

TOWN OF SCHROEDER

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on October 8, 2024

Present: Supervisors Bruce Martinson, Tina McKeever, Cathy Johnson; Treasurer Carla Menssen; Clerk Amy Brugge, Commissioner Ginny Storlie.

C. Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Johnson moved to approve the regular September 10, 2024 meeting minutes and T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – reported by Treasurer Carla Menssen, for September 2024

Disbursements = \$99,954.09 Receipts = \$34,964.66 Total Financial Assets = \$391,927.49

T. McKeever moved to pay checks #5871 - #5888, totaling \$9,419.24 and to accept the treasurer's report as presented. C. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

West End Lodging Tax for July = \$7,854.80

Commissioner Storlie's Report – Commissioner Storlie reported that Cook County is setting county levy at a max of 9.81% and there is hope that it will come in around 5-6%. States there are lots of requests to prioritize. County Board has posted its regulations around cannabis licensing and expects to license up to 7 retailers/growers in the county; City of Grand Marais will have their own set of licenses. Commissioner Storlie provided an overview of some of the requirements around licensing (business plan, location requirements, etc.) and described that 3 public meetings have occurred this year seeking public feedback.

There has also been a zoning request around a potential cell tower to be located just inside the county land on Highway 61. The intent is for the tower to provide greater coverage for T-mobile users. Public comment remains open until tomorrow and it will then go before the planning & zoning committee at the county level next week. Chair B. Martinson requested that the Town of Schroeder always be include in notifications regarding items that come before County Planning & Zoning Committee when the request includes land located in the township.

Additional news from the county included updates regarding the apartment complex being built along the Gunflint Trail, approval of a tax abatement for a new 36-unit apartment building (Called "The Heights") next to Up Yonder on the edge of Grand Marais, an easement related to DNR conservation item near Lake Agnes (up the Caribou Trail), and that the plan for a housing development of up to 18 homes in Tofte (near Birch Grove School) will likely come before the County this spring. Expecting that the new segment of the Gitchi Gammi trail in Lutsen will begin paving soon.

Fire Department Report – No report as Fire Chief Bonin is on vacation

Road & Bridge Report – Update on Sugar Loaf Road & FEMA: Two weeks ago Chair B. Martinson met with 6 representatives from FEMA and State Emergency Management and spent time inspecting components of Sugar Loaf Road and guidance on submission of FEMA application. Will still be seeking approval for mitigation measures to prevent future issues, especially culvert work. All Unique Entity ID information is now current with the Federal government.

T. McKeever contacted Mickie Brazell for brushing work along Sugar Loaf Road and expects it to be completed in the upcoming 2 weeks once road traffic slows from tourist season and less foliage. Chair B. Martinson notes that Curt Laboda also contacted him to communicate that he now has equipment for brushing work and recommended that perhaps the brushing work be done annually instead of every two years. Members of the Board all reflected positively on the completion of the re-surfacing work on Sugar Loaf Road. There was discussion around whether it is time to remove the Minimum Maintenance Road signage and potentially consider speed limit restrictions. Board discussed the possibility of a speed study and/or additional signage indicating curves, hazards, etc. Will seek maintenance personnel to remove the Minimum Maintenance Road signage on both ends of the Sugar Loaf Road.

Cemetery – Water tank has been drained and all lines will be drained in the near future.

Recreation – Will be contacting G&G Septic to remove Port-a-Potty the week of October 21. Will need to cover all trash cans for the winter. C. Menssen will contact Anna and/or Robert about completing this after final trash pick-up of the season. Currently awaiting the completion of the Dyer Lake dock removal task.

Town Hall – There was discussion of the injury and associated 911 call that occurred during the September 21, 2024 town hall rental. C. Johnson recommends that the 911 report be requested. C. Menssen stated that she will write a summary of her understanding of the incident. Hinges on front door were repaired by C. Menssen.

T. McKeever discussed the furnace situation with Brock Evansen. He described that the issue may be related to the externally facing damper and that he suggests closing that damper off and replacing it with an air exchange system that recycles more internal air, and that overall, the furnace does not need to be replaced. He also recommended a wifi thermostat be installed so that building temperature could be monitored and managed remotely. T. McKeever requested an estimate, which came in around \$7,000. Chair B. Martinson stated he would like to meet with him to discuss the potential location of the air exchange system described. T. McKeever will contact Brock again to request more information and/or a proposal for the project.

Other Business

Snow Plowing – T. McKeever discussed contract with David Sominis after B. Martinson had a conversation with him regarding the Skou Road. He intends to honor the contract for this winter. He is aware of the Skou Road damages and reflected on adjustments given that odd weather conditions in terms of plowing at the time. Would like to have a point person regarding

snow totals; T. McKeever will handle this given her ability to see snowfall in parking lot via camera access. T. McKeever will let David Sominis know that township will continue with existing contract for this winter.

Cross River Wayside – discussion around light for flag at wayside. Chair B. Martinson had reviewed potential options and will follow-up on obtaining new lighting.

Dyer Lake Water Testing – Discussion around testing/monitoring of Dyer Lake and data on MN Pollution Control website. Sample collection has been occurring during the summer months. Associated cost is \$375/year. C. Johnson states that water quality monitoring should not be under the purview of the township and Chair B. Martinson concurred. Greg Westigard, representative to the Soil & Conservation Board, would like to further discuss with town board at a future meeting. Board discussed potential inclusion of this concern as part of the Annual Meeting.

Correspondence

Sent – Clerk Brugge submitted State Property Tax Exemption documents to Cook County Auditor for 5 parcels of land on 9/16/24.

Received – Inquiry from the Title Team regarding Satisfaction of Mortgage for 437 Cramer Road property sale. T. McKeever will contact law firm regarding paperwork that will need to be completed in order to execute this.

Public Comments: N/A

C. Johnson moved to adjourn. T. McKeever seconded. Adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Clerk