

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chairman Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Jeff Lundholm
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Dave Beaudette

REGULAR MEETING **January 2, 2014**

ATTENDING: Chairman Scott Campbell, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Jeff Lundholm, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Dave Beaudette, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Recycle Shed Attendant Deanna Nordeen, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, P&Z Director Tim Walburg and one resident. **NOT ATTENDING:** Rec Director Mike Ellingson.

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

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Motion by Lundholm, seconded by Comnick, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes (12/4/13), Public Hearing (12/4/13) and Special Meeting (12/4/13). Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Lundholm, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/13 – 12/31/13). **DISCUSSION:** Treasurer Beaudette mentioned that some of the numbers will change as he makes the end of year adjustments before the board of audit meeting. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

OLD BUSINESS

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

DECEMBER 2013 FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES		
TYPE OF CALL	#	NOTES
EMS	6	
Medical MUA	2	To Rice Lake
Township Fire	4	Chimney fire, Car fire, CO alarm, False smoke alarm
MUA Fire	5	1 garage fire for HFD and RLFD, 1 garage/chimney FFD
Service	0	
TOTAL	17	

TOTAL FOR 2013	141
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Training: This month the department ran their pumps on the trucks flooding the ice rink. They also helped with calls for Rice Lake on the day of their Chief's funeral. Chief Stevens said it had been a very busy year for calls/training, and he thanked all the members for their hard work and time.

Chief Stevens presented the board with a proposed budget. The department is again asking for \$45,000. This year he added a \$500 line item for recruitment and retention (service awards, paying for dinner at the end of the year, etc.). Chairman Campbell said the board will review the budget and work with the Chief to finalize it.

Chairman Campbell said the township has done its due diligence when it comes to the Fiber Optic Cable dispute and the fire department should plan on getting the necessary permits, etc. so the fire hall apron project can be fixed this spring. The township has not heard anything recent from the fiber optic company about moving their line from township property.

B. RECREATION FACILITY:

Supervisor Comnick said there are five light poles flagged at the rec area to be fixed. There is a work order already in place for Minnesota Power to do the work.

C. ROADS

Road Foreman Gary Oswell said the county has been using a grader along the township roads and most of the roads are flat and smooth. Chairman Campbell reiterated that individual homeowners should call the county with their plowing complaints.

Chairman Campbell said some board members attended a meeting last month on how to prevent annexation. The Rice Lake Township attorney had several recommendations:

- 1) Towns should have a solid short/long term plan in place for their roads. This way a city can't offer more than a town already does for its citizens. Supervisor Comnick said Canosia should continue to update/document the road plan he and Oswell have developed.
- 2) Townships should consider sharing services with other townships which would make it more difficult for a city to come in and take over. In regards to this, Chairman Campbell asked Fire Chief Stevens to itemize the different mutual aid calls they respond to in different townships.
- 3) Townships should have \$150,000 in reserve to fight an annexation attempt.

D. PLANNING & ZONING

1. Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tim Walburg said there were no new permits this month. Resident Dale Citch did contact him regarding plans to build six new housing units for Air Base employees to use. No formal application has been submitted, and Walburg is currently researching the relevant laws.

(P&Z Report continued)

Director Walburg asked for guidance on how to deal with a resident who never returned his permit to build a garage, but built it anyway. The board said to confirm the resident met the proper setbacks, etc. and then impose a late fee for the permit application (\$200 instead of \$100 for normal permit).

Supervisor Comnick mentioned there is a public hearing for a proposed construction project at a property at the very end of Shady Lane. This property (address 5493, Owner Dan Olson) is one of two homes on Shady Lane that are in Grand Lake Township. Comnick asked whether Canosia should file a formal objection to the project given the past disputes on this road and the precedent the township has set for denying variances of this type. It was decided that Walburg would act as the town's representative and would voice a concern if appropriate.

Chairman Campbell reported that P&Z Secretary Jenna Palumbo gave him an updated list (both paper copies and on the electronic database) of permits for the year.

2. Revised Land Use Application

Supervisor Lundholm reported that the P&Z Commission would prefer to keep their current land use applications, rather than use the new version offered to them by Chairman Campbell. The town board declined to further review this decision.

3. File Organization Issue

Chairman Campbell gave the board copies of a statement from former P&Z Secretary Julie Lundholm, regarding the ongoing filing issue. Her statement said she could not finish the filing during her tenure because the process was halted indefinitely when Supervisor Comnick said he would find a free filing cabinet for her to use.

Supervisor Comnick took issue with this statement. He asserted that he never said it would be a "free" cabinet and that he immediately reported back to the board when his search for a cheaper cabinet fell through.

Chairman Campbell will purchase the new filing cabinet this month so Secretary Palumbo can start organizing the files.

E. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Supervisor Lundholm said the public meeting to discuss the comprehensive plan survey results will be on January 22 at 6:30 p.m. There was some discussion whether this was a "hearing" or "meeting" (it will be posted as a meeting with notice to residents that a quorum of the town board may be in attendance). There will be a formal "public hearing" in March for the comp plan before it is turned over to the board in April.

F. CONDITIONAL USE DEED ISSUE

Clerk Krasaway said she could not find the original 1961 deed in the township records. It was decided that the township would send a letter to the county stating their position that this is an all or nothing matter, and the board will not consider re-conveying only the portion of the property that was not used as the town dump.

G. TECH COMMITTEE

Clerk Krasaway reported that the next newsletter will be sent out shortly in order to reach residents in time for the comp plan meeting on January 22.

H. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Deanna Nordeen said the historical society did not meet in November or December. However, she did mention to them the possibility of researching some ideas for window shades/coverings to protect the historical items hanging on the walls of the town hall.

I. CEMETERY

Nothing to report

J. RECYCLE SHED

Recycle Shed Attendant Deanna Nordeen brought up the idea of developing a weather protocol for closing the shed (i.e. certain temps, amount of snowfall, etc). Supervisor Lundholm will work on it with Nordeen. They will contact WLSSD to find out their protocols as well.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PLAWCS

Chairman Campbell announced that the Pike Lake Wastewater Collection System board has found a potential property in Grand Lake Township they would like to use to build a new storage and office facility.

Motion by Campbell, seconded by Lundholm: The Canosia Town Board supports the proposed purchase of property parcel #380-0010-07681, as an interested party in PLAWCS, contingent on the conditional use permit application and all legal reviews.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Comnick brought up several issues: He wondered if 1) there had to be a public hearing on this matter, 2) He said did not support spending Canosia Township money for a property in Grand Lake Township, 3) He thought there was a resolution in place stating that public money could not be spent until the PLAWCS debt was secure. Chairman Campbell said the purchase will not be made with township money but rather from PLAWCS' capital improvement funds.

Motion carried, 2 to 1, with Comnick voting against it.

B. URBAN TOWNSHIP DISCUSSION

Chairman Campbell gave the board some research regarding township “urban powers.” He said the state gave Canosia these powers back in 1961, and the town has been exercising that authority ever since. However, there may be some technicalities involved with Urban Powers (i.e. Does the township have to ask the public if they want a five-person board?). Attorney Bryan Brown said more research is needed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from MN Power asking if they still had permission to enter the cemetery to check the electric meter. The board said that was fine, so no response is needed.
- Newsletters from Lakewood, Solway, Duluth, Fredenberg and Grand Lake Townships.
- Minnesota Dept. of Health newsletter for non-community public water systems.
- BioSolids Digest from WLSSD
- Brochure from Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank

MOTIONS TO PAY BILLS/ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Connick, seconded by Lundholm, to pay bills #~~XXX -XXX~~. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Motion by Connick, seconded by Lundholm, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
February 5, 2013

APPROVED:

(Scott Campbell, Chair)

(Date)