

APPROVED 4/16/2014
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014 6:30 PM
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP SCHOOL LIBRARY

The regular meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board was called to order at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Mike Rogers, Richard Henriksen, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield

Citizens present: 14

There was a motion presented by Bill Neumann to approve the Minutes of February 19, 2014, March 11, 2014, March 12, 2014 and Public Hearing of March 19, 2014. Paul Kempainen offered support. Motion carried.

A Public Hearing was entered into at 6:34pm.

1. Special appearance by Alan Piel to talk about the proposed Whitefish Trail Restoration and Extension Project. The Lac Vieux Dessert Tribe will contribute \$50,000 of the local match and the \$24000 balance will be covered by US Forest Service in-kind contribution and Wilderness lakes Trails cash. The Grant amount requested is \$220,000. This will entail preparing the base and resurfacing 2.2 mile of the Whitefish Road section to ADA standards, clear and prepare .4 mile of trail to the north end of Dream Lake and also a new parking lot. Alan presented one of the letters of support received from a business on the Land O'Lakes trail stating that his business has increased dramatically thanks to people and families using the expanded trails. We already have two businesses in town that are taking advantage of what the bike trails can bring into our area. Headwaters Polaris has a line of electric bikes and Sylvania Outfitters has Quadra cycles to rent. Land O'Lakes Recreation also rents bikes.

Jeff Zelinski asked what kind of timeline we were looking at. Alan stated that the deadline for the grant application is 3/27/2014. It could take until the end of the year to find out if it is approved and then engineers can be hired to begin the project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Will Buergey stated that he and his wife use the trails completed and the number of people from outside our areas is increasing. He also says that in talking to them, the comments are all positive. At the fund raiser at Miller's Country Store last summer, his wife took pictures of vehicles from 15 different states that were participating in the bike run and festivities. He would like to see more businesses come into the Watersmeet area to draw more bikers into the area. Mr. Bob Turnquist of Moon Lake stated that he uses the trail also and that not everyone will use the 38 mile loop but will use different segments of it. This is great for families. There are people that make it a point to come to areas like Boulder Junction and Minocqua just to ride and our trails will give these people an opportunity to see what our area is about and could possible bring in new residents over the long run.

2. The budget for the fiscal year 2014 – 2015 was presented and there were no comments.

A motion was made by Bill Neumann with a second from Rich Henriksen to leave the Public Hearing and go back to the regular meeting. Motion carried. Regular meeting entered back into at 6:45pm

A motion to amend the agenda to add item #5 Resolution to authorize WLT to apply for a DNR Grant for the Bike trail was offered by Bill Neumann with a second from Rich Henriksen. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. A resolution to ratify the 2014-2015 Budget as presented was offered by Bill Neumann and supported by Rich Henriksen. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed.

2. A resolution to accept the General Appropriations Act as read was offered by Bill Neumann and supported by Rich Henriksen. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed.

3. Resolution offered by Paul Kemppainen and supported by Bill Neumann to balance the Building Authority cost center by increasing account #101910 by \$3500 and decreasing the Contingency Fund #101999 by \$3500. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed.

Resolution offered by Rich Henriksen and supported by Paul Kemppainen to balance the Building Authority cost center by increasing account #371702 by \$2600 and decreasing the Contingency Fund #101999 by \$2600. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed.

Resolution offered by Bill Neumann and supported by Paul Kemppainen to balance the Street Lighting cost center by increasing account #450920 by \$1500 and decreasing the Contingency Fund #101999 by \$1500. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed.

Resolution offered by Bill Neumann with support by Rich Henriksen to balance the Community Development cost center by increasing account #732702 by \$1123.82 and decreasing the contingency Fund #101999 by \$1123.82. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed.

4 .A resolution to purchase approximately 10.5 acres of land on the commercial corridor for future Economic Development was offered by Bill Neumann with support by Rich Henriksen. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed. If the property is purchased, the town would like to punch a road through from Old US 2 to Hwy 45. This road would be extending Wally Hupp Drive (near the well house) to reach Hwy 45.

5. A resolution was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kemppainen to authorize Wilderness Lakes Trails to apply for a DNR Grant for the Whitefish Trail Restoration and Extension Project. Aye Votes: 5, Nay Votes: 0. Resolution passed. The Township will not have to put any money into this project. The Tribe will be making the 25% local matching funds of about \$74,000. The Township will handle the money as it did for the North, Central and South Agonikak Trail.

There were no new bills to present to the board.

REPORTS: Supervisor: Supervisor Rogers had a meeting with Mr. Hewitt of the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) and Mr. G. Beck from the Tribe. The LVD Tribal Council has approved road work this summer on Beaver Station Road which will include resurfacing, cutting some trees and working on culverts and also include work on 3rd Street, C Avenue and Gallagher. Other work to be done due to money from the BIA, RAC fund and ERFO (emergency Relief Fund) includes the reconstruction of Thayer Road (County 527), a culvert on Bass Lake Road, 2 culverts on Old US 2, and some culverts on Sucker Lake Road. There has been money received from FEMA for the washed out area on Marion Lake Road.

The Town Hall is in need of a new roof at an estimated cost of \$16,000. Nothing definitive has been decided.

The Township is purchasing the old Congregational Church next to the Town Offices for the amount of \$1.00. Eventually we will have to have the building torn down but there is an expense involved in getting rid of the asbestos. We are waiting to receive a final estimate for the project.

The township applied for a SAW grant for the sewer system to be upgraded, but we did not receive it. It is a lottery based draw and we have been placed in line for the next go around based on where we are on the list (decided by what number we drew).

The board wishes to extend a very large "thank you" to Frank Kuchevar, Deputy Supervisor, for all of the hard work he put into the budget process again this year.

TREASURER: The Balance sheet for February was presented.

CLERK: The Township received a letter from Roger Kolehmainen, CPA PC extending a proposal for the 2013-2014 audit.

OTHER: Bill Neumann, township Veteran's Representative, stated that we have 3 veterans in our township with 100% disabilities that have been able to take advantage of free property taxes.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Paul Kemppainen and supported by Bill Neumann. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township, Gogebic County