

Town of Grand Lake

St. Louis County, Minnesota

September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Town of Grand Lake Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman, Duayne Anderson at the Town Hall/Community Center at 7:00PM. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. All Board members were present.

Public Participation:

- Tom Marchand – Thank you again for the AIS program this year, really good group there. Have to start paying them more, can't pay them starving wages. DNR was paying \$16 per hour 2 years ago. Board will take it under advisement.
- Jeff Charnes – between the SSD and the weed harvester the lake is wonderful. Very little weeds were found this year. Last year it took 5 hours to fill the hopper, this year it would take 3 days at least.
- Commissioner Keith Nelson – AIS happy to hear it went great, Senator Stoeck to thank for this program, St. Louis County gets the most money because we have very high numbers of both landings and lakes.
 - Broadband discussion – we've been pushing for years to get these private companies to get busy. Money out there not from federal government to give to these. CenturyLink, Paul Bunyan and SCI are all getting money. They are hitting every major road right now. St. Louis County is trying to help them as much as they can, doing roadside clearing to help companies so they can lay cable. 330 miles this year, possibly 200 miles next year.
 - Waste transfer site – Grand Lake Township is complicated because we are part of WLSSD, sites wanted to close and up north they didn't shut down collection sites, many counties shut down their sites. Brookston collected 12 yds one day when they normally collect 5yds. They had to shut down out of service area because it was just way too much. Until COVID is done they can't re-open the Brookston site to out of area people. St louis county runs their own recycling, that is an option. If GL wanted to opt out of WLSSD, it would take a joint powers agreement and it would be some work. Will be opening a Canyon transfer facility, it's going to happen. Need to talk to WLSSD where we can put MSW, what do we do with it?

Minutes:

S. Torgeson made a motion, 2nd by D. Johnson to accept August 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial report for August 2020 was read by the Treasurer. **D. Johnson moved to accept the report as presented, 2nd by S. Torgeson. All in favor motion carried.** Board reviewed spending, claims and transfers. **S. Torgeson made a motion to pay bills covered by claims 17824-17872, QB-2020-September, Debits totaling \$25,321.75. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.**

Sewer Report:

Birch Point: Claims: **D. Johnson made a motion to pay Birch Point District bills covered by claims 1270-1273 and Debits totaling \$2,387.35. Motion 2nd by S. Torgeson. All in favor, motion carried.**

- *AE2S:* things are flowing along, call was a stuck float, one call for landscaping, 3rd qtr sampling done next week, this is the best system, doing really great
 - Riser Repair – hasn't been done yet, waiting on Shelton. **S. Torgeson made a motion to have the riser repaired and to bill the property owner for expense when it is complete. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.** Clerk to email resident and let them know we will bill once work is complete.
 - SSD Master Service Contract Proposal – board reviewed attorney's letter. **D. Johnson made a motion to approve the SSD Master Service Contract per the attorney's review. Motion 2nd by S. Torgeson. All in favor motion carried.**
 - VRBO discussion – continues, AE2S will send the task order for the VRBO work, short answer the pipe was not pressure tested.
- Pay off capital costs – continues on agenda while Clerk researches

- *PLAWCS*: nothing specific to mention

Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief, Grant Gimpel was present. There were 16 calls, 6 fire, 1 public assist, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 mutual aid or auto aid and 6 medical calls.

- landed 2 helicopters in Taft in about 4 days. The pilots love it.
- no new info on grants
- Thank you for the fence, very much appreciated
- Effective 2021 they will be receiving a year end stipend, to retain and recruit fire department members, increase the 2021 levy by \$27,000.

Road Report:

- Jakes – Westlund road culvert went in today. We are in Brevator doing the brushing so it's taking a little longer. We should be here within a week. Discussion by Board that the next thing we want is a roller grader, St. Louis county is working with them to gather information on what will it take to equip at least one machine with it. They've been watching for them at the County auctions.

- Klimik culvert is plugged right now. **S. Torgeson made a motion to fix this issue. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.**

- Beckman Road Culvert – board reviewed the contract; wetland delineation season is ending very fast. They will be looking at hydraulic review for flow coming backwards, worry right now is getting to the wetland, if we need to do a public water permit the shutdown will be difficult, the bypass would be easier with a public water permit.

S. Torgeson made a motion to approve the new contract for this work to get it started. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.

- Road Vacation – discuss resolution that the board goes on record that the board wants to vacate #1 Parts of the Canosia and Industrial Roads (also known as County Road 983 or the "Frontage Road") and retain #2 (The "Frontage Road" (also known as County Road 983) and #3 (Part of "Twig Boulevard" (also known as County Road 984)). **S. Torgeson made a motion to set a road vacation hearing for October 13, 2020 at 6:30PM for #1 Parts of the Canosia and Industrial Roads (also known as County Road 983 or the "Frontage Road") on the resolution. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.**

Recycling Report:

Recycling report submitted for August 2020. There were 746 people, 18 1/2 mixed glass/plastic/aluminum and 16 1/2 cardboard/paper bins.

Community Center Report:

- Fencing out front of CC – materials approx. \$430, board reviewed. **S. Torgeson made a motion to purchase equipment to get the fencing installed with a cost not to exceed \$500. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. Discussion that this is dependent on when the guys can do it. All in favor, motion carried.**

- Rear stair move – review quotes, also talked to Northland heating and the AC needs to be moved. **S. Torgeson made a motion to hire Brant Grages for \$11,250, with the stipulation he provides insurance prior to work. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.** Discussion, work is done as soon as possible.

- Generator quotes – board reviewed, discussion on Fire hall generator as a priority, price is \$9,800. **S. Torgeson made a motion to get the generator for the fire hall from Benson, plus the cost to run the gas, stipulate that it comes out of the general reserve fund, if they need the 50% down, we will cut the check later in September. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.** S. Torgeson will call and get set up.

Parks & Recreation Report:

- Caribou Lake Improvements – beach is within the coastal grants funding area, it can't be funded with the large grant for Lake Superior area, Star grant. May want to look at the DNR ADA grants for fishing pier, continue to discuss and move forward with.

- AIS - We have inspected 312 watercrafts between August 2nd and September 2nd (one boat count sheet was missing). In total for the 2020 season we inspected approximately 1,687 watercrafts. Season ended today September 8, 2020. It was a great season and our inspectors did an outstanding job adapting to the changes due

to COVID-19 and making sure that all shifts were staffed. Special Thank you to Cathy Strom as lead inspector and for all she did organizing the staff again this season. Clerk will submit required reports to St. Louis County for reimbursement of AIS expenses.

Cemetery Report: none

Old Business:

- Gravel Tax – had to send a certified letter to Billman’s, still haven’t received anything. Melissa to work on gathering packet of past gravel tax reports for Clerk to send and Clerk will include a fines worksheet and an invoice.
- GIS – no updates
- FD Barriers – Done – looks great
- Tennis Courts – work on this fall, send number to S. Torgeson for Hockey so they can coordinate
- LED’s – no updates
- Basketball hoops – looking at portable hoops

New Business:

- Variance Application – board reviewed for Kandice Gulbranson 5277 Munger Shaw Rd. Duluth, MN 55811. **S. Torgeson made a motion that there is no issue and they can move forward as described. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.** Clerk to send letter to County.
- Resolution – CARES Act Funding – Clerk sent in documentation so Grand Lake Township can utilize the CARES Act funding, \$67,775 was received September 4, 2020. Clerk is gathering documentation for expenses incurred due to COVID-19, so far expenses are approximately \$3,800. Our first report is due on October 9, 2020.
 - ask GLVFD for any COVID expenses since March
 - **S. Torgeson made a motion to acquire a computer and video conferencing equipment for video conferencing for the Community Center/Town Hall. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.** Clerk to work on specifics to obtain.
- 2021 Levy – **D. Anderson made a motion to approve levy as approved at the special town meeting and submit to St. Louis County. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.**
- Broadband Update – Bill Coleman – everyone needs broadband, southern part of the Township is cable modem service, brown spots is where we want to go for grants, 1gb per hour to do a zoom call with 2 participants, all red is eligible (northern half of the township), speed test (need to push that out so people can take it),
 - feasibility funding from Blandin – online application (outline study area, find consultant then apply for the money, CTC out of Brainerd doing some pre engineering studies in Rice Lake,) would have to wait until January to apply, wait and find out who won the bid from the auction. Happy to follow thru and meet with a work group, copies of other applications, sample RFP’s trying to decide which consultant to do the study,
 - technology questions – use existing power lines to use ethernet, is it dead? Yes pretty much it is. You would have to wire around those transformers.
 - Interim step – surveys out to the community to get some updated information, combined with the speed test. Start to build community awareness that the town is working on this.
 - look into the speed test results for our Township
- 2021 Crushing, Striping, etc. – Discussion that Boyer, Westlund, Dickerman (south end needs to be done). **S. Torgeson made a motion to submit information and Resolution 2020-09-01 Resolution - Authorizing Crack Sealing & Striping for crack sealing on the above-mentioned roads. Motion 2nd by D. Johnson. All in favor, motion carried.**
- SSL Certificate on website. Discussion that this is needed. **D. Johnson made a motion to purchase an SSL Certificate for 2 years for a cost not to exceed \$150. Motion 2nd by S. Torgeson. All in favor, motion carried.**

Correspondence was summarized by the Clerk and reviewed by the Board.

On a motion made by Dewey and 2nd by Steve, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:51 PM.

LeeAnn Vanderscheuren
Town Clerk