

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, July 12, 2021 in person and using Zoom. Members Present: Chairman Justin Hall, Supervisors Dave Aubart, Don Adams, Marshal Savitski, Bob Hammond and Clerk Erica Warshawsky. Members Absent: Treasurer Kari Aderman.

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

Motion by Aubart, seconded by Adams to approve the consent agenda listed below:

- a. Approve agenda
- b. Review and Approve Vouchers for June 2021
- c. Minutes of the May 29, 2021 Board of Review
- d. Minutes of the June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting
- e. Minutes of the June 14, 2021 Closed Session
- f. Minutes of the May 3, 2021 Fire Department Meeting
- g. Minutes of the June 6, 2021 Fire Department Meeting
- h. Minutes of the June 3, 2021 Planning Committee Meeting

Motion carried.

Hall presented correspondence. Hall reported the correspondence was received by attorney Anders Helquist notifying the Town that Ostroot P., et al v. Town of Bass Lake has been settled.

Hall introduced Tony Westcot from the Grindstone Lake Foundation for his Save the Bog presentation. Westcot presented a brief history of the property and how the Grindstone Lake Foundation acquired the property. Westcot reviewed fundraising efforts described the plans for the future. More information is available at savethebog.org. Westcot thanked everyone for their time. Hall thanked Westcot.

Hall presented the Special Use Application for Dale and Melissa Mrotek. Hall explained that the application was received late and the Planning Committee was unable to review the application. Discussion followed. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Hammond to approve with the following conditions:

1. The lot cannot be further subdivided for additional dwellings.
2. Land Use Permit will not be effective until covenant on deed is provided to the Zoning Department
3. The placement of only one single family dwelling on the parcel

Motion carried.

Hall presented the Land Use Application for an Accessory Structure Exemption for Lance Waters. Hall explained that the Board approved a 16' x 26' structure not to exceed 12' in height last month. The owner discovered that his pontoon boat would not fit so he is now requesting a 16' x 30' structure 14.5' in height. The new request still meets the requirements. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Adams to approve the expansion. Motion carried.

Hall presented Variance Application #21-005 for Dean and Heide Miller. Hall explained that it is a 3-part after-the fact (ATF) variance application. Hall read the Planning Committee's decision to deny the application. Dean and Heide Miller were present with their builder Jeremy Hill. Hill explained that there was a miscommunication between Hill, the Millers and Pat Brown from Sawyer County Zoning when they met at the site last summer. The primary miscommunication was about the walkway and the footprint of the building. Hill explained that he tried to do everything right. They submitted plans to the County and the permit was approved. Hill stated that the miscommunication was between himself and Pat Brown.

Dean Miller presented his application. Miller purchased the property in 1994 and stated that it has always been a home. Miller stated that COLA will argue that they are converting a boat house into a home, which is not true, that other owners on the lake with boat houses will try to do the same thing, that the Miller's signed that permit application agreeing to abide by the County regulations and that what the Millers are doing is bad for the lake. Miller stated that what they are doing is better for the lake. They moved a wall back and are planning on installing 2 rain gardens to protect the lake. Miller asked the Board to consider the facts and do the right thing and approve the application.

Hall asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the application. David Strong, the Millers immediate neighbor spoke in favor of the application.

Kevin Horrocks, COLA President, spoke in strong opposition of the application. Horrocks explained that phosphorus is in the process of killing the lake and one of the biggest sources of phosphorus is runoff from private properties. Horrocks stated that the permit violations need to be corrected. Discussion followed.

Deb spoke in favor of the application. She is in support of leaving the building as is because it is an improvement.

Edmond Packee spoke in opposition. Packee is opposed to the ATF variance because it is contrary to the health of the lake. The purpose of the buffer strip is to protect the shoreline. Packee is concerned that the building is already adding phosphorus to the lake.

Ann Harris spoke in opposition. Harris has lived on the lake for 25 years. Her boat house was remodeled in 2018. A request to add a deck and kitchenette was denied. Harris wants consistency. Discussion followed.

Tony Pfendt stated that this is a Sawyer County Zoning problem and suggested that the Board not vote either way.

Alf Sivertson, Past President and Board Member of COLA spoke in strong opposition. Sivertson stated that the problem with approving the ATF variance is that there are 44 boat houses on the lake; 12 have been remodeled and the owners of the 32 remaining boat houses could apply for a permit, extend their plans and then apply for an ATF variance. Sivertson stated that Hill and the Millers blame Pat Brown, but Sawyer County Zoning Administrator, Jay Kozlowski's letter does not mention Pat Brown, only cites violations. Sivertson finished by stating that this is a self-created hardship and the application must be denied.

Discussion followed. Hall stated that the Board needs to decide if they would approve this variance and ignore that it is after the fact. Discussion followed. Hall stated that in the past, it would have been denied. Phil Nies, former Planning Committee member stated that whatever happened between the Millers and Pat Brown is between them. Nies complimented Hall on presenting the application. The Board must look at it as if it doesn't exist. Nies advised the Board not to punt. Hall stated that the complaint is between the County and Pat Brown and the error should have been caught. Hall stated that he would not have approved a 5' walkway and added that his is voting no. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Aubart to deny. Motion carried. The application will move to Sawyer County Board of Appeals.

Findings of Fact:

Assistant Fire Chief Gordon Zimmerman presented the Fire Department Report. Zimmerman reviewed last month's calls and training.

Hall presented the application for new Fire Department member David Christensen. Motion by Adams, seconded by Savitski to approve. Motion carried.

Fire Department Purchases – None

Fire Department Improvements – Tabled until September

ISO Rating – No Update

Fire Department Annual Picnic/Donation Letter – Will be reviewed at next month's meeting

Highway Crew Chief Truit Campbell presented the Highway Report. Campbell reviewed last month's activities and reported that mowing in Northwoods Beach has been completed and the 2nd pass is starting. Campbell gave the equipment update and reported that Little LCO boat landing has been surveyed. Micro surfacing has been completed on Rainbow Road. Discussion followed. Hall complimented Campbell on Rainbow Road.

Campbell presented a request for a limb saw for the front-end loader. Campbell reported that the limb saw will cost around \$2,500.00 which is in the budget. Motion by Adams, seconded by Aubart to approve the purchase. Motion carried.

Clerk Warshawsky presented the Treasurer's Report. Warshawsky reported that as of June 30, 2021, the Town has a total of \$583,162.30 in all accounts. The Clerk and Treasurer balanced for the month. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Aubart to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Clerk Warshawsky presented the Clerk's Report. Warshawsky announced that the Wisconsin Town's Association (WTA) Unit meeting will be held at the Town Hall and virtually on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Hall announced that the Futurewood contract has been signed. A timeline will be developed and bidding will start in 2022. Hammond asked about Northwoods Beach. Hall replied that Northwoods Beach will be considered in the future. Discussion followed.

Hall presented the 2021 Nuisance Complaint updated. Hall reported that things are moving along. Campbell reported a new property on Brossard Road that was bad, was cleaned up and now is bad.

Hall presented 2 Operator License applications. Discussion followed. Motion by Hammond, seconded by Adams to approve booth applications. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Motion by Aubart, seconded by Savitski to adjourn at 7:49 pm. Motion carried.