

**Winter Transportation Committee  
December 8, 2014**

Members present: Ham Ross, Town Board Supervisor; David Aslyn, Superintendent, Bayfield School District; Steve Dunn, Maintenance Operations Supervisor, Bayfield School District; Gary Russell, Manager, Madeline Island Ferry Lines; Gary Krubsack, Citizen at Large.

Ex-Officio: Arnie Nelson, Windsled Transportation, Inc and Madeline Island Transportation, Inc.

Members absent:

Town Staff present: Pete Clark, Town Administrator

Public present:

**1. Call to order.**

H. Ross called the meeting of the Winter Transportation Committee to order on December 8, 2014 at 10:00am. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

**2. Minutes of the Following Meetings to be Considered for Approval:**

**A. October 15, 2014.**

Motion by D. Aslyn to approve the Winter Transportation Committee minutes of October 15, 2014 as presented, second, H. Ross. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

**3. Discussion and/or Recommendation to the Town Board of Vouchers submitted.**

4 Vouchers submitted from Young & Associates for the following:

Windsleds, Inc: General Liability: \$5,432.22

Windsleds, Inc: Excess Liability: \$1,802.95

Madeline Island Transportation, Inc: Business Auto: \$1,269.00

Madeline Island Transportation, Inc: General Liability: \$1,084.59

Total: \$9,588.76.

This amount was approved by the Town Board on November 11, 2014 as the balance due date was 11/15/2014.

Motion by H. Ross to approve the 4 vouchers as submitted and approved by the Town Board, second, G. Krubsack. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

**4. Review changes to the 2009 Collaborative Agreement.**

Pete Clark said the suggested changes to the 2009 Collaborative Agreement reflect the change in the structure of the Winter Transportation Committee. D. Aslyn said the School District Superintendent is now the signatory on this document instead of the School Board. D. Aslyn states for the record that when decisions regarding money are made, the Superintendent's authority, by board policy, is \$5,000.00. Any amount beyond \$5,000 must go before the School Board. He is fine with the Superintendent being the signatory on the Collaborative agreement, but would like to state again, for the record, that any monetary decision beyond \$5,000 goes before the School Board.

Motion by G. Russell to approve the changes to the 2009 Collaborative Agreement as suggested by Pete Clark, Town Administrator. Second, G. Krubsack. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

## **5. Inspection and Repair Updates.**

Arnie said the amp meter was fixed on one gauge and the tach fixed on the other gauge. One gauge has been installed; the other gauge will go in later. All fluids will be changed on the Big Sled and the Husky; the Nelson Sled does not need an oil change. Next week the floorboards on the Big Sled will be pulled up.

Question if the fuel drum could be placed on the Bayfield side so fuel could be delivered for less cost. Arnie said there would be liability concerns with the tank on the Bayfield side.

Pete Clark said the Town Board met with Ashland County Supervisors Pete Russo and Matt MacKenzie and Ashland County Administrator Jeff Beirl. There was a discussion about windsleds and ice rescue in which Jeff Beirl mentioned the County could contribute to windsled operations/ice rescue on the Island. Arnie said the Town has to be very careful in reaching an agreement with Ashland County about ice rescue. The County tried to give their windsled to the Town a year ago which would have meant our people would be expected to run to the Ashland Bay. The fire dept/ice rescue group on the Island is fine with running to Long Island, Houghton Point and up to a couple of islands, but the group does not want to take on Chequamegon Bay. Half the time the channel is not safe to cross and would put our people at risk.

Also to be considered is that Ashland County is a large county; the Ashland windsled has been trailered to Hurley, and has also been involved in picking people off the ice by Saxon Harbor. Arnie suggested the committee make a recommendation to stay away from this type of an agreement.

## **6. Discussion of the 2014-2015 Winter Transportation Season.**

The floorboards on the Big Sled will be pulled in the next couple of weeks to check the rivets.

D. Aslyn said he is pretty confident the School Board will sign off tonight on the contract that was sent to the Finance Committee on Thursday. Arnie said there will now be an 8:00 run for the school kids and other passengers, if there is room, and a return trip from Bayfield to the Island.

## **7. New Craft Options.**

G. Krubsack said he emailed the people in Miami several times but has not received a response, nor do they have a phone number. They have a cargo Hovercraft for sale on eBay with 300 hours for \$395,000 but because no one in the company has responded, G. Krubsack suggests not dealing with the company.

D. Aslyn said VanAir Hovercraft out of Canada has two models: Viking V12 (12 passenger) for around \$600,000 and the Vanguard V18 (18 passenger) for \$100,000 more than the V12. The company recommends the V18 as the better value. VanAir does not lease the equipment – you need to contact another company for lease options.

## **8. Grant Funding Opportunities.**

Pete Clark said he would check to see if there are grants that would allow for leasing. Arnie said before you apply for a grant you need a plan, numbers, etc.

D. Aslyn said the hovercraft is almost twice the cost of what was initially discussed.

G. Krubsack said you have to compare repair costs on the sleds we use now with the cost of a hovercraft which does not run on top of the ice. Arnie expressed concern about running over pressure cracks. G. Krubsack said a hovercraft has about 30 inches of clearance and probably

would outlast anything else. However, any purchase depends on whether or not you can get a grant.

Discussion of a fabricator. Arnie said the company that was contacted in regards to a new hull on the Big Sled said a new hull was not cost effective and wanted to sell a new, 15 passenger windsled for around \$383,000 which is similar to the Coast Guard sled.

Pete Clark said he will ask Lisa Potswald, Planning and Zoning Administrator and grant writer to come to the next meeting to talk about grants.

G. Russell said if you are in Superior, WI call ahead and see if you can go to the new division of Fraser Shipyards where they are making windsleds. He said they have their own design, but they will build what people want.

#### **9. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda.**

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2015 at 10am

Minutes, grant update, inspection/repair new craft options on the agenda.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Motion by H. Ross to adjourn, second, G. Krubsack. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30am

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant.

Minutes approved as presented January 19, 2015