have since stopped using it). The base is working with the Minnesota Dept. of Health on testing resident water wells along Martin Road to gauge the extent of the problem. (Martin Road is in the direct flow area).

A lot is still unknown about PFC's as an "emerging contaminant", but they do have a very low lifetime health advisory threshold: 70 parts per trillion warrants serious consideration. The MDH and 148<sup>th</sup> are still waiting on the most recent well testing results. Capt. Blazevic estimates it will be another three years of investigating before beginning the remedy phase (which could take an additional 15-20 years). All Air Force documents on this topic are now available publically online. Capt. Blazevic will keep the township and residents up to date and is happy to meet with anyone for further discussion. Several Martin Rd. residents were in attendance at the meeting.

Canosia Township  
December 7, 2016  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**NOISE COMPLAINT:** Supervisor Brooks received a phone call from N. Pike Lake Rd. resident Susan Clark regarding excessive noise from her neighbor's dirt biking. She will likely submit a formal letter of complaint to us. Brooks stated that neither the township or county have a noise ordinance in place; however there are MPCA standards for larger noise issues.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Motion by Comnick, seconded by Brooks, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/2016 – 11/30/2016). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

**FIRE RELIEF:** Treasurer Borndal asked about the 2016 fire relief payments for which she cut a check this month (\$28,893 total = \$16,000 township contribution plus \$12,893 in state fire aid). The \$16,000 contribution for 2016 was approved in 2015 when that board was deciding the 2016 budget.

Brooks is in favor of changing the process from here on out: according to the MAT manual, one board can't legally bind a future board to a set contribution amount. Therefore the 2017 payment should be decided in 2017, not the previous year. This would also allow time for the board to see the minimum required contribution amount set by the auditor and to more accurately gauge the relief association needs based on their investment returns etc. Fire Chief Gene Stevens asked Brooks for documentation backing this up.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. PLANNING & ZONING**

P&Z Director Tim Walburg issued two permits in November (32 for the year).

**ORDINANCE BOOK:** Motion by Comnick, seconded by Brooks, to approve the Township Zoning Ordinance #2017-1. **Discussion:** The county said our ordinance seems consistent with theirs. Township Attorney Michael Orman suggested some minor wording changes which he explained to Brooks this morning. The board felt comfortable moving forward with those suggestions; the clerk and Brooks will make the revisions, the supervisors will sign the effectuation page and the clerk will have it recorded with the county. The ordinance will go into effect January 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Walburg thanked Brooks for all his work on the new ordinance; Brooks said it was a team effort of the entire commission.

**P&Z/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENTS:** In January, the supervisors will need to make three appointments to the P&Z Commission and three appointments (or re-appointments) to the BOA. For P&Z, Dan Jezierski, Tom Amendola and Gary Oswell have all served several consecutive three-year terms. On the BOA, Beverly Beaudette, Dianne Ahlers and Gary Oswell all have terms expiring.

Director Walburg recommended appointing Kyle Anderson, Mark Lockhart and Tom Collard to P&Z and Stewart Peterson and Dave Evanson to the BOA, if Evanson is still interested.

Canosia Township  
December 7, 2016  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**SOLID WASTE ISSUES:** WLSSD is monitoring the clean-up progress at the Lavaque and Lorendale properties in question. The multiple-car problem on Lorendale is also being taken care of (this is a township issue). The board will consider making initial contact next month with two property owners on Alder Rd and Shady Ln as well (the board will review pictures taken by Oswell).

**SUNNY LN./CARIBOU LAKE INQUIRY:** The Soil & Water Conservation District and DNR sent an email inquiry today about a property at 5897 Sunny Ln; ongoing construction there could have wetland violations. Walburg had issued a building permit for the property and will contact the SWCD with that information.

## B. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

NOVEMBER FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES		
TYPE OF CALL	#	NOTES
EMS	7	
Medical MUA	1	Hermantown
Township Fire	2	Gas leak and a CO alarm
MUA Fire	3	Rice Lake, Grand Lake, Alborn
Service	1	
Nov. Total	14	
2016 TOTAL = 139		

This month the CVFD serviced all the power equipment, cleaned the hall and snaked out the floor drains in the truck bays. The annual awards banquet was moved up to December 3. At the chief's request, Brooks will contact PeopleService about repeatedly leaving the lights on in the garage.

**FIRE RELIEF:** (See treasurer's report for an earlier discussion about 2016 fire relief payment)

**GENERATOR:** Motion by Comnick, seconded by Brooks, to approve the purchase of a 22 KW Generac Guardian Series generator for a price of \$9,600 from Benson Electric, plus the separate cost of the gas line extension. **Discussion:** the price includes all installation except extending the gas line. The unit will most likely be placed by the air conditioner on the side of the town hall; noise is not expected to be a problem. The generator is natural gas with a 200-amp automatic smart switch. It will not be connected to our sewer pumps. The generator will ensure the FD can operate smoothly during outages and potentially allow the town hall to be used as a shelter during emergencies. The board reviewed a quote (\$30,525) for a 50 KW unit, but felt that size would be overkill. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

## C. ROADS

**MAILBOXES:** Road Foreman Gary Oswell asked to put a notice in the next newsletter about mailbox rules: the county will only replace boxes damaged by a snowplow if they meet the county requirements for size, height, placement, etc. We will also put a link to the county rules on our website.

**2017 ROAD PROJECTS:** Chair Comnick submitted a road report outlining the 2017 road projects: Pike Lane, Dunaisky and Vaux Road are scheduled to be scrub sealed next year through a county agreement at a cost of \$59,558.40. Comnick would like to see one of the planned 2018 project moved up one year as well if funds are available (continue discussion next month). He also suggests striping Lindahl and Kehtel Roads in 2017 at an estimated cost of \$2,500. Any maintenance issues or projects exceeding the agreed-upon \$5,000 road supervisor authorization limit will come before the board for pre-approval.

#### **D. RECREATION AREA**

Rec Director Mike Ellingson will work with the FD to get the rink flooded soon. This spring, Ellingson will replace the bent backhoe toy at the playground.

#### **E. AIS INSPECTIONS**

**SLC GRANT APPLICATION:** Motion by Comnick, seconded by Brooks, to approve Resolution #2016-8: authorizing the application process/acceptance of grant money from St. Louis County. **Discussion:** the total requested amount is \$30,000 to cover inspections at Pike and Caribou Lakes, signage/educational materials, admin costs, etc. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

**CD3 AIS CLEANING MACHINE:** The board (and possibly a PLA member) will attend an informational session to learn more about a new AIS cleaning station called a CD3 (clean, drain, dry, dispose). The county is partnering with the CD3 company to place the machine at a local AIS inspection site; they believe the Pike Lake Landing would be a good fit. The company would cover all costs for the first two years and then the machine would be our responsibility. The supervisors want more information before committing.

**F. PIKE LAKE IMPROVEMENTS:** Nothing to Report

**G. TRAILS:** The committee meets again Jan. 4 at 5 p.m. to discuss MIC's survey analysis.

**H. AIRPORT ZONING:** Airport Needs Meeting scheduled for Dec. 19

**I. CEMETERY:** The flags were lowered today to honor the Pearl Harbor anniversary.

#### **J. RECYCLE SHED**

The cost of paving the slab in front of the dumpsters could potentially be covered by the WLSSD Improvements Grant (application due in the coming months). The clerk will research the projected costs and the feasibility of simultaneously paving the entire town hall parking lot.

**RECYCLING ATTENDANT WAGE:** Motion by Brooks, seconded by Comnick, to increase the recycling attendant wage to \$12/hour effective January 1, 2017. **Discussion:** The current wage is \$10/hour; according to WLSSD the avg. attendant wage in our area is \$11.31. The wage decision needs to be made now so we can factor it into our grant application for 2017. The increase will apply to the shed attendant back-up as well. Motion carried unanimously, 3- 0.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Motion by Connick, seconded by Brooks, to close the recycling shed on Saturday, December 24. **Discussion:** Christmas Eve is one of the holiday closing dates listed on our grant. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

**K. MPCA MS4:** Still waiting on official approval of our application.

**L. NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE:** Nothing to Report

**M. GOALS & PRIORITIES:** No Changes

#### **N. BROADBAND**

Supervisor Brooks emailed/called our past CenturyLink contact to get an update on long-term plans to improve broadband in our area. He has not yet received a response.

#### **O. PLAWCS**

The board discussed WLSSD's new comprehensive plan and noted they did not take any of our suggestions. Brooks also proposed the township begin thinking about preliminary long-term plans for Caribou Lake sewer issues because funding is available from WLSSD to help in plan development.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. NOXIOUS WEEDS**

The new county AG inspector (Kristin Fogard) is requesting all townships submit a form by January 15 regarding our current noxious weeds inspection program (if any) and designating a noxious weed inspector. The clerk will contact Fogard to ask whether the inspector must be a supervisor or if the board can appoint someone else. She will also ask about inspector training and whether any groups have ever connected their weed and AIS inspection programs. The county has indicated they will begin enforcing noxious weed rules in 2017.

← Formatted: Normal, Indent: Left: 0"

#### **B. ARDC GRANT PROGRAM**

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission now has a grant assistance program which helps communities like us research, write, and develop successful grant applications.

#### **C. PROCTOR SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION**

The Proctor ISD is holding a special election on February 7, 2017, for a \$12-million bond referendum for their athletic facilities. If approved, the majority would go towards a new hockey rink. There is also \$~~150~~200,000 allocated for the Canosia, Grand Lake, Solway and Midway Township<sup>2</sup> recreation areas. On a \$150,000 home, taxpayers would see a four-dollar per month increase for the next twenty years. The superintendent will attend our meeting next month to discuss.

Canosia Township  
December 7, 2016  
Regular Meeting Minutes

The clerk will run the election for our residents, but voting will take place at Pike Lake Elementary. The school district will cover all costs (election judge/clerk wages, supplies, etc).

#### **D. TOWNSHIP ELECTION CANIDATE FILING**

The township election is Tuesday, March 14. Chair Comnick says he plans to run again for a three-year supervisor term. All candidates must file between January 3 – January 17 at 5 p.m.

#### **E. COUNTY BOARD AT CANOSIA TOWN HALL**

The St. Louis County Board will hold a meeting at the town hall on Feb. 14 starting at 9:30 a.m.

#### **F. OTHER**

The clerk will research costs/issues associated with building a free book exchange unit at the town hall.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Annual notice from MN Power asking for permission to access the cemetery meter (no action needed)
- Informational pamphlet from the Agape House on North Pike Lake Rd.
- Newsletters from U of M Onsite Sewage Treatment Program, Northland K-9 Foundation and Fredenberg Township
- SLCATO minutes and agenda

#### **MOTIONS TO PAY BILLS/ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Golen, to pay bills s #19049s #XXX-19098 and MA-2016:#13-15-. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Comnick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

---

Susan Krasaway, Clerk  
January 4, 2016

---

Kevin Comnick, Chair  
January 4, 2016