

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013
AT 5:30 PM AT TOWN HALL**

Called to order at 5:30 PM

Present: Nick Nelson, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen

Staff present: Pete Clark, Keith Sowl, Jen Croonborg-Murphy

Public present: Larry Hobin, Dave Thomas, Glenn Carlson, Charles Meech, John Carlson, Jim Peters, Dick Hardie, Tom Banner, Katy Gorman, Marty Curry, Gabe Curry, Evan Erickson, Jay Westfield

I. Public Comment A*

Dave Thomas read his comments into the record: he asked for clarification regarding the Griggs Approach item and stated his continued opposition to the Big Bay Town Park Improvement Plan.

II. Town Administrator's Report: presented by Pete Clark. Main points as follows:

-It has been confirmed by two Army Corps of Engineers directors that both private and public permits [currently awaiting approval] will be issued this month.

-Representative Bewley [State of Wisconsin House of Representatives] and Senator Jauch [State of Wisconsin Senate] have expressed interest in helping Madeline Island and Washington Island gain an exemption from County property tax for those services that are self-financed by the Town. Examples include but are not limited to the Health Center, Emergency Services and the Airport.

-Research is ongoing into the possibility of instituting a 1% voluntary donation to support a community center. Bayfield has successfully raised \$50,000 for its Recreation Center by adding a 1% voluntary donation to restaurant and other service businesses.

III. Public Works

A. Roads

1. Foreman's Report presented by Keith Sowl and placed on file by unanimous consent.

2. Proposal re: acquisition of Typhoon TYR 1100 Flood Pump. Discussion points as follows: the purpose of the flood pump is for ice road maintenance. It would cost \$2700 for a used pump delivered to Duluth. TA Pete Clark pointed out that the cost would be offset by a \$1200 savings in not purchasing a post pounder. Greg Nelson asked if the purchase price would be taken from the contingency fund. Pete Clark answered yes. The TYR 1100 is a 2-cycle version portable ice auger. Motion to approve the purchase of the Typhoon TYR 1100 Flood Pump at a cost not to exceed \$2700. HR/JP 5A MC

3. Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area "informal participant" motion to approve and sign and authorize a \$100 check be sent to the Cooperative. HR/NN 5A MC

4. Griggs Approach: points of discussion as follows:

Greg Nelson stated that the Griggs Approach improvement plan had been removed from the 2013 budget with the thought that the Town could borrow in order to complete the project if it decided to do so, and that the past year's climate conditions might render the ice road a moot point. He added that the permits are only good until June, 2013. He also stated that any borrowing would need to be reflected in the 2014 budget.

Keith Sowl stated that he does not necessarily favor moving forward on the project, but if the Town is going to do so, he needs to know so that he can put together a bid package. He pointed out that the Town has the grant and the permit.

Greg Nelson stated that the Town Board could always vote to reject bids, and hopefully the next bid would be for less than the last one.

Pete Clark stated that the grant is for \$56,000.

Keith Sowl stated that he would do the bid document himself including but not limited to removing & replacing the ramp, concrete, mats and bedding.

Jim Patterson asked if the Town can use the existing drawing created by Chequamegon Bay Engineering [CBE].

Pete Clark answered that the Town has paid for this drawing, and that CBE has separated the two projects that it has worked on for the Town (the other one being Big Bay Town Park, the bill for which is currently in dispute with CBE).

Greg Nelson suggested that Foreman Sowl ask for alternative ideas for completing the project when he puts the bids out.

Motion to authorize Town Foreman to put together a bid package: HR/NN 5A MC

B. Parks

A. Big Bay Town Park [BBTP]

Discussion regarding the Big Bay Town Park Improvement Plan, points of which are herein summarized: Greg Nelson stated that a meeting of the Town Electors had approved the Big Bay Town Park Master Plan, and that he feels that even though some Board members may oppose the Plan, the Board is obligated to follow the recommendation of the Town Meeting. He stated that the Board promised at that meeting to keep the tax dollars spent on the project at a minimum, but the Town does have a Parks budget and some money will have to be spent. He still firmly believes that the project will pay for itself in a reasonable amount of time.

Nick Nelson said that he feels an "inner conflict" regarding this project and that he had several points to make: he stated that he has always felt that this project is "not up for debate." For him it is not just a fiscal issue; however, he feels that the cost of completing the inland side of the project has never been broken down adequately for his purposes.

Greg Nelson suggested that if he doesn't like the plan he should put together a proposal.

Keith Sowl stated that all the information that Nick wants is in the grants. Each part of a project is given a certain number of points, and that there has never been anything specific to ask the Department of Natural Resources to delete from the project plan. He also stated that to eliminate the sites that are wired for electricity would cause the Town "major economic distress."

Greg Nelson stated that he has read the minutes going back to the acquisition of the land for a park and the building of County H (1957), and that his reading revealed that the Town Board at that time foresaw a possible need to expand the park on the other (north) side of the road. He again invited Nick to submit what it is that he would like to see done.

Nick [continuing with his points] stated that the Chippewa tribe's involvement in the permitting process should not have come as a surprise; rather the surprise was the extent of the involvement. He referred to an "underlying concern regarding the environmental impact, which was also the feeling of the Town Plan Commission" He added that he is "adamantly against it [Big Bay Town Park Master Plan].

Greg Nelson asked Nick for a proposal.

Nick Nelson replied that he was unaware that the voting [see below] tonight would be so encompassing.

Ham Ross stated that he "feels the need to uphold the Town Meeting decision."

Jim Patterson asked Nick if the environmental concerns are Nick's or those of other people as well.

Nick Nelson answered that he stands in agreement with the Town Plan Commission. The Plan "causes harm to the area."

Jim Patterson asked Nick if he would favor fewer sites on the inland side.

Nick Nelson replied that he favors "continuing conversation."

Keith Sowl pointed out that the total land affected on the inland side of the Park [north of County H] is less than two acres.

1. Authorization to purchase picnic table frames for use at BBTP: motion to authorize the purchase of 25 picnic table frames at a cost not to exceed \$4542.00 Larry Whalen stated that he agreed with some of what Nick Nelson had just said. Vote: 3 A 2 No [NN/LW MC

2. Authorization to purchase lumber for use at BBTP: motion to authorize the purchase of lumber at a cost not to exceed \$1000 for Southern Yellow Pine or \$3062.50 for cedar. 3A 2N [NN/LW MC

3. Authorization to purchase 5 covered grills for use at BBTP: motion to authorize the purchase of one large covered grill, one large regular grill, two medium sized grills and one small grill at a total cost not to exceed \$3000. 3A 2N [LW/NN] MC

4. Authorization to purchase new traffic signs at BBTP: Nick Nelsons stated that as the project goes forward on the inland side, an opportunity is being lost to create a partnership with the Red Cliff and Bad River Bands that would "enrich our history." Keith Sowl pointed out that when the tribes were given an opportunity by the US Army Corps of Engineers to speak about the project, not one tribe chose to comment. Motion to authorize the posting of traffic signs for the purpose of orderly flow: 3A 2N [LW/NN] MC

5. Authorization to purchase 32 fire rings for campsites at BBTP: motion to authorize the purchase of 32 fire rings for the campsites at a cost not to exceed \$8064.00 not including shipping 3A 2N [NN/LW MC

C. MRF

1. MRF Supervisor's Report placed on file by unanimous consent

D. Airport

1. Airport Industrial Zone Hangar Lease Renewals
 - a. Lot #2A Cliff Rodahl
 - b. Lot #1A Langer Gokey/L & F Land Management

Neither of these has been returned with signature by the lessors.

IV. Committees

A. Zoning

1. ZA's Report presented by Zoning Administrator Jen Croonborg-Murphy and placed on file by unanimous consent.

2. Memorandum RE: Purchase of Town/Zoning Vehicle: ZA requested clarification particularly regarding the purchase of a foreign-made vehicle. She specified that the vehicle will be available to all departments, will be four-wheel or all-wheel drive, and that the person in charge of maintenance of the vehicle will have a say in the purchase. She will also seek to trade in the current Town vehicle for partial payment; the current Kelly Blue Book value on the Mountaineer is \$3000. Motion to authorize the ZA to pay up to \$12,000 for a replacement vehicle. NN/LW 5A MC

B. Harbors

C. ad Hoc Committee on Local Agriculture

V. Town Hall Administration

A. Budget Report not available

B. Rescinding of Budget Amendment Resolution #2013-1 Motion to rescind Budget Amendment Resolution #2013-1. JP/HR 5A MC

C. Budget Amendment Resolution #2013-2 Motion to adopt & sign Budget Amendment Resolution #2013-2 JP/HR 5A MC

D. Human Resources/Organizational Tasks Assistance Volunteer: Motion to welcome Tom Banner to the fold and thank him for volunteering. HR/NN 5A MC

E. Discussion of Board Relationship with Town Administrator: discussion/consensus to create an organizational flow chart of personnel: brief discussion regarding changes to the Personnel Policy and the need for an organization flow chart.

F. Town Hall Office Reconfiguration/Reorganization: consensus that the TA needs an office. Discussion regarding various options for achieving that.

G. Discussion of, and potential action on, Mining Resolution: postponed till something written is received.

H. GenCode estimate of cost to update Town Code: consensus approval of estimate for supplementing

I. Approval of Revised Winter Transportation & Vehicle Agreement: Motion to adopt & sign the Winter Transportation & Vehicle Agreement. JP/HR 5A MC Town Administrator Pete Clark suggested that work begin on the 2013-2014 agreement in the early fall of 2013.

J. Requested Change in Agenda Order RE: Ambulance Service to 2nd monthly meeting: approved by motion: HR/JP 5A MC.

VI. Vouchers approved by motion in the amount of \$58,158.19 JP/HR 5A MC [**Clerk's note: a voucher in the amount of \$15.79 to Madeline Sanitary District was inadvertently added in twice, making the \$58,142.40**]

VII. Alternative Claims January 2013 approved in the amount of \$1,147,349.97 with Library AC of \$621.86 JP/NN 5A MC

VIII. Treasurer's Report approved by motion showing the following amounts: checking balance of \$568,865.03; cash balance of \$675,44-.73; total balance of \$3,430,171.79. JP/HR 5A MC

IX. Minutes

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting 1/22/13 motion to approve as submitted JP/GN 4A 1 Ab [HR] MC

X. Police

A. Police Department

1. Police Chief's Report placed on file by unanimous consent
2. Review of Town/County Law Enforcement Contract Revisions: postponed

XI. Emergency Services

- A. Fire Department Administrative: resignation of Retiring Fire Dept. Chief Gary Flores; letter accepted with regret and thanks for his years of service.
- B. Fire Chief's Report submitted by Assistant Chief Rick Reichkitzer and placed on file by unanimous consent.

XII. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- A. Community Center
- B. Comprehensive Plan
- C. Reconfiguration of Town Hall Office Space
- D. Review of Town/County Law Enforcement Contract Revisions: postponed
- E. Mining Resolution

XIII. Public Comment B**

XIV. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

XV. Liquor & Operators' Licenses

XVI. Adjourned at 7:33 PM

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted on 3/26/13