

**Winter Transportation Committee  
January 6, 2016**

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

Members absent:

Ex officio present: Arnie Nelson, Windsled Transportation, Inc and Madeline Island Transportation, Inc.; Jay Wiltz, Volunteer Fire Dept and Ice Rescue

Town Staff present: Lisa Potswald, Town Administrator and Planning and Zoning Administrator

Public present:

**1. Call to order.**

Dave Aslyn, Chair called the meeting of the Winter Transportation Committee to order on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 10:00 am. A quorum of the committee is present as shown by members listed above.

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

**A. October 12, 2015.**

Motion by Jim to approve the October 12, 2015 Winter Transportation Committee minutes as presented, second, Steve. All in favor aye except for Gary Russell who abstains. Motion carried.

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

The Town Board approved payment of the following vouchers on 12/8/2015 contingent upon approval by the Winter Transportation Committee:

Young & Associates in the amount of \$1084.59 for General Liability for M. I. Transportation.

Young & Associates in the amount of \$1802.95 for Excess General Liability for Windsleds, Inc.

Young and Associates in the amount of \$5406.47 for General Liability for Windsleds, Inc.

The Town Board approved payment of the following voucher on 12/22/2015 contingent upon approval by the WTC:

Madeline Island Yacht Club in the amount of \$586.48 for the fiberglass repair on the Husky.

There was a crack on the inside of the cabin about 6 -7 inches long and another about 7 inches long outside of the rear left corner that were repaired.

The following vouchers have been submitted for consideration and recommendation by the WTC to the Town Board for payment:

Nelson Construction in the amount of \$8,068.05 for start up and repair expenses.

Included in this amount is a radio purchased to replace the radio that broke on an Ice Rescue run last year. The new radio was installed so as to be out of harm's way.

The welds to repair the bottom of the Big Sled were found to be not as large as in the past. Shorter welds were used and the welds were left to cool down so only two places needed the plastic replaced. \$1200 in stainless steel nuts and bolts had been purchased to replace the sheered bolts but not many bolts needed replacement. There is now an inventory of nuts and bolts for about the next two years.

Windsled Transportation in the amount of \$1,023.73 for start up expenses such as oil filters, engine oil, belts, etc on all three sleds and the radiator repair bill for the Nelson Sled which includes the cost to pick up and return the radiator from Iron River.

Everything is ready to go, just waiting for Mother Nature.

Consensus of the committee to recommend that the Town Board pay the above vouchers.

#### **4. Regional Ice Rescue update.**

Jay Wiltz, Ice Rescue said he has not heard anything from Dan Clark, Chief Deputy, Bayfield County or Jan Vickerson, Emergency Services Manager, Bayfield County about a regional ice rescue meeting. Jay will get their emails and inquire as to the date after this meeting.

The request at the October 12, 2015 WTC meeting was for the Fire Dept/Ice Rescue to establish SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines) for ice rescue. Jay presented the Ice Rescue of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as adopted by the Town Board in 2009 and the guidelines Ice Rescue has adopted from the Sault Ste Marie Fire Service. Lisa has copies of the documents for committee members.

According to the Ice Rescue MOU the “chain of command of rescue operations shall be by the senior officer of the Ice Rescue Squad during operations or his or her designee. The ultimate decision to respond with the windsled is entrusted to the most senior windsled operator at the rescue operation.”

The guidelines from Sault Ste Marie Fire Services address safety and operational procedures. One guideline the La Pointe department does differently: Sault Ste Marie guidelines state you always shut down the windsled during a rescue. The La Pointe department has been on rescues where the sleds are not shut down because the sled is on stable ice well away from the actual rescue or if conditions are such that the windsled operator does not want to risk shutting off the engines. These are guidelines and not procedures so you can quantify why you made a change from what the guideline suggests. All safety guidelines are followed.

Jay recommends that the Fire Dept/Ice Rescue continue to use the SOGs set forth by Sault Ste Marie and also the Ice Rescue MOU adopted by the Fire Dept, Windsled Transportation and the Town Board in 2009. Call for discussion. No discussion. Dave said it is the consensus of the committee that we concur with the recommendation by Jay Wiltz, Ice Rescue, that we are supportive of the Ice Rescue MOU of 12/30/2009 and also the SOGs from Sault Ste Marie.

Discussion of billing. Jay said he, Chief Reichkitzer and Lisa met and discussed fees. Jay thinks billing is between the Town and the County and suggests that Bayfield or Ashland County or whoever dispatches the call pays the fee. This needs to be discussed at the regional ice rescue meeting.

Discussion that the DNR charges \$250/hr for a fire truck when responding to a wildfire started without a permit. Ice Rescue could bill in the same manner. The first step is to find out the actual cost per run: what is the cost for an EMT, Firefighter or Windsled Operator to go out on a call? How much should be charged for the machine for the initial call out? Could charge \$500 for x number of personnel and machine for 2 hours. Additional hours would cost X.

If a fee were charged perhaps that would lessen the calls that are not properly checked out, such as long distance runs to Raspberry Bay or Bark Point.

Jay asked what the annual budget is for Ice Rescue/Winter Transportation. Would fees received be worth the effort to collect the fees? Committee agrees it is worth getting paid.

Arnie and Lisa have been meeting to develop a fee schedule. Once the schedule is finalized the fee schedule would go before the Town Board for approval and be an informational item on the

WTC agenda. To be noted, technically we cannot make any money by charging fees but we can get reimbursed for cost. Lisa will talk to Barb about how and if wear and tear costs can be included in the fee. A MOU also needs to be developed as to who calls out Ice Rescue. Suggestion that once the fee schedule and MOU are approved by the Town Board a member of the Town Board could attend a regional ice rescue meeting to present the MOU and the fee schedule.

Jay said this would take the onus off of La Pointe by saying the County or other agencies would have to collect from the individual/recreational fishermen or the person who called in the 911. Arnie asked if Bayfield Fire charged for divers. Steve said Bayfield Fire charges Bayfield County; the County then charges the person. Divers cost \$125/hour per diver minimum, even if the divers show up and do not go in. Fees for use of the fire trucks/personnel are available on the DNR website. Could call around and find out area fees. To be noted is that Ashland City is not a volunteer department so they would have different charges. Gary Russell said Hennepin County, MN has a sled they use on Lake Minnetonka, and ~~Lake Winnebago~~. Thank you to Jay.

#### **5. Discussion of 2016– 2017 Winter Transportation Season.**

The Big Sled is getting to the end of its life span. Arnie said the floor is holding but we will need to pop the rivets and check the floor every year.

#### **6. Grant Funding Opportunities.**

Lisa said there is a memo dated 9/3/2015 in committee folders regarding grants. There are two options: Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Passenger Ferry Grant Program and the Harbor Assistance Program. Both are Federal grants and have little flexibility. There is not a category for windsleds. Lisa contacted Senator Baldwin and Rep Duffy's offices and both offices said they would see what they could do. We need to think outside the box for funding. The HAP deadline is once a year; the FTA grant deadline is in Sept/October of each year. Lisa said though these are federal grants the people who administer the grants work with the State; the money from the federal grant goes to the State. Jim said the Town Board will produce a letter of support. Grant Funding will be placed on the next WTC agenda.

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

Next meeting scheduled for February 1, 2016 at 10am.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Motion by Steve to adjourn, second, Gary Russell. All in favor, all aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30pm.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant  
Minutes approved as corrected February 1, 2016, corrections struck through.