

These are the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County held on Monday, December 11, 2017. Members Present: Supervisors Ralph Meixner, Doug Mrotek, Dave Aubart, Treasurer Kari Aderman and Clerk Erica Warshawsky. Members Absent: Chairman Justin Hall and Supervisor Joel Valentin.

Clerk Erica Warshawsky called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Warshawsky announced Chairman Hall's absence and requested a motion to elect a chairman for the meeting. Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to elect Meixner as Chairman. Motion carried.

Clerk Warshawsky affirmed agenda was posted in compliance with open meetings law.

Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to approve the consent agenda with revisions to item e and less items f, h and i:

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Review and Approve Vouchers for November, 2017
- c. Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Public Hearing & Special Meeting of the Electors
- d. Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Special Meeting of the Town Board
- e. Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting
- f. Minutes of the May 1, 2017 Fire Department Meeting
- g. Minutes of the September 4, 2017 Fire Department Meeting
- h. Minutes of the October 2, 2017 Fire Department Meeting
- i. Minutes of the November 6, 2017 Fire Department Meeting
- j. Minutes of the October 5, 2017 Planning Committee Meeting

Motion carried

Warshawsky presented correspondence:

1. Sawyer County Health & Human Services(HHS) sent a notice regarding the adoption of the Code of Ordinances at the December 12, 2017 HHS Board meeting at 6:30 pm with final adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors December 21, 2017 at 6:30 pm.
2. Sawyer County Zoning sent a letter ratifying the approval of the Adams rezone application.

Meixner presented the Conditional Use Application for Patrick Sabin. The application is for the renewal of Conditional Use Permit #12-0056 for the location/operation of a non-metallic mineral extraction, including rock crusher, which was previously approved at a public hearing in 2012. Nies presented the Planning Committee's recommendation. Warshawsky read the Planning Committee's approval. The Planning Committee recommended approval with the same conditions as the prior approval minus any Town involvement/responsibility in reclamation. Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to approve with the Planning Committee's condition. Motion carried.

Room Tax Presentation: Meixner introduced Cheryl Treland at 6:37 pm. Treland distributed a pamphlet and the 2018 Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau (HLVB) 2018 Vacation Guide. Treland apologized for being late. Treland, representing the HVLB gave a brief history; last June, the Sawyer County Economic Board began working on budget line items with Sherry Beckman from HVLB in attendance. After the August meeting, it became apparent that Sawyer County wants to reduce HVLB's current funding from \$43,500.00 to \$0.00. Sawyer County suggested room tax as an alternative. Treland reported that 3 of the 21 municipalities in Sawyer County collect room tax. Treland gave a brief history of room tax in Sawyer County and then reviewed the booklet she distributed. HVLB is recommending a 4% room tax for all municipalities, noting that the average for communities that collect room tax is 5%. Treland explained that the municipality keeps 30% of the room to use as they wish with the remaining 70% going to HVLB and/or another association. The municipality creates a contract with HVLB and any other association they select. Treland recommended that the Town elect a 4% room tax noting that the state average is 5%.with 30% going to the Town and 70% to HVLB. Treland explained that 4% is set by ordinance and can go as high as 8%. Treland explained that an annual report goes to the municipality and that is turned into the State. HVLB receives approximately \$62,000.00 per year from Hayward. The room tax is on lodging only and financial information is confidential. Treland explained that each municipality would need to pass an ordinance. HVLB is recommending a 4% room tax and is requesting an ordinance be passed by April 1, 2018 for the 2018 tourist season. Treland reviewed what HVLB does. The HVLB will

receive approximately \$274,350.00 for their 2017/2018 fiscal year, designating \$133,000.00 for marketing. Treland then asked for any questions. Edmond Packee clarified the distribution of the room tax. Packee pointed out that on pages 7-8 of the brochure, the total percentage adds up to 105%. Treland explained that 5% comes off the top to who is collecting the tax. Of the remaining 95%, 30% goes to the Municipality and 70% goes to HLVB and/or any other association. Gordon Zimmerman asked for projection. Treland responded that HLVB needs to make up for \$43,500.00 that is not coming from the County in 2019. Zimmerman asked again for projection of the amount HLVB expects to receive from room tax. Treland could not give a number. The presentation ended at 7:22 pm.

Assistant Fire Chief Gordy Zimmerman presented the Fire Department Report. Zimmerman reported that there were 2 incidents last month; 1 CO2 alarm and 1 assist in Stone Lake. Zimmerman reported that 2 dash cams were purchased and software was upgraded on the radios to be blue tooth compatible.

Fire Department Purchases – None

Highway Crew Chief Truit Campbell presented the Fire Hall addition update. Campbell reported that the foundation is complete and the building is scheduled to be built in late February or early March.

Campbell presented the Highway Report. Campbell reported that last month was a busy month spent plowing, grading, removing docks, tending to Moyer Road and dealing with multiple problems with trucks.

Campbell presented the equipment purchases update. Campbell received a quote of \$200,000.00 for new loader. Campbell reported that the new radios work great and thanked the Board for approving the purchase.

Treasurer Kari Aderman presented the Treasurer's Report. Aderman reported that as of November 30, 2017, the Town has a total of \$501,656.36 in all of their accounts. The Clerk and Treasurer balanced for the month. Motion by Mrotek, seconded Aubart to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried

Clerk's Report – none

Old Business - none

Room Tax – Discussion: Meixner reported that 4 letters were received and will be on the Town's website. Warshawsky reported that Michele Horman and Reuben Johnson requested that their letters be read aloud. Warshawsky read the 2 letters aloud. Kelsey Gensmer, owner of Angler's Haven was present. Kelsey stated that she represents 50% of the resort owners in the Town of Bass Lake opposing the room tax and stated that the other 50%, Michele Horman from Trail's End, wrote a letter in opposition. Martha Brauer, representing John Knapek who wrote a letter, spoke in opposition to the room tax. Discussion followed. Packee stated that he wants to be on the record in support of the room tax. Packee stated that he supports it county wide and recommends 4.5% – 5% as an outside observer. Gensmer explained that when cabin guests check out, they submit their deposit for next year. In the past, when they have increased their rates, it angered guests. Gensmer explained that their guests have to budget to vacation here. The typical guest spends approximately \$1,000/week in the area. Increasing rates without the guest receiving a direct benefit may encourage them to vacation elsewhere. Gensmer added that 4% is a huge increase that will be reflected in their income and result in higher income taxes. Meixner asked Gensmer if 2018 is booked and if guests that are booked know their rates. Gensmer replied that they are 95% booked and know their rates already. Nies stated that Horman is not present but she is almost fully booked and everyone knows what they need to pay. Nies state that the last time room tax was brought up, it was left to the businesses to decide. Discussion followed. Room tax will be on next month's agenda under new business. Discussion followed.

Meixner reported that COLA and the LCO Tribe have sent out a request to send a letter to the WDNR correcting the reason for impairment. Aubart stated that he would like to have a professional opinion. Discussion followed. It was decided to not send a letter.

Resolution No. 12-11-2017 to Amend the 2017 Budget – Resolution will be presented next month.

Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to appoint election inspectors as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to go into **CLOSED SESSION** at 8:03 pm after a 5 minute recess pursuant Wis. Stats. § 19.85 (1)(c)(f)(e)(g) and § 19.85 (2) to consider employment, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee, to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data to specific persons and for conferring with legal counsel. The Town Board may reconvene into open session. Roll call vote: Aubart – yes, Mrotek – yes and Meixner – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to go into open session at 8:19 pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to increase wages by 3% for all employees. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrotek, seconded by Aubart to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Motion carried.