

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 11, 2022 in person and using Zoom. Members Present: Chairman Justin Hall, Supervisors Marshal Savitski, Bob Hammond, Jim Evans, Treasurer Kari Aderman, and Clerk Erica Warshawsky. Members Absent: Supervisor Dave Aubart.

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

Motion by Savitski, seconded by Hammond to approve the consent agenda listed below less item h:

- a. Approve Agenda
- b. Review and Approve Vouchers for July 2022
- c. Minutes of the June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting
- d. Minutes of the June 13, 2022 Closed Session
- e. Minutes of the June 27, 2022 Special Meeting
- f. Minutes of the June 27, 2022 Closed Session
- g. Minutes of the May 11, 2022 Fire Department Meeting
- h. Minutes of the June 6, 2022 Fire Department Meeting

Motion carried.

Hall presented correspondence:

1. Enbridge sent a Pipeline Safety and Emergency Information pamphlet for emergency and public officials.
2. Leo Carlson from Norvado sent an email regarding the broadband grant for the Windigo Lake project. The grant request was denied. Norvado will re-evaluate and resubmit the request as more opportunities arise.

Hall presented the Land Use Application for Robert G. Paine. A permit is requested for the construction of a year-round or seasonal dwelling in the Forestry One (F-1) Zone District. Discussion followed. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Hammond to approve the application. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Marvin Mullet presented the Fire Department Report. Mullet reviewed last month's calls. Mullet reported that the first half of the fire inspections have been completed. Mullet reviewed completed and upcoming training.

Hall presented the Fire Department purchase request. Motion by Hammond, seconded by Evans to approve the purchases. Motion carried.

Highway Crew Chief Truit Campbell presented the Highway Report. Campbell reported that last month was spend grading, mowing, storm clean up, and fighting with a beaver. The Ford pickup has some recall items to address, and the dump truck has some warranty work to be done. The 2010 plow truck had a bad king pin which ended up being a \$5,000.00 repair. Truit reported that the carbon reduction grant for the electric vehicles is on hold due to timing issues. The Town's application has been submitted.

Campbell presented a Driveway Permit Application for Ray and Diane Sparish. Campbell recommended approval. Motion by Evans, seconded by Savitski to approve the application. Motion carried.

Campbell presented the Williams Road Project update. Campbell reviewed the project and reported that is should be complete by August.

Treasurer Kari Aderman presented the Treasurer's Report. Aderman reported that as of June 30, 2022, the Town has a total of \$813,467.07 in all accounts. The clerk and Treasurer balanced for the month. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Evans to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Clerk Warshawsky presented the Clerk's Report. Warshawsky reported that election rules regarding the return of absentee ballots have changed. Absentee voters can only drop off their own ballot to the Clerk and drop boxes must be placed in the Clerk's office. Warshawsky reported that the Town no longer has a ballot drop box.

Hall presented the 2022 nuisance complaint update. Hall reported that he and Campbell inspected the nuisance properties and there are 3-4 properties on the abatement list. Warshawsky presented an update on the Cox property.

Hall presented a request to purchase Town property (Tax IDs 169 & 170). Aderman researched the parcels and discovered that both have deed restrictions preventing the Town from selling. Aderman will write a letter to the individual requesting the lots.

Hall presented the ATV/UTV Route Ordinance No. 2010-5-10 Amendment to Open All Town Roads. Hal reported that 42 letters were received: 6 in favor, 2 no change, and 34 opposed. LCO Tribal attorney, James Schlender, was present and requested that Town Board have a discussion with the Tribe. The Tribe has concerns over some roads in the Town and on the Reservation. The Tribe would like to meet with the Town Board as well as other Town Boards to discuss the possibility of a permit. The Tribe is concerned about areas that are sacred to the community and wants a discussion before a decision is made. Linn Newton spoke in strong opposition to the amendment. Newton reported that according to the Town's 2021 survey, 151 are opposed to opening any roads and 261 are in favor of opening a limited number of roads. These 2 categories represent 68% of the respondents that do not want all roads open to ATV/UTVs. If this passes, the Board is throwing two thirds of the residents under the bus. Newton was on the Planning Committee when this first came up and each year more is added. Hall asked for the Board's wishes. Hall is in favor of opening all Town Roads and wants to meet with the Tribe. Evans thanked everyone who came to be part of the process and assured everyone that their calls, letters, and emails are reviewed, and their voices are being heard. Evans asked why people are opposed. Newton replied the noise is a problem on Indian Drive people are joy riding and added that most people are against opening all Town roads up. Donna Roeker stated that safety is a major concern. Trudianne Temple stated that safety is a concern as someone who walks her dog. LCO Conservation Director, Brian Bisonette, stated that Gruno Lake Road is open when not one non-tribal resident lives on that road. Safety and noise are big concerns as well as ATV/UTVs not staying on the road. Discussion followed. Evans spoke with Sheriff Mrotek and no accidents have been reported. Bond Sutton reported that ATV/UTV operators are not paying attention to the speed limit. Evans reported that the City of Haward and Towns of Winter, Radisson, and Lenroot have not had any accidents, so accidents are not an issue. Hall stated that these concerns are why there is a sunset clause in the amended ordinance. Discussion followed. Evans stated that the economy is the worst it has been and opening all roads would help our area businesses. Motion by Evans to postpone decision for 1 month. Edmond Packee voiced concerns Discussion followed. Evans rescinded his motion. Motion by Savitski, seconded by Evans to open all Town roads outside the reservation. Motion carried

Hall presented a request to replace a stairway on the public reserve strip. Chuck Gunderson was present representing the property owners. Gunderson reported that Hall and Truit visited the property. Hall stated that all DNR rules must be followed and owners must obtain the proper permits and submit a hold harmless agreement. Motion by Hammond, seconded by Evans to approve the request. Savitski stated that the ordinance states that items on the public reserve strip can be repaired and maintained, not replaced. Hall replied that requests can be handled on a case-by-case basis. Motion carried.

Hall presented a Liquor License Application for Wilderness Walk and an Operator License Application. Discussion followed. Motion by Hammond, seconded by Savitski to approve the liquor license and operator license applications. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Hall began the public disciplinary hearing by stating that Fire Chief Marvin was given the option to have the hearing during closed session or in open session. Mullet chose open session.

Please Note: The Board's reasons for the disciplinary hearing were not presented at the beginning of the meeting. The customary 3-minute rule for speakers was not implemented.

Hall turned the floor over to Fire Chief Marvin Mullet. Mullet reviewed his history with the Bass Lake Fire Department and addressed the Board's following concerns:

- Current condition of the Fire Hall addition – Mullet stated that the addition is set up as the membership desires and power washing the floor is unnecessary.
- Threats made over the phone to Supervisor Savitski – Mullet stated that he called Savitski back and apologized.

- Report by a former Fire Department member of Mullet making disrespectful statements towards female firefighters.
 - Mullet stated that he has not had a problem with females on the department and asked the 2 current female Fire Department members to share their experience with Mullet. Both Natasha Shimko and Theresa Moore spoke of Mullet favorably.

Marv Nordquist spoke highly of Mullet and expressed concern about recruiting volunteers.

Hall stated that the Board is not questioning Mullet's ability. The Board is addressing the care and maintenance of the Fire Hall and equipment.

Discussion followed.

New Fire Department Member George Morrow spoke in favor of Mullet.

Assistant Fire Chief Gordon Zimmerman spoke at length affirming what Mullet had said and on unrelated topics. Discussion followed.

Hammond reviewed the Board's reasons for the hearing. Mullet has been asked repeatedly to complete certain tasks and has not. The condition of the Fire Hall is unacceptable. The Town deserves a first-rate department.

Savitski stated that he is a member of the Hayward Fire Department and he has noticed that more pride is taken with the building and equipment at the Town and City of Hayward.

Jenny Gryttr spoke very highly of Mullet and his assistance when her husband was ill.

Fire Department member Dan Dunn expressed concern over the lack of communication between the Fire Department and the Town Board.

Discussion followed.

Hall suggested keeping Mullet as Fire Chief and work to find a way to keep the Fire Hall clean. Savitski stated that Mullet should reapply with other candidates. Hammond agreed with Savitski. Discussion followed. Motion by Savitski to dismiss Mullet and have him reapply with other candidates, seconded by Hammond. Discussion followed. 3 in favor with Hall opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Savitski, seconded by Hammond to go into **CLOSED SESSION** at 9:00 pm after a 5-minute recess pursuant Wis. Stats. § 19.85 (1)(c)(f)(e)(g) and § 19.85 (2) to hold a disciplinary hearing and 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. Motion carried.

Motion by Savitski, seconded by Hammond to go into open session and adjourn at 9:40 pm. Motion carried.