

Town of Grand Lake

St. Louis County, Minnesota

December 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Town of Grand Lake Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman, Duayne Anderson via teleconference on Go To Meeting at 7:03 PM. Roll Call: Duayne Anderson, Dewey Johnson, Steve Torgeson, all Board members present. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation:

Gene and Darlene Cornick, Robert and Barbara Hotop, Commissioner Keith Nelson, Ron Moen, Nancy Butler & Cameron Butler, all were present to comment on the recent NERCC escapee.

NERCC: The above named joined the meeting to express concerns with the recent escapee incident at NERCC. The neighborhood has a community blog they use to communicate. D. Anderson read a statement by Ron Moen. Commissioner Nelson spoke of the security concerns and has found that it's hard to get anyone willing to spend any money on improving security. There needs to be stronger security measures at NERCC. Commissioner Nelson has requested to be appointed back to the ARDC board in hopes to encourage better security. He's asked that all inmates have an electronic monitor on them that would alert if they leave the premises and would be used to locate them when needed. The reality is that approx. 70% of the inmates have felony level convictions. Recidivism rates are good and the facility is working but security has to be addressed.

Dewey Johnson, Supervisor of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the St. Louis County says there is a system in place for other types of notifications, and we should be able to include notifications when another escape occurs.

Barbara Hotop thanked Commissioner Nelson and the town board for being willing to work towards additional security measures with NERCC.

D. Anderson spoke of a letter that was addressed to Commissioner Beth Olson regarding concerns. Commissioner Nelson asked D. Anderson to re-send the letter to Wally Kostich and to himself so that letter is received and properly address. Wally Kostich is the Executive Director of ARDC and Commissioner Beth Olson is at the end of her term as of next week's meeting. Commissioner Nelson assured the residence of Grand Lake Township that things will improve. The letter will also be sent to the NERCC director and Commissioner Keith Musolf.

Ron Moen asked if the notification should be addressed to Canosia Township as well. Steve Torgeson spoke with Canosia Supervisor Cornick before the meeting and they will assist and participate as requested.

Cameron Butler is a new resident that lives right outside the gates of NERCC. He has few concerns that an escapee would come to his home, but he does have two young children that he worries about. There have been incidents where squad cars have been in his driveway and suspicious vehicles have been in front of his house.

Nancy Butler: nothing more to add

D. Anderson addressed the board, S. Torgeson made a motion to send the letters as written. D. Johnson, 2nd, all in favor, motion carried to send the letter Wally Kostich, copying to Commission Musolf, Commissioner Nelson, and the Canosia Board of Supervisors.

Minutes:

S Torgeson made a motion, 2nd by D Johnson to accept November 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial report for December 8, 2020 was reviewed as submitted 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 17972-18007, QB-2020 December, Debits totaling \$65,261.68. 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 1285-1288 and Debits totaling \$2,897.25. Motion 2nd by S. Torgeson. All in favor, motion carried.**

AE2S: E. Appelwick reported that everything is going well. The company name is changing to Advanced Elements Operations. This will be the only change. The 4th quarter results look good. Nitrogen was at 7.4 which is a good stabilization point. The plant is running as its designed and operating well. We've had 96 starts since the 8th so very consistent. Nothing needed to budget for 2022 for now, status quo for now.

PLAWCS: Running well - no major concerns these past few months.

Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief, Grant Gimpel was present. There were 20 calls; 2 fire, 1 public assist, 5 mutual aid or auto aid (1 Solway, 2 Canosia, 1 Meadowlands, 1 Industrial), 12 medical calls (of which 3 were COVID-19 calls). Total for the year is 247.

Chief Gimpel talked about debriefing and help available to the department after a major car accident and murder suicide event that the department responded to.

The AFG grant was denied, feedback received was that they only funded 10% of those submitted grants. The department is encouraged to try again.

An updated plan for the 2021 year is coming. Vehicles of concern are Rescue 2 and Engine 8. The Tahoe may be able to be replaced in the Spring, the same police dept that bought the 2003 from will be selling their current Tahoe again.

D. Anderson requested an Operating budget and a 10-year plan for the fleet.

Leadership for 2021: Chief: Grant Gimpel, Assistant Chief: Dan Lysher and 2nd Assistant: Bill McDonald

Road Report:

Nothing to report at this time.

Privette proposal for West Lake Road was received and discussed. **S. Torgeson made a motion to accept the proposal, D. Johnson 2nd, all in favor motion carried.**

Joe Jurewicz: update on Beckman Road – hydraulics was submitted to the DNR, the fisheries dept came back with widening the culverts. Proposal is to fuse an arch concrete pipe that would be buried so that the stream bed is inside the pipe. Fish would pass through like normal. J. Jurewicz will work on getting a more accurate estimate as the preliminary numbers have come up around \$1,500 per foot for this pipe. J. Jurewicz stated that typically additional funding is not available for these types of projects but he will ask.

Beach parking lot – the proposal needs to be reviewed and then J. Jurewicz can get it submitted to the DNR in March.

Recycling Report:

Recycling report submitted for November 2020. There were 597 people, 19 mixed glass/plastic/aluminum and 13 cardboard/paper bins.

WLSSD meeting this Thursday December 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Clerk will attend virtually. She will request if pickups could be switched back to Thursday and they are in need of a mixed paper sign.

Community Center Report:

Read Group: Sherm Carlson, reading for K-2 remedial reading – has been postponed due to COVID #'s rising.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Fencing continued

Generator: parts are ordered and S. Torgeson is working with Benson.

Cemetery Report: none

Old Business:

Gravel Tax: Billman has not responded to the last request to pay penalties. Clerk will follow up with another letter.

GIS: tabled

LED's not much of a cost savings with the short hockey season

Broadband: Bill Coleman correspondence – there is a survey asking the township to access the site and do a speed test so the information can be tracked to see the service throughout the township. Clerk will work with Sheldon to see what can be done to send out a survey with a detachable return portion.

Halseth Road Litigation: no updates. Clerk will reach out to attorney for update.

New Business:

- Resolution: Clerk will draft a final resolution stating all the CARES Act Funding listing what all was purchased. This will be part of January's meeting.

- Clerk brought up the issues of Go to Meeting capping at 11 people. May look for another virtual option that will allow more attendees.

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

On a motion made by D. Johnson and 2nd by S. Torgeson, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Melissa Ringger
Deputy Town Clerk